

Legislative Policy Council

Minutes of the Meeting

September 16, 2015

Present: Mike Hill, Robert Hucks, Verlon Wulf, John Sawyer, Tom Maeser, Raymond Rollins, Jimmy Richardson, Bob Barenberg, Jeff Smith, Carla Schuessler, Alicia Thompson, George Mims, Scott Martin, Nate Johnson, Tom Keegan

Guests: Senator Greg Hembree, Mark Kelley (KMSO)

Staff: Brad Dean, Kathy Richardson

I. WELCOME

- Mike Hill called the meeting to order. The June 5th meeting minutes were approved.

II. PRESENTATIONS

- Senator Greg Hembree spoke about transportation and infrastructure issues in South Carolina. He also discussed Governor Haley's transportation plan, the S.C House plan and the Senate Finance plan. Then he discussed his strategy to tackle infrastructure funding deficiencies which includes:
 - A 1% income tax cut over 5 years that could result in \$700 M savings per year after fully implemented.
 - A .12 cent increase in the gas tax over 5 years that in conjunction with user fees raises \$800 M exclusively for repair and maintenance.

He also explained that this plan would result in 35% of gas tax collections being paid by tourists, resulting in a net tax cut for SC tax payers.

- Mark Kelley thanked Senator Hembree and encouraged the LPC and Chamber Board to support a transportation plan. He also discussed the upcoming Freshman Caucus event, stressed the importance of these events and urged all LPC members to attend and meet the legislators. Mark also discussed the Grand Strand Business Alliance's work with regard to advocacy efforts in tourism promotion with the state legislature.
- Brad Dean reviewed the proposed 2016 Legislative Survey and asked for additional input from the Council.

III. REPORTS

- Tom Keegan gave an update from Congressman Tom Rice's office reporting the Congressman will be holding a series of Town Hall events during the recess. He also reported that Mr. Rice just returned from New Orleans for an event on offshore drilling. Tom also gave an update on the latest ruling on the STOP Resolution that now allows it to move forward with a hearing.
- Jeff Smith reported for the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce reminding all of the upcoming SC Chamber Grassroots meeting at Inlet Affairs on Sept. 23rd.
- Nate Johnson reported for the Coastal Carolina Association of Realtors reminding all of the upcoming 2015 CCAR Pig Pickin'.
- Jimmy Richardson gave a brief update from the 15th Circuit Solicitors Office.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- None given

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

/kor