

MINUTES

Eugene City Council
Harris Hall, 125 East 8th Avenue
Eugene, Oregon 97401

June 26, 2013
12:00 p.m.

Councilors Present: George Brown, George Poling, Mike Clark, Chris Pryor, Claire Syrett, Greg Evans, Alan Zelenka (via conference phone).

Councilors Absent: Betty Taylor

Her Honor Mayor Piercy convened the June 26, 2013, City Council meeting.

A. WORK SESSION: Police Auditor Annual Performance Review

Denise Smith, Human Resources, provided information about the evaluation process and noted that feedback received about Mr. Gissiner's performance was excellent. Councilors commented and acknowledged that because he is at the top of his pay scale, their options to reward his performance were limited. Mr. Gissiner shared his perspective, noting that it is a pleasure to work in this community.

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Poling, seconded by Councilor Pryor, moved to give Mr. Gissiner a one-time 3% contribution to deferred compensation, plus 40 hours of vacation time. **PASSED:** 6:1, Councilor Clark opposed.

B. WORK SESSION: Homeless Camping

Public Works Director Kurt Corey recapped some of the issues previously addressed by council about homeless camping, including:

- Expanding Car Camping Program from three to six campers per location
- Allowing religious institutions to expand to five campers per location
- Amending the overnight sleeping ordinance to allow legal sleeping from 10 p.m. to 7 am on undeveloped, city-owned, vacant lots. A revised list of potential locations included some park lands.
- Liability/Legal Opinion: depending on policy and implementation, this could be similar risk as other City-sponsored activities.

Council Discussion:

- City of Eugene shouldn't be expected to find and fund the solution to this multifaceted problem; it is a community issue.

- City of Eugene should not become a service provider; instead it should network with other agencies.
- There is interest in creating an interactive public network to connect homeless people to those who will allow backyard sleeping or camping on privately owned land. A cost estimate for IT staff to create this registry was requested.
- Several sites on the list were deemed to be inappropriate for use as overnight homeless camps.
- There is support for expanding the car camping program.
- Suggestion made to use hotel vouchers for immediate, emergency needs.
- There is support for establishing a homeless committee.
- Camping ban can't be enforced, parks being used as camps/bathrooms, safety concerns, liability is fairly significant, collaborate with local agencies for bathrooms, security, garbage, etc.
- Suggestion made to implement a 120-day pilot program, beginning with one site, and addressing issues as they arise.

The meeting adjourned at 1:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Mortensen,
Deputy City Recorder