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Committee approves legislative agendas *John Huotari john.huotari@oakridger.com*

An Oak Ridge committee has approved state and federal legislative agendas requesting money and support for projects from the waterfront to city hall and the west end of town.

The legislative agendas could be considered by the Oak Ridge City Council at its Jan. 28 meeting.

The federal agenda includes requests for \$1 million to help make Melton Hill Lake a major commercial, tourist and recreational area; \$4 million for wastewater and sewer infrastructure; and \$1.5 million for environmentally friendly building upgrades to the Oak Ridge Municipal Building.

Also on the agenda is a total of \$2.2 million in appropriation requests to help preserve and manage historical records, put in a wireless network in some parts of town, and work on housing in Highland View.

At the state level, the city's top legislative priority is to ask Tennessee officials to continue road work on state Route 95/58 west of Illinois Avenue, said Amy Fitzgerald, Oak Ridge government and public affairs coordinator.

State officials reportedly plan to begin soliciting bids in February for work on a 4.2-mile section of the roadway between Illinois Avenue and Westover Drive.

It's one phase of a delayed three-phase project to widen state Route 95/58 from Interstate 40 in Roane County to Illinois Avenue in Oak Ridge. The first phase of the project was completed in 2002.

Another phase of the project would widen a 2.8-mile section of the roadway from the state Route 95/58 interchange in Roane County to Westover Drive.

Fitzgerald said City Council will discuss the road improvements at a "Night Out" event from 6 to 8 p.m. Feb. 12 at the Oak Ridge Civic Center.

In addition to the road work, Oak Ridge's state legislative agenda also includes the city's opposition to a proposal to allow statewide cable television licensing. The agenda also states the city's position on issues affecting public education and school funding.

Oak Ridge employs state and federal lobbyists who can use the annual legislative agendas as a guide for advocacy efforts in Nashville and Washington, D.C.

The committee that approved the agendas last week is the Oak Ridge City Council's Intergovernmental Relations Committee. It includes Oak Ridge Mayor Tom Beehan, Mayor Pro Tem Jane Miller and Councilwoman Ellen Smith.

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