



MEMORANDUM

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

DATE: Friday, January 30, 2009

TO: Mayor & Council
Leadership Team
Bob Holmes & Stephanie Prybyl, Landry-Creadon

FROM: Kevin Burke, City Manager

REGARDING: 2009 Legislative Agenda

In preparation for the December luncheon with our state legislative delegation, we prepared a rough draft of our 2009 Legislative Agenda. Based upon additional discussions that have occurred since that time, I have prepared a new draft for consideration at our Special Work Session on Monday, February 2. The work session will be in the Council Conference Room commencing at 5:00 p.m.

This new draft adds a set of guiding principles that provide those involved with advancing Flagstaff's interests greater flexibility to respond to sudden or unanticipated legislative actions. I have also broken the agenda into a state and federal agenda. I believe this division provides the associated contract lobbyist clearer direction. Furthermore, I have refined a number of the agenda items for the sake of clarity. Lastly, I have added three agenda items that span both the federal and state agenda.

The first one deals with energy efficiency initiatives. The Community Sustainability goal of the Council seeks to advance those items that protect the environment. The recently discussed Flagstaff Stimulus Plan exhibited an Energy Efficiency Block Grant application for federal dollars and a voluntary property tax district to finance capital costs associated with alternative energy solutions on residential and commercial property. These both lend themselves to lobbying efforts.

The second one deals with a homeless shelter. This is an initiative that has been gaining momentum with this Council and fits within the Council Goal of Affordable Housing. Staff is currently developing an RFP for a homeless shelter to be built on a

city-owned parcel adjacent to the Guidance Center. This legislative agenda item would seek funding to assist the responsive party in construction of that shelter.

The third agenda item is associated with relaxing the anti-local preference state laws. Given the significant economic downturn, Council and staff have expressed a repeated desire to spend tax money locally. While an out-right lifting of anti local preference legislation is unlikely, some relaxing of those restrictions seems desirable.

I put forward this agenda for purposes of discussion, addition, deletion and amendment by Council and Leadership during our Monday, February 2 meetings with Bob Holmes and Stephanie Prybyl from Landry-Creadon.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Burke", written over a horizontal line.

Kevin Burke

Attachment: Proposed 2009 Legislative Agenda

PROPOSED 2009 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA For State and Federal

Principles

Aside from specific legislative proposals, there are certain guiding principles that will allow those involved with monitoring and persuading legislative bodies to protect and further Flagstaff interests when there is insufficient time to refer the item to the City Council. These include:

- Local Control – Flagstaff City Council believes that regulatory, finance, and administrative decisions affecting Flagstaff are best made by Flagstaff. Funded and unfunded mandates by the state and federal government are best avoided.
- Support the Alliance & NAIPTA – We will support or remain neutral on those legislative actions that financially benefit our partners in the Alliance for the Second Century (Coconino County, Northern Arizona University, Coconino Community College, and Flagstaff Unified School District) and/or the Northern Arizona Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority (NAIPTA).
- Council Goals – Those items that are clearly and directly related to Council adopted goals in affect at the time of the corresponding legislative session, may be advanced or defended without further Council action.
- Protect Existing Revenue Sources – At all times, those engaged in lobbying activities shall endeavor to protect established funding sources such as HURF, CDBG and stated shared revenue.

2009 State Legislative Agenda

1. Support full funding of state shared revenues for cities and towns (keep cities whole) and avoid any further funding cuts.
2. Support water resource planning and regional water solutions, specifically:
 - any legislation associated with the settlement of the Little Colorado River litigation;
 - efforts to establish financial resources associated with participation or compliance with Water Adequacy legislation
3. Support the Stimulus Plan for Economic and Educational Development (SPEED) since these construction projects will create jobs and inject our economy with revenues at a time when our State economy is suffering.
4. Support/Seek introduction of legislation permitting the creation of voluntary property tax districts to finance the installation of solar systems (electric or thermal) and energy efficiency improvements to residential and commercial buildings.
5. Support/Seek introduction of legislation relaxing anti-local preference laws through 2011.

2009 Federal Legislative Agenda

1. Acquire appropriations associated with the Rio de Flag Flood Control project authorized by Congress in the 2001 & 2007 Water Resource development Act (WRDA). Specifically:

- a. Acquire \$8 million for the open channel portion from Butler to the Tank Farm.
- b. Acquire \$15 million for the closed channel from the Tank Farm to the Chamber of Commerce.
2. Support water resource planning and regional water solutions, specifically:
 - a. any legislation associated with the settlement of the Little Colorado River litigation;
 - b. funding to support the feasibility study of alternatives identified by the CPWAC.
3. Acquire an Energy Efficiency Block Grant for the Integrated Solutions for a Sustainable Flagstaff application.
4. Support federal legislation that improves and enhances housing initiatives and various housing programs that makes housing affordable. Specifically:
 - a. Funding for a homeless shelter
 - b. HOME & tax credits
5. Support fully fund CDBG program to increase resources to the highest-need Americans.
6. Support legislation associated with bioscience research and development tax credits.
7. Forest Health and Wild Land Fire, specifically, request funding for thinning to include promoting incentives to industries for small diameter wood utilization.
8. Support regional transportation issues and funding to include multimodal and air transportation.

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City of Flagstaff Legislative Agenda

2008

CORE MUNICIPAL LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

- ◆ Preserve the principle that our local decisions are best made by local decision-makers, and resist efforts to erode local authority through state and federal mandates.
- ◆ Ensure state-shared revenues remain adequate to provide the necessary goods and services to allow our community and its citizens to prosper.

ALLIANCE FOR THE SECOND CENTURY – CORE PRINCIPLE

The Alliance for the Second Century was instituted more than ten years ago, through formal resolution, by the City of Flagstaff, Coconino Community College, Coconino County, Northern Arizona University and Flagstaff Unified School District. The mission of the Alliance is to identify and implement cooperative work programs that will benefit the community /region, make best use of scarce resources, and provide better services to our citizens. The member agencies recognize the importance of fiscal stability and local control for cities and counties.

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Although there are many legislative issues of interest to the Council, public agency partners, and the community, the Council recognizes the need to prioritize to allow for success in promoting and defending its interests. This strategy of focusing on a few key issues allow for a stronger, more consistent message on the issues of the greatest priority. Council's key issues include:

1. Support water resource planning and regional water solutions, specifically funding to support the feasibility study of alternatives identified by the CPWAC.
2. Support housing initiatives, i.e. HOME and tax credits, secure funding for homeless shelter (brick and mortar), and get HUD to focus on homeless as a priority.
3. Restore CDBG funding to the same level as it was in the year 2000.
4. Forest Health and Wild land Fire, specifically, request funding for thinning to include promoting incentives to industries for small diameter wood utilization.
5. Support Bioscience R&D Tax Credits.
6. Continue federal energy tax credits and fast track since these credits are targeted to expire.
7. Support funding for Rio De Flag flood control project.
8. Support regional transportation issues and funding to include multimodal and air transportation.