

## CITY OF DENTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

December 6, 2016

After determining that a quorum was present, the City Council convened in a Work Session on Tuesday, December 6, 2016 at 11:43 a.m. in the Council Work Session Room at City Hall.

PRESENT: Council Member Hawkins, Council Member Briggs, Council Member Wazny, Council Member Gregory, Mayor Pro Tem Roden, Council Member Bagheri, and Mayor Watts.

ABSENT: None.

### 1. Work Session Reports

- A. ID 16-1384 Receive a report and hold a discussion regarding the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress and outlook for the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress to include Budget and Tax Issues, Municipal Bonds, Surface Transportation, the Marketplace Fairness Act, and other topics impacting local government.

Lindsey Baker, Intergovernmental Relations/Public Information Officer, introduced Ralph Garboushian and Joy Grewatz with Capital Edge.

Garboushian provided a quick overview of the past year successes which included preservation of the language that protected the City's ability to charge rent for the use and management of City rights-of-way in the Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act; increased sub-allocation of Surface Transportation Block Grant funds to metropolitan areas in the FAST Act, including growing Denton-Lewisville Urbanized Area funding from \$6.4 million in FY 2015 to \$7.9 million in FY 2020; preservation of the Transportation Alternatives Program and the federal transit program; and removal of language from a Senate wireless communications spectrum bill that would have preempted local zoning authority over cell phone facilities; turning back a Bureau of Land Management mineral lease proposal on land next to Lake Lewisville; preservation of the Contract Tower Program; turning back Senate efforts to preempt local government regulation of drones; preservation of core local government programs in the face of austerity, including CDBG, HOME, Homeland Security and local law enforcement assistance; and preservation of the Urban Area Security Initiative, which provided the Metroplex with \$14 million annually for disaster and terrorism preparedness and response efforts.

Garboushian reviewed key issues for the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress - budget, tax, infrastructure, local control, public safety, and regulations regarding clean air, clean water, fair housing, and workplace issues. He stated they would continue to monitor Congressional and FCC action on communication policy; implementation of HUD's Fair Housing rule; regulatory repeal and reform (clean water, ozone, clean power, labor, etc.); SEC implementation of Dodd-Frank re: municipal finance and payday lending; and all grant opportunities of potential interest to the City.

Garboushian stated that the bottom line and what it would mean for cities included the following: preserving the tax exemption for municipal bonds would be the biggest challenge for local governments; preserving funding for core local government programs would be the second biggest challenge for local governments; the repeal of the Affordable Care Act, entitlement reform, and cuts to other social service programs could create long-term challenges for local

budgets; and local governments would have to closely track regulatory reform, keeping an especially close eye on the FCC.

Council discussed major infrastructure packages, aviation programs, HUD programs, and compiling a list of projects to have on hand to submit for federal funding.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

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CHRIS WATTS  
MAYOR  
CITY OF DENTON, TEXAS

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JANE RICHARDSON  
ASSISTANT CITY SECRETARY  
CITY OF DENTON, TEXAS