



NORTH CAROLINA MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Minutes of the 4th Quarter Legislative Affairs October 4, 2021

Microsoft Teams/Conference Call #: 984-204-1487, Conference ID: 373 871 011#

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Jim Perry, Chair
Rep George Cleveland
ET Mitchell
David Capen, AR for John Bell

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:

Kelly Jackson, DMVA
Macey Webb, DMVA
Jamie Norment, Ward & Smith
Ron Massey, City of Jacksonville
Mike Scalise, MCI-E
Debra Bryant, Represents the City of Fayetteville

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Hon Mayor Lewis

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Angelia Washington

CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME REMARKS:

Chairman Jim Perry called the meeting to order at 1:02 and welcomed everyone to the Legislative Affairs meeting. Kelly Jackson conducted a roll call of the attendees and there was a quorum for this meeting. She also read the ethics statement. This committee members have a legal obligation to disclose any conflict of interests that may or may not arise or potentially arise with your regular job or any of your business of the Legislative Affairs committee. If you have a potential conflict, he asks that you disclose that potential conflict, so we are aware of potential conflict. Does anyone have such a conflict? Does anyone have any potential conflict of interest with the business on the agenda and if not, please be cognizant of any potential conflicts that arise from the discussion topics and govern yourself accordingly. There were no meeting minutes to approve.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS MEMBERS:

Chairman Perry asked the committee members to introduce themselves. Kelly Jackson said that the Commission members that have agreed to be members of the Legislative Affairs committee are Representative George Cleveland representing Camp Lejeune, Mayor Will Lewis represent Cherry Point and the Mayor of Havelock, ET Mitchell representing Cherry Point and from Craven County. Chairman Perry said that he knew all these members. Kelly Jackson said that other Commission members that attended the meeting today is David Capen representing Rep John Bell and Macey Webb the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Legislative Affairs Liaison. Macey Webb introduced herself to the committee members and said she was looking forward to work with this committee. Kelly Jackson said that other members on the call are Jamie Norment from Ward and Smith/Allies for Cherry Point's Tomorrow. Debra Bryant representing the City of Fayetteville and Cumberland County. Kelly Jackson said we also have Angelia Washington, a NCMAC members who represents Cherry Point and a new member to the Commission. Dr. Washington said that she was glad

Minutes from the 4th Quarter Legislative Affairs Committee meeting
Monday, October 4, 2021
Page 2

to be part of this meeting today. She is a 10-year member of the Jacksonville City Council, and a full time Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) teacher/nurse and teaches aboard Camp Lejeune Marine Corps Base. She has been working DoDEA for almost 11 years. She implemented the first nursing program at the high school for military connected students and Camp Lejeune is the only in the continuous United States that offers a nursing program for a DoDEA school on a military installation. Kelly Jackson said that we also have Ron Massey the Deputy City Manager for Jacksonville and Michael Scalise, Marine Corps Installation-East. Kelly Jackson said that was the members of the Legislative Affairs Committee and other that attend this meeting.

Chairman Perry introduced himself to the Committee. He said that he lives in Lenoir County in a town called Kinston, NC. He has lived in Eastern North Carolina most of his life. This is his second term in the General Assembly. He had no interest in politics when he was younger. He became interested when legislation was introduced that would have put him out of business almost overnight. That was about a decade ago when he became involved in politics, but he has spent his career in private industry. He has spent about 20 years in the private equity world, and he has worked in the dental field for the majority of that time. Before that it was in health care with acute care for facilities or hospitals. So, after learning to fight legislation and the problems that can be caused overnight, and having not been involved, he decided he would never play catch up again. He learned that it was much earlier to have a relationship with law makers and be able to reach out to them on various issues. So, that is now he became involved and appointed to the Seat when Senator Lewis Pate resigned for health reasons in January 2019. He is currently the Majority Whip in the Senate and he Chairs the Health Care and Appropriations on Health and Human Services. Also, a couple of other Interim Committees. He went to school on the GI Bill and the first person in his family to attend college. His Military Specialty was 95B, Military Police. In those days you could spend a little time on active duty and then have a reserve commitment and get a full Montgomery GI bill. His father was in the Navy, and his father in-law was a Marine Corps general and commanded at the New River facility in the late 1980. He was a helicopter pilot. If he would let anything impact those bases he would be disowned by his In-laws. He looks forward to helping in any way that his can and learning from his group. He will promise this committee that when it comes to any legislative goals that we may have or policies, he will be very candid that he is not interested in debating the whys and why not because there is policy every day that he does not agree with in the General Assembly. But if he can help to change something he will but if he will be honest with you about it. He looks forward with working with this committee and helping where he can.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE PURPOSE: CHAIRMAN PERRY

Chairman Perry said that he went back and read the Commission Bylaws and previous committee meetings to see where some of the Committee's efforts have been in prior years. He would like for the Committee to really establish ground rules, goals, and ideas going forward. We will talk about those things during some interim periods. From what he has gleaned and with talking to past Chairs of the NC Military Affairs Commission and with various folks from the military community about various needs he thinks we have some pretty simple goals but can be difficult at times depending on the subject matter. He saw that we had been monitoring all the bills that were filed in the last session and had some hopefulness on a few for this session. He asked Rep Cleveland what his thoughts are issues and what he thinks some of the goals are that we have today. Anything that he thinks are a priority for the Commission. Rep Cleveland said that he did not think there was anything important right now. A lot of

Minutes from the 4th Quarter Legislative Affairs Committee meeting

Monday, October 4, 2021

Page 3

the items that this committee reviews comes from the other Committees that many need some legislation to help them out. We will probably need to continue to do that going forward. That last item that we were pushing was for the schools. He is not aware of anything pressing right now. Kelly Jackson said that Rep Cleveland was correct. The other Committees but mostly Base Sustainability and Community Affairs (BS&CA), and Quality of Life (QOL) are the committees that bring up issues and concerns that they think legislation could be necessary. Currently we don't have a BS&CA chairman but that one items from that committee that is still outstanding is about Intergovernmental Support Agreements (IGSA) language for Seymour Johnson Air Force Base. She needs to go back and review that request for legislative assistance. Rep Cleveland asked if legislation was done for this topic? Kelly Jackson said that we have talked about legislation, but she needs to review the notes to see if this action had been completed. Rep Cleveland said that what he remembers is that it was a problem with their local lawyer's interpretation. The other people don't have any problem with it that he is aware of. If we need to, maybe we can help him solve his problem. Kelly Jackson said that she would do some research to see where this topic stands now. Jamie Norment said that if we needed help with the legal side of that, he has looked at this before and knows that not all lawyers agree, and he will help in any way that he can.

Senator Perry said that there are two issues that he is aware of, and he will be reaching out to Jamie Norment today on one of them is clarification of language for House Bill 951, the PCS that is coming out as it relates to wind. He is going to ask Jamie Norment to review something for him for obvious reasons and he does not want to miss anything. He thinks it will go prime time today at 6pm. He can get him a copy of the language before that time. He also wanted to mention the effort to not tax military retirement pay. Tax bills just don't pass both chambers. They run through one, whether it be the Senate or the House and everyone gets a lot of good press on it. Then it is included in the budget bill if they are going to make it. Then they become part of the negotiations. He would give probability on that as low, that it would be in the conference committee report, but however, he would say that we should not count it as dead at this point. It will depend on how the conversations go with the Governor and whether we have a signed budget or need a veto over-ride. That is as much as he is comfortable sharing, and it is not dead yet but low probability in his opinion. Any other comments on the purpose of the Legislative Affairs Committee? ET Mitchell said that this is a follow up from the meeting last Friday with the Strategic Communications Working Group (SCWG). She has members on that SCWG from all the Standing Committees embedded in the working group. The question that she continues to hear is what legislative issues do we need to be working on? Her comment is that the other Standing Committees are hungry for a very active Legislative Affairs Committee and are interested in knowing from him what we need to be focused on or not. She has heard a lot of good comments that this committee was meeting again, and he would be rolling with it. Chairman Perry said that they are at a legislative lull with regards to legislative activity. Any bill that was eligible for the short session, he looked through them and did not have any problems with them. That does not mean that we would not want to PCS something in the short session to help us in some way. He would want more time with the Committee to understand and have an appreciation for where some consensus was on anything that was that level of importance. We will need to do some fact finding before he would want to jump out there too far. The Wind issues is something that being from Eastern North Carolina he is concerned about and wants to stay plugged in on. For now, we need to dig into the compromised language that is supposed to come out today for House Bill 951 to understand where that is. He will share language on

Minutes from the 4th Quarter Legislative Affairs Committee meeting

Monday, October 4, 2021

Page 4

this topic when he can do that. Rep Cleveland said that bill is already public, and people have a copy of it as it was sent to him. Chairman Perry said that they have a conference call today about this bill and talk about the wind energy piece. They want to ensure that we are not going down a road that they could be uncomfortable. He said that he thought the Strategic Priorities and Goals fit in with what we have been talking about. He is happy to hear from anyone on the committee. He thinks that for strategic goals, we are mid-stream and winding down committees from the long session, when bills should really be proposed. He feels that they are playing more defense in taking some specific issues on offense that we would be largely successful in the short session. Taking some time to line up and educate members and make the proper push on an issue. That should align with biennium calendar. That would need to be something that we worked on in the short session, getting ready to roll into the long session or an interim type of committee. He is happy to hear from anyone about that.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: CHAIRMAN PERRY

Chairman Perry said that we had talked about the two most pressing items. He did receive an appropriations request for the Seymour Johnson school effort. He knows that Rep John Bell was working on that matter. They were also checking to see what may be available from the federal dollars that the school board had already received given that we have seen the federal courts strike down a portion of guidance that was given on American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding. Indicating that the Federal government could not restrict States from using the dollars to off-set reduced taxes and he understands that there has been another case filed making complaints in a similar vain. He will try to get his hands on that information.

DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS:

Chairman Perry asked if any of the Committee members had anything else for this meeting? Dr. Angelia Washington said that she is new to the Commission but this initiative between Seymour Johnson AFB and Wayne County school interests her and she would like to receive more information about his project. She wants to extend her services as a DoDEA teacher to help with this initiative. Chairman Perry said that he would share information with Kelly Jackson if she does not have any of this information. He has information from the Wayne County School Board and will share that with Kelly Jackson. Rep Cleveland asked that the information be shared with all the committee members. Chairman Perry asked if there was any other questions or comments from the group?

ADJOURN:

Chairman Perry adjourned the meeting at 1:25 pm.