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Subject: Legislative Update--End of Session Report
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The first regular session of the 102nd General Assembly of the State of Missouri ended with a whimper, not a bang. While over 3,000 bills and resolutions were Introduced, the legislature Truly Agreed and Finally Passed 19 Appropriation bills, 40 non-budget bills, and one Joint Resolution to be submitted to the voters. As usual, numerous non-budget bills contained multiple issues despite requirements in the Missouri Constitution for only single-subject bills clearly identified in the title of the bill.

We consider it a fairly successful session for Lee's Summit, not only due to what was passed, but even more to the bills which failed. This is a summary of those issues we followed for the City (if requested, we will provide links to the text of any bill you wish to review in detail):

Troop A Relocation: HB 8 included the requested appropriation for the relocation of the Troop A headquarters, thanks to Sen. Cierpiot, Sen. Hough, and, we think, our associate Tony Benz. We remain confident that the Governor will approve these funds.

Below is a link to an article on these types of special appropriations which thankfully doesn't mention the Troop A money:

[Lawmakers pack Missouri budget with earmarks for local agencies, building projects • Missouri Independent](#)

Solid Waste Sites: Both HB 909 and SB 590--as well as numerous bills with the amendment added--failed to achieve passage. However, a "deal" was negotiated by the Senate President *pro tem* and Sen. Rizzo, the minority the floor leader, for Kansas City to postpone any city action on the landfill and an appropriation of \$100,000 to fund a one-year preliminary study of the site by DNR while prohibiting processing any application for the site was included in **HB 19**, (Section 19.401). This is only a respite and KC Recycle has already added a new lobbyist. Below is a link to those lobbyists currently hired by KC Recycle:

[Missouri Ethics Commission](#) <-- This should take you to the page identifying their lobbyists.

City Revenues: We are pleased to report that the bills proposing eliminating sales taxes on food, firearms, feminine products, diapers and a variety of other products failed to pass in the final days of session. While some of these would have only a minor impact, the sales tax on food would have been a hit to local revenues of over a billion a year and, surprisingly, firearms and ammunition were potentially close

to a billion as well. The only bill passing regarding sales taxes is **SB 398** which requires car dealers to collect and remit sales taxes once the Department of Revenue develops a computer program to implement this requirement (we have no idea when that will be). Our only concern with this bill is whether its implementation will assure that the sales tax is based on the residence of the purchaser and not the location of the car dealer.

Personal property taxes were also a target for the legislature, but we have found no bills among those Truly Agreed and Finally Passed addressing those taxes. However, the legislature did approve **SJR 26** which will be submitted to the voters in 2024; that Resolution, if approved by the voters, would exempt "child care facilities" from all real and personal property taxes.

The legislature did approve **SB 190** which authorizes counties--or citizens by a petition and vote--to adopt a county law exempting property owners of residential property they occupy from any increase in property taxes.

First Responders: There were multiple bills expanding and addressing the classification of police and fire department personnel as "first responders". These include **HB 402** and **SB 189** which allow paramedics not in uniform to engage in political activities, including running for and holding elective public office. **SB 24**, **SB 186** and **SB 189** also (1) allow the City to include "telecommunications responders" (911 operators) as public safety personnel, (2) require the City to provide Workers' Compensation coverage for PTSD to first responders, (3) prohibits disclosure of communications during peer group counseling if the City has adopted such a program and (4) allows paramedics and telecommunications responders to participate in the voluntary Critical Illness Benefits pool. Other than the Workers' Comp. provisions, we don't know if these bills affect the City.

We will provide a report after July 14, the last date for the Governor to act on bills, and following Veto Session, September 13. In addition, if you need information regarding some bill or issue, please let us know and we will be happy to respond. Also, if you like, we can provide the House and Senate research committees' summaries on all bills Truly Agreed and Finally Passed when those are finally prepared.

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