



WILDWOOD

Administration and Public Works Committee

June 6, 2023 Meeting

Legislative Consultant Objectives

Overview

The Department has put together a report to help identify objectives for the City of Wildwood's legislative consultant, who represents the City's interests in the Missouri State Legislature. It is crucial for us to establish clear goals for our legislative consultant to effectively advocate for the City's priorities and address the pressing issues affecting our community.

The Department took the initiative to gather additional input from the Mayor and City Council regarding the focus areas for our legislative consultant during the 2024 Legislative Session. A two-question survey was conducted. The survey asked for the respondent's name to ensure that the survey was completed by the Mayor or a City Council member. The main question within the survey addressed key objectives for City's legislative consultant. Specifically, the question read, "From your perspective, what are the most important issues being discussed in Jefferson City? What Topics would you like the City's legislative consultant to focus on during the next General Session?"

Mayor and City Council Feedback

The Department received eight valuable responses, identifying the following key points:

1. Protecting the current pool tax formula.
2. Addressing erosion, internet accessibility, and improvements to roads and bridges.
3. Prioritizing issues such as crime, opioid use, disaster preparedness, language milestone development for students who are Deaf or hard of hearing, tax relief for individuals over 65, assistive technology, erosion, road conditions and repairs, and enhancing provisions for people with disabilities.
4. Seeking state/federal funding to address watershed erosion issues, infrastructure repairs, general economic and community development, and guidance on solar panels.
5. Seeking state/federal funding to address watershed erosion issues, infrastructure repairs, general economic and community development, and guidance on solar panels.
6. MoDOT focus on Wildwood and fostering greater partnerships with local cities for cost-sharing initiatives.
7. Establishing taxes on video/streaming service providers and electronic vehicles, with a focus on securing additional funding for watershed erosion mitigation.
8. Securing funding for expanding high-speed internet access in underserved areas and addressing erosion issues throughout the city.
9. Seeking funding for infrastructure needs, including erosion mitigation, roads, and supporting departments such as MDNR, MoDOT, and MDC.

Findings

Based on the survey responses, it is evident that key areas of concern for our community include protecting the pool tax formula, addressing erosion and infrastructure needs, expanding internet access, and securing appropriate funding for various projects and programs. These responses highlight the diverse range of issues that our legislative consultant should focus on during the next General Session of the Missouri State Legislature.

It is essential to note that these objectives have been shaped by the input and concerns expressed by our residents. They reflect the community's priorities and aspirations for positive change. By aligning our legislative consultant's efforts with these objectives, we can ensure effective representation and actively address the issues most important to residents of Wildwood.

Additionally, the Department maintains regular communication with the City's legislative consultant to ensure progress is being made on the City's legislative objectives. Weekly check-ins have been established to monitor the consultant's activities, discuss ongoing initiatives, and provide any necessary updates.

To speak to the importance of having representation in Jefferson City, the Department wanted to highlight a recent update. The City's legislative consultant played a pivotal role in getting HB 19 passed by the State House and the State Senate. If signed into law by the Governor of Missouri, this bill will apportion a substantial amount of funding for water erosion mitigation in Wildwood. If signed into law, the City will receive \$500,000.00 from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The funding outlined in this bill provides a 75% match from the State of Missouri. Once the bill is signed into law, the City of Wildwood will be required to provide a 25% match, amounting to \$125,000.00, to fully access the allocated funds. The State Legislature ended up passing the State Senate's version of the bill. If the State House's version was passed, the City would have had to match the funding by 50%. Having a legislative consultant present in Jefferson City helped secure a more favorable bill for the City. This anecdote outlines the importance of setting clear objectives, and the Department hopes that the City can identify additional areas where State funding is needed.

Moving forward, the Department will continue to collaborate closely with the City's legislative consultant to ensure effective communication, proactive engagement, and successful implementation of the City's legislative priorities.

Conclusion

Overall, setting clear objectives for the City's legislative consultant is crucial to maximize his impact in advocating for the City's interests and addressing the pressing concerns identified by our residents. The City's legislative consultant will be directed accordingly to work towards achieving the objectives outlined in this report during the 2024 Legislative Session. The Department is seeking input from the Committee to attach monetary values to each of the goals outlined in this report. The Department would like to create a guiding document for the City's legislative consultant that identifies each of the City's objectives in order of importance. The Department would also like to ensure that there is a timetable attached to each goal, so the City can properly monitor progress.

