

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Town Commission
From: Tom Harmer, Town Manager
Report date: September 25, 2020
Meeting date: November 2, 2020
Subject: Establishing the Town's 2021 Legislative Priorities

Recommended Action

Establish the Town of Longboat Key Legislative Priorities for the 2021 Legislative Session

Background

Each year the Town Commission considers legislative priorities for the upcoming legislative session and for presentation at the Manatee and Sarasota County Legislative Delegation Hearings.

Attached are the proposed 2021 Town of Longboat Key Legislative Priorities. The items listed are consistent with the Town's 2020 Legislative Priorities with a couple of minor additions regarding funding for the subaqueous wastewater line and for expanded use of virtual public meetings and the current quorum requirements. The Town Manager and Town Attorney reviewed the list with David Ramba, the Town's lobbyist, and agreed the list is still relevant for the 2021 Legislative Session. The proposed 2021 Legislative Priorities will be presented for Commission consideration at the November 2, 2020 Regular Meeting. We can add, subtract, or edit any of the items on the list. We will also ask if the Commission would like to adjust the order of the items on the list to reflect a particular priority.

The Manasota League of Cities will adopt their 2020 Legislative Priorities with the additional request for legislation to address liveaboard water vessels. Their 2020 Legislative priorities are attached. Sarasota County and Manatee County's 2021 Legislative Priorities are attached as well.

Upon adoption, the Mayor and Town Manager will present the Town's Legislative Priorities at the Sarasota County and Manatee County Legislative Delegation Hearings. These local delegation hearings will take place after the November 2, 2020 General Election. However, specific dates for the Legislative Delegation Hearings have not yet been determined.

Staff Recommendation

Establish the Town of Longboat Key's Legislative Priorities for the 2021 Legislative Session

Attachments

- A. Proposed 2021 Town of Longboat Key Legislative Priorities
- B. Manasota League of Cities 2020 Legislative Priorities (Available in Town Clerk's Office)
- C. Sarasota County's 2021 Legislative Priorities (Available in Town Clerk's Office)
- D. Manatee County's 2021 Legislative Priorities (Available in Town Clerk's Office)



1. Seek Grants and Legislative Appropriation Support for funding of a major capital project to install a redundant subaqueous wastewater line connecting Longboat Key to the Manatee County treatment plant on the mainland.
2. Support legislation and funding that recognizes and addresses the implementation of comprehensive adaptation strategies related to sea level rise concerns.
3. Support State funding for beach nourishment.
4. Advance funding for implementation of immediate and long-term recommendations identified in the Barrier Island Traffic Study to address significant seasonal traffic issues.
5. Support legislation to protect Evacuation Routes. Proposed transportation projects should protect or enhance timely evacuations, particularly for the State's barrier island residents.
6. Support legislation that provides opportunities for increased and alternative revenue sources for municipal transportation infrastructure projects.
7. Support a State-wide unified approach to improve water quality with an emphasis on the elimination of harmful algal blooms and improved coordination on monitoring and research efforts.
8. Support changes to existing State law relating to vacation rentals that permit grandfathered local governments to modify existing short-term vacation rental regulations.
9. Support consideration for local control to continue and expand the use of virtual /remote public meetings and related quorum requirements.
10. Support the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government (OPPAGA) conducting an independent evaluation of the unique impacts (financial, practical and efficiency) of being in two counties.
11. Oppose legislation that pre-empts local governments' home rule authority, including legislation relating to local impact fees.
12. Support the maintenance of local business tax, communications services tax, and tax-exempt municipal bonds.
13. Support legislation to expand usage of collected tourist (bed) taxes for both public safety services and infrastructure maintenance, repair, and replacement in municipalities where substantial portions of a county's tourist taxes are collected.
14. Support clarification on ADA document compliance - the Department of Justice is in the process of developing regulations to provide specific guidance to the entities covered by the ADA, however they have yet to provide a final standard / set of regulations. Organizations are mostly using (WCAG 2.0) as a guide.

End of Agenda Item