

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Work Session: Homeless Camping

Meeting Date: July 10, 2013
Department: Public Works
www.eugene-or.gov

Agenda Item Number: A
Contact: Kurt Corey
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ISSUE STATEMENT

This item is a follow-up work session on the topic of homeless camping subsequent to the June 26, 2013, work session on the same topic.

BACKGROUND

The City Council held work sessions on homeless camping in parks and open spaces on April 24, 2013, May 20, 2013, and June 26, 2013.

On April 24, 2013, the City Council passed the following motion:

“Direct the City Manager to bring back an ordinance that would allow people to sleep undisturbed and camp overnight from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. on vacant City of Eugene-owned lands, but not including improved park land or sensitive environment open spaces, with staff to bring back a specific list of allowable sites, and on religious institution, non-profit organization, commercial and industrial properties if they allow it. This shall be a pilot program for 120 days and council shall then review the pilot program and assess whether or not to continue the ordinance.”

The attached draft ordinance (Attachment A) was included with the agenda item summary (AIS) materials for the May 20 and June 26 work sessions and incorporates options the City Council previously considered. The draft ordinance is annotated with comments that explain the ordinance’s provisions and how the provisions address the options discussed.

If the council remains interested in accommodating overnight camping, guidance on a number of specific questions would assist with defining the actual scope of work, the proposed site(s), and preparing the draft ordinance for a public hearing. Some specific questions for the council deliberation might include:

1. How many sleep sites should be established?

2. What are the maximum numbers allowed for persons sleeping overnight and vehicles used for sleeping per site?
3. What is the proposed sunset date for the pilot project?
4. What are the site criteria?
5. Should the sites be hosted or otherwise managed and should tenants be screened for compatibility?
6. What amenities should be provided (restrooms, garbage collection, storage lockers, other)?
7. How should neighborhoods be involved in siting decisions?
8. What are the desired outcomes in terms of hours of operation, cleanup, behaviors, etc.?

RELATED CITY POLICIES

Eugene Code 4.815 Prohibited Camping and Eugene Code 4.816 Permitted Camping.

COUNCIL OPTIONS

1. Direct the City Manager to schedule a public hearing on the draft ordinance for a pilot program.
2. Pursue resolution through a collaborative effort with the local social services network.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

The city manager recommends the City Council take the following actions:

1. Provide specific guidance as to the scope of work, including site criteria, and desired outcomes.
2. To the extent the council remains interested in accommodating overnight camping on City property, direct the City Manager to schedule a public hearing on the draft ordinance for a pilot program.

SUGGESTED MOTION

Move to direct the City Manager to schedule a public hearing on the draft ordinance for a pilot program.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Draft Ordinance

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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