RESOLUTION NO. 8124

A RESOLUTION introduced by Deputy Mayor Jeff Preisner, adopting the City of Topeka’s legislative agenda for the 2009 legislative session.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS, that the following is hereby adopted as the City of Topeka’s legislative agenda for the 2009 legislative session:

- Oppose unfunded mandates by state government.
- Oppose legislation that interferes, abrogates or otherwise preempts local control over franchise agreements and fees for utilities, cable television, telecommunications and other providers utilizing the public right-of-way.
- Urge the Legislature to adopt tax and revenue policies with an eye toward preserving the local tax base, achieving tax equity for city/county residents and broadening city revenue sources (e.g. demand transfers and other local taxes); as well as, encourage the Legislature to allow local motor fuel tax or increase existing motor fuels tax to help cities overcome the rapidly rising cost of street maintenance due to the burden of rising maintenance costs.
- Support legislation that will not restrict cities’ exercise of eminent domain beyond that required by the United States Supreme Court.
- Oppose new legislation that would limit cities’ ability to annex property and oppose any changes to the current annexation statutes.
• Propose and support legislation that provides a consistent means, such as but not limited to, a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) for the State of Kansas and other tax-exempt governmental entities to financially assist equitably and reasonably in citywide infrastructure improvements, as well as enhancements to the downtown area.

• Enhance/preserve the state’s program of economic development tools.

• Oppose any state imposed local tax/spending lids.

• Support efforts to achieve a fully funded public employee retirement system within a reasonable period of time and monitor legislation related to KPERS and KFRS that might impact cities.

• To the extent consistent with the goals of the City of Topeka, support the 2009 Legislative Priorities of the League of Kansas Municipalities.

• Support institution of statewide building codes to provide for uniformity across jurisdictions.

• Support institution of statewide licensing for building trades (one license allows tradesmen to work anywhere in the state).

• Support legislation that amends suspended driver’s license statutes to allow for more cost effective and reasonable enforcement of and penalties for violations.

• Support legislation providing first-class cities the opportunity of levying an earnings tax to have commuters help pay for local city/county services thus reducing local property tax burden for cities/counties.

• Continued support of Star Bond programs. Cities should have the ability to utilize STAR bonds in order to promote economic development in their communities.
• Support the Streamlined Sales Tax Project, including a local compensating use component. Cities should be able to determine local sales and use tax rates.
• Support increased funding for the Juvenile Justice Authority (JJA).
• Explore partnerships between the City, County, and Legislature to repair or replace infrastructure in the Downtown area.
• Support increased federal and state funding for local mass transit.
• Prepare and introduce with the assistance of the League of Kansas Municipalities and the City’s lobbyist legislation relating to the City and those similarly situated for the following:
  - To provide cities the authority to establish administrative enforcement of zoning violations in addition to criminal prosecution.
  - To provide to cities the authority to assess real estate for unpaid utility fees for rental properties and provide cities the authority to assess for unpaid stormwater charges.
  - To renew the 911 tax that will sunset on July 1, 2009.
  - To require scrap metal dealers to keep detailed records of all scrap metal received including identification (i.e. name, address, phone number) of the person who sold the metal to the dealer.
  - To permit the City to acquire real estate sold at a tax foreclosure sale and to place said real estate in a land bank intended for future City use or for conveyance to a third party.
  - To amend the STAR (sales tax and revenue) bond statute to reduce the required capital investment and projected gross annual sales from $50,000,000
each to $25,000,000 each to implement a project plan for the development of
the established STAR bond project district.

-To raise interest rates on unpaid property taxes.

-To reinstate the Local Ad Valorem Tax Reduction Fund.

-To reinstate the City/County Revenue Sharing Program.

-To urge the Legislature to support mass transit opportunities including
enhancement/preservation of rail and passenger service in Topeka.

-To require incarceration costs to be paid by counties instead of municipalities.

-To amend the Riverfront Authority legislation to change the monthly meeting
requirement to meet at the request of the Chair, or at least one time per
quarter.

-To urge the Legislature to support the enhancement/preservation of the final
resting place of Charles Curtis, the first vice president from a state west of the
Mississippi and the first of Native American ancestry.

ADOPTED and APPROVED by the City Council October 28, 2008.

CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS

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William W. Bunten, Mayor

ATTEST:

Brenda Younger, City Clerk