

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

AGENDA ITEM VII



**CITY OF FRANKLIN
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

City Council Meeting September 10, 2012

From: Elizabeth Dragon, City Manager

Subject: City Council to consider Legislative policy proposals as recommended by the NH Municipal Association-Municipal Administration and Finance Management committee (I chair this committee), Planning and Environmental Quality committee, and General Government, Revenue & Intergovernmental Relations committee.

Recommended motion:

1. Councilor moves:

I move that the Franklin City council authorize the City Manager to represent the city council's recommendations of the three policy committees of the Committee on Government affairs in regards to Action positions, Policy positions, and Standing Policy positions.

2. Mayor calls for a second and discussion on the vote.

Discussion:

The New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA) uses a member-driven process to determine legislative policy. While the details of the process change from time to time, it is always local officials from member municipalities who ultimately adopt the policy positions advocated by NHMA government affairs staff.

After NHMA was reorganized under the umbrella of the New Hampshire Local Government Center (LGC), the Municipal Advocacy Committee (MAC) was created to oversee NHMA's advocacy activities. MAC comprises the 12 municipal members of the LGC Board and an additional 17 local officials elected by NHMA member municipalities. Also established was the Committee on Government Affairs (CGA), a 75-member committee, which includes the members of MAC. Both CGA and MAC members were elected for the first time at the 2005 NHMA Annual Meeting. The CGA is responsible for recommending legislative policy positions to the NHMA membership at the Legislative Policy Conference. MAC and CGA are committees of elected and appointed local officials, and the membership of each can be found on this Web site.

The CGA divides into three policy committees: Municipal Administration and Finance Management; Planning and Environmental Quality; and General Government, Revenue and Intergovernmental Relations. Each committee discusses policy proposals submitted by members and other local officials. Their final recommendations are mailed to each member municipality for review prior to the Legislative Policy Conference.

The Legislative Policy Conference is held every two years, coinciding with the 2-year state legislative session. Each member municipality, regardless of size, has one vote and policy proposals require a 2/3 vote to become NHMA Legislative Policy Positions. The 2012 NHMA Legislative Policy Conference is scheduled for September 21, 2012 at the New Hampshire Local Government Center.

*****Note there are some policy positions attached the Mayor/Council may not support*****

During the discussion this evening (after the motion) I am seeking guidance as to the policies the Mayor/Council does NOT support.