



LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE

JULY 22, 2021

MINUTES

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

LOCATION: City Hall Conference Room

1) **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm.

2) **ATTENDANCE:**

PRESENT: Stacey Streetman, Chairperson (Ward 10), Ashlee Evans (Ward 11), Travis Holleman (Ward 7), Jason Knight (Ward 5), Wanda Smith (Ward 6)

ALSO PRESENT: Karen Reynolds (Ward 9) and Lance Baker, City Attorney

3) **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Councilperson Smith made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented. Councilperson Holleman seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the minutes passed without objection.

4) **TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION**

1. Discontinue disenfranchising convicted felons by no longer taking away their right to vote or hold public office. *Councilperson Garrett*
2. Make convicted felons a protected class as it relates to housing and employment discrimination. *Councilperson Garrett*

3. Put a cap on insulin prices and other living saving medicine. *Councilperson Garrett*

Items 1-3 were moved to the end of the agenda, with no objections, to be discussed once Councilperson Garrett arrived.

4. Green Energy and Recycling – grants to encourage expanding existing programs such as funding for additional charging stations on the interstate or other state roads. *Councilperson Reynolds*

Councilperson Reynolds asked the committee to consider the above item be placed on a future agenda for further consideration and discussion to ask the State for one charging station in the city either at the Tourist Center or near hotels, using funds from federal grant money or tourism funds. Councilperson Reynolds will do further research to be resubmitted to the committee for consideration and discussion.

5. Deposit for bottles and plastic like Michigan’s program. There have been several attempts in the State of TN to pass a bottle bill, we need to continue the pressure. *Councilperson Reynolds*

[Petition · Gov. Bill Haslam: Pass Tennessee's Bottle Bill & put an end to littering while creating thousands of jobs! · Change.org](#) Over the years, the funds available for TANF has decreased and the state fund has grown.

Councilperson Reynolds will change the verbiage and resubmit to the committee for consideration and discussion as an item of “concern.”

6. Increased payments for daycare for low-income families (TANF) *Councilperson Reynolds*

[Tennessee TANF reserves will go to needy families, DHS head promises \(tennessean.com\)](#) The funds pay for daycares, and we have several daycare businesses in Clarksville that operate almost as a non-profit due to low reimbursement rates. If we want to encourage our residents to work or keep them in workplace, we need to support them. TN has been criticized for several years for not dispersing the federal funds and supporting our income vulnerable resident.

7. Increased payments and grants for low-income families for emergency vehicles (TANF) *Councilperson Reynolds*

[State officials withholding \\$732 million of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families \(TANF\) funding – Tennessee Justice Center \(tnjustice.org\)](#)

Councilperson Reynolds stated the amount of funds paid to daycare centers has decreased and the amount parents have to pay has increased and they cannot afford it. Chairperson Streetman asked to ensure that the item is something that will directly benefit the City of Clarksville. Councilperson Reynolds will do more research and resubmit to the committee for future consideration and discussion.

8. Pledge to redistrict the state of TN equitably in the best interest of the residents of Tennessee and not in the best interest of political parties. *Councilperson Reynolds*

Councilperson Reynolds would like the committee to ask for the State to be redistricted due to concerns of gerrymandering. Councilperson Reynolds was asked to draft a process for the committee to vote on at a future meeting.

9. Medicaid Expansion: The majority of Tennesseans support Medicaid expansion. Our medical facilities are closing due to a lack of resources, Medicaid Expansion would keep our hospitals open and save lives. *Councilperson Reynolds*

[Tennesseans dying waiting on our \\$1.4 billion for Medicaid expansion \(knoxnews.com\)](http://www.knoxnews.com)

[Medicaid Expansion – Tennessee Justice Center \(tnjustice.org\)](http://tnjustice.org)

Councilperson Reynolds shared the concern that the community cannot afford healthcare. She will get specific Tennova numbers to bring back for the committee to vote on at a future meeting.

10. Expansion of Nashville State Community College *Mayor Pitts*

Chairperson Streetman shared the information from Mayor Pitts and said that this item will be addressed in old business at a future meeting.

11. Items 1-3. *Councilperson Garrett*

- Discontinue disenfranchising convicted felons by no longer taking away their right to vote or hold public office.

The committee determined more clarification is needed and will be placed on a future agenda.

- Make convicted felons a protected class as it relates to housing and employment discrimination.

The committee determined more clarification is needed and will be placed on a future agenda.

- Put a cap on insulin prices and other living saving medicine

This is something State Representative Jason Hodges has been working on. This item will be placed on a future agenda.

5) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:52 pm.