

RESOLUTION NO. 01-26-21- 4

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AMARILLO ADOPTING A LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR THE 87TH SESSION OF THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE TO INCLUDE SPECIAL CALLED SESSIONS OF THE 87TH LEGISLATURE AND THE INTERIM.

WHEREAS, local government is the most direct and frequent point of contact with its residents; and

WHEREAS, the process for local government is a public and participatory process whereby the actions of local governments are subject to the public scrutiny of the residents; and

WHEREAS, local government is responsible for providing basic and emergency services; and

WHEREAS, local governments are the first responders in local emergencies; and

WHEREAS, the ability of local government to provide those services is dependent on the ability to have the resources and authority necessary to carry out its responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, state representatives and senators are charged with working in the best interest of the citizens they represent; and

WHEREAS, residents of the state of Texas expect elected government officials representing local governments to make every effort to be informed on the needs of the constituents and the local government to ensure that local governments have the necessary authorities and resources in which to fulfill the desired needs of the citizens who have elected them.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AMARILLO, TEXAS, THAT:

SECTION 1. That City Council members will meet with area state representatives and senators to discuss the City's legislative agenda and provide both information and assistance on all matters relating to bills and other legislative matters that come before the Legislature to ensure that they have the resources to call upon in making decisions that impact the lives of their constituents.

SECTION 2. The City of Amarillo shall proactively seek the filing and passage of any legislation identified as being sought in Exhibit A.

SECTION 3. The City Council and City staff may work with TML, peer cities in the State and other appropriate entities to jointly pursue the passage or defeat of legislation that is listed as "supported" or "opposed" by the City of Amarillo in Exhibit A.

SECTION 4. The City Manager and his staff shall:

(a) Take all necessary actions to inform Amarillo residents of the City's legislative agenda; and

(b) Encourage residents to make every effort to be aware of the local and state governing and legislative process and expect their elected representatives from all levels to seek a proactive and positive relationship that does not pass a

burden from the State to the County or City without providing the tools and resources to undertake the added responsibility.

SECTION 5. That it believes it is incumbent of all legislators to work in consort with city and county governments to ensure that the entire governing process is as effective as possible and, to that end, seek input and advice from the local level of government on issues that have a direct impact on their ability to undertake their responsibilities.

SECTION 6. That it expects elected representatives of state government to fully understand the implications of legislation they act upon to ensure there are no negative impacts on the community and to strongly support and take all actions necessary in furtherance of the information in Exhibit A, as it may be amended from time to time.

SECTION 7. That it believes the state legislative body should not exempt its members from any regulation that they impose upon any other member of a political subdivision unless it can clearly be shown that there is a clear and compelling need to do so.

SECTION 8. That it adopts the Legislative Agenda for the 87th Session of the Texas Legislature as shown on Exhibit A, attached to and incorporated into this resolution by reference.

SECTION 9. This resolution shall be effective on and after its adoption.

INTRODUCED AND PASSED this 26th Day of January 2021.



Ginger Nelson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Frances Hibbs, City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Bryan McWilliams, City Attorney

EXHIBIT A
87TH TEXAS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
POSITION STATEMENTS

TRANSPORTATION

The City of Amarillo will support legislation that enhances statewide and national passenger and freight mobility through the City of Amarillo and increases the safety of passengers traveling through the City, specifically including legislation that:

- a. increases funding to complete the building of Loop 335; and
- b. supports future expansion of Interstate 27 to the north and south.

PROPERTY TAX AND DEBT

The City of Amarillo will support legislation that protects local control of government, specifically including legislation that:

- a. applies taxing rules more equitably by tying revenue caps or rollback rates to a statewide average as opposed to a percentage of a taxing unit's property tax rate.

The City of Amarillo will oppose legislation that restricts local control of government, specifically including legislation that:

- a. would impose revenue caps including a lowered rollback rate, mandatory property tax rate ratification elections or lowered rollback petition requirements;
- b. would have a disproportionate negative effect on the most prudent and responsible taxing entities that have a very low property tax rate, like the City of Amarillo; or
- c. would unnecessarily restrict the City's ability to issue debt or impose undue burdens on debt issuance referendums.

ANNEXATION

Currently, certain annexation of adjacent land requires the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to provide a written request for annexation. The City of Amarillo will support legislation that would remove the requirement for written request from TxDOT or any other state agency, while retaining their right to protest an annexation request.

The City of Amarillo will oppose legislation that would further restrict a municipality's authority to annex land or impose more stringent requirements on a municipality's ability to annex land.

EXPANSION OF BROADBAND INTERNET

The City of Amarillo will support legislation that would address the digital divide disparity by expanding internet coverage or aiding in elimination of financial barriers for all citizens to gain access to broadband internet.

RIGHT-OF-WAY AND SMALL CELL TOWERS

The City of Amarillo will support legislation that:

- a. preserves municipal control of municipal rights of way;
- b. requires service providers to pay market rate (or close to market rate) for the use of municipal infrastructure and rights of way; and
- c. provides for local authority over small cell nodes.

OPEN MEETINGS AND OPEN RECORDS

The City of Amarillo will support legislation that would provide clarifications to open meetings laws and public information laws to enhance communication between elected officials and their constituents, specifically including legislation that:

- a. would provide for the continued use of technology and other tools that provides for transparent, convenient, and secure virtual public meetings and encourage the general public to participate, provide feedback, and engage with State and local governments remotely; and
- b. would reduce the financial burden on local governments required by the Open Meetings Act and Open Records Requests.

The City of Amarillo will oppose legislation that would attempt to make the current open meetings and public information laws more restrictive or ambiguous.

DISASTERS AND EMERGENCIES

The City of Amarillo will support legislation that provides for or enhances local control during disaster or other emergency declarations to allow cities to better manage such situations. The City of Amarillo will also support any legislation that ensures funding of public health and other operations at the levels necessary to respond to disasters or emergencies.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The City of Amarillo will support legislation that reauthorizes Chapter 312 ad-valorem tax abatements.

The City of Amarillo will oppose legislation that would restrict a city's ability to compete for projects that provide jobs and economic benefit to the community and region.

MENTAL HEALTH

The City of Amarillo will support legislation that improves funding for mental health crisis intervention and funds resources for persons who are suffering from mental illness either temporarily or chronically, with the goal of diversion from the criminal justice system. The

funding should support training for law enforcement, mental health caseworkers to aid in crisis response, alternatives to hospitalization, and alternatives to incarceration.

AMARILLO CIVIC CENTER COMPLEX

The City of Amarillo will actively support legislation to finance the renovation, revitalization and/or expansion of the Amarillo Civic Center Complex (ACCC).

PURCHASING

The City of Amarillo will support continuation of alternative project delivery methods that allow municipalities to select contractors based on both price and qualifications.

PUBLIC ADVERTISING

The City of Amarillo will support legislation that would enable the use of electronic notice for all public notices.

WATER RESOURCES

The City of Amarillo will support legislation that protects and expands the City's ability to purchase water, provide water to its residents and customers, use water within the City limits and Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Areas, and collaborate with local and regional entities on projects and initiatives that seek to enhance the City's water resources.

CITY ADVOCACY

The City of Amarillo will support legislation that further promotes the City's ability to communicate with legislators and advocate on behalf of the community.

For more information, please contact:

**Stephanie Coggins
Assistant to the City Manager
City of Amarillo
P.O. Box 1971
Amarillo, Texas 79105-1971
(806) 378-6210 office
(806) 378-9394 fax**