

Special Session

Agenda Item #	3
Meeting Date	July 20, 2015
Prepared By	Jessie Carpenter City Clerk
Approved By	Suzanne R. Ludlow City Manager

Discussion Item	Resolution Authorizing Transmittal of Legislative Action Requests to the Maryland Municipal League
Background	<p>Each year, the Maryland Municipal League (MML) adopts several legislative priorities for the next Legislative Session. Each municipality may propose up to three legislative priorities for consideration. The MML Legislative Committee reviews the proposals and makes recommendations to the MML members for adoption at the MML Fall Conference.</p> <p>Proposals are more likely to be adopted by MML if they are appropriate for municipalities across the State, have a significant financial benefit for municipalities and if they have a good chance of passage.</p> <p>The Council discussed options at a work session on July 13. It was agreed to consider five options, to be reduced to three for inclusion in the resolution.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work to ensure that an adequate, ongoing formula for Highway User Revenue for municipalities is established and fully funded each year. 2. Work to ensure that municipal residents are no longer harmed by tax duplication laws or the lack of appropriate tax duplication laws, and that reimbursement or tax differential eligibility is extended to all tax-duplicated services regardless of how those services are funded by the municipality or county. 3. Pursue the creation of an Innovation Fund from which municipalities could receive grant funding to undertake innovative efforts to advance one or more high priority goals of the State of Maryland. 4. Municipal Infrastructure Communication and Coordination legislation The goal of this proposed legislation is to improve and mandate communication and coordination of the public utilities and state infrastructure work being done in cities. The utilities and State Highway Administration perform vital work in our communities to ensure the infrastructure is up-to-date and sound. However, the lack of communication and coordination with each other and with local governments adversely impacts our community. Streets and sidewalks are sometimes torn up by one utility to address an issue after just being repaved for regular maintenance by the city or a different utility. The result is inefficiencies, environmental impacts, costs and disruption for members of our community. We need legislation to mandate coordination of construction and repairs, notice to city staff and residents, and mandated timeframes in which final repaving and repairs are made to residents' property.

	<p>5. Maryland State Retirement and Pension System Allocation of Unfunded Liabilities under GASB 68</p> <p>The Maryland State Retirement and Pension System plans to apportion the unfunded liability of the System across all participants for reporting of the unfunded liability on the balance sheets of the various participating entities. These include State agencies, boards of education, community colleges, libraries and participating government units. Participating government units (cities and counties) elected to join the State system and should not share in the liabilities of the entire system but only the liabilities of the pool of participating government units. If the participating government units are included in the entire pool of participants, it inflates the apparent unfunded liability. Legislation is needed to ensure that Maryland cities and counties that participate in the system are not required to report liabilities significantly larger than their actual liabilities in the System.</p>
Policy	The Council pursues legislation in the best interest of the City of Takoma Park.
Fiscal Impact	N/A
Attachments	Resolution Authorizing Submission of Legislative Action Requests
Recommendation	Select priorities to be included in the resolution and authorize transmittal of the LARs to the Maryland Municipal League
Special Consideration	

Introduced by:

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

**RESOLUTION 2015-
Resolution Authorizing Transmittal of Legislative Action Requests
To the Maryland Municipal League for Consideration**

- WHEREAS, the Takoma Park City Council is charged with setting policy and pursuing legislative changes in the best interests of the Takoma Park community; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park is an active member of the Maryland Municipal League; and
- WHEREAS, the Maryland Municipal League pursues legislative changes to benefit Maryland municipalities; and
- WHEREAS, the Council urges the Maryland Municipal League to continue to work to ensure that an adequate, ongoing formula for Highway User Revenue for municipalities is established and fully funded each year; and
- WHEREAS, the Council urges the Maryland Municipal League to work to ensure that municipal residents are no longer harmed by tax duplication laws or the lack of appropriate tax duplication laws, and that reimbursement or tax differential eligibility is extended to all tax-duplicated services regardless of how those services are funded by the municipality or county; and
- WHEREAS, the Council urges the Maryland Municipal League to pursue the creation of an Innovation Fund from which municipalities could receive grant funding to undertake innovative efforts to advance one or more high priority goals of the State of Maryland; and
- WHEREAS, the Council urges the Maryland Municipal League to pursue legislation that would mandate coordination of construction and repairs by utilities and the State Highway Administration, provide notice to municipalities and residents, and mandate time frames in which final repaving and repairs are made to residents' property; and
- WHEREAS, the Council urges the Maryland Municipal League to work to ensure that Maryland municipalities that participate in the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System will not be required to report unfunded liabilities under GASB 68 that are significantly larger than their actual liabilities in the System; and
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Takoma Park authorizes the City Manager to transmit to the Maryland Municipal League the Legislative Action Request forms concerning Highway User Revenue, Tax Duplication, an Innovation Fund, Municipal Infrastructure Communication and Coordination, and Apportionment of Unfunded Liabilities in the State Retirement and Pension System for Reporting Purposes under GASB 68.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2015.
Attest:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk