

MINUTES

Eugene City Council
State of the City

Eugene Conference Center

January 10, 1996
Noon

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Nancy Nathanson, Tim Laue, Shawn Boles, Pat Farr, Kevin Hornbuckle, Barbara Keller, Laurie Swanson Gribskov, Jim Torrey.

The meeting of January 10, 1996, of the Eugene City Council was called to order by Her Honor Mayor Ruth Bascom.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mayor Bascom called the meeting to order and welcomed those present. She noted this was her fourth State of the City address and a time to highlight accomplishments, underline shortcomings, and lift up the council's goals. Mayor Bascom reviewed progress made since her election on the five planks with goal statements she put forth: 1) "Hult Center--Keep it"; 2) "Mall Fountain--Jackhammer it"; 3) "Jobs plus Wetlands--Do it"; 4) "Affordable Housing--Build it"; and 5) "New Library--get on with it."

Mayor Bascom recognized and presented an award plaque to City Manager Mike Gleason for his 15 years of service to the City. She noted that Mr. Gleason would be given an opportunity to speak at a community dinner in his honor on January 12.

II. OREGON CHILDREN'S GIRLS' CHOIR

Under the direction of Conductor Randall Moore and Assistant Conductor Andrea Hall, the Oregon Children's Girls' Choir sang "Oh, Music Sweet Music," "Merry are the Bells," "Eugene, Eugene," and "Festival of Lights."

III. STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

Mayor Bascom presented the State of the City address, enumerating the following reasons for hope in Eugene's city government: 1) the tradition of citizen involvement; 2) the council/manager government structure; and 3) the council with agreed upon goals and focus.

(A copy of Mayor Bascom's address is attached.)

IV. HIGHLIGHTING CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

Mayor Bascom asked each councilor to identify and recognize his/her areas of work.

Council President Nancy Nathanson, Ward 8, recognized and described the work of the Planning Commission and the Willamette Plaza Design Committee.

Council Vice President Tim Laue, Ward 1, thanked his family and recognized the work of the Council Committee on Public Safety, the Police Forum, police and fire fighters, the Budget Committee, and his colleagues on the council, highlighting the council's "government" goal.

Councilor Shawn Boles, Ward 7, recognized the following citizens who embody the motto "the people are the City" in the area of growth management: Mike Roberts for his participation on the System Development Charges and Stormwater Management committees, and Mary O'Brien and Bern Johnson of the Citizens for Public Accountability. He quoted President William Henry Harrison: "Examination of the acts of government should be not only tolerated but encouraged."

Councilor Barbara Keller, Ward 2, described and recognized the work of Library staff, Friends of the Library, and the Library Foundation. She also recognized and highlighted the following groups for their dedication to affordable housing: the Housing Authority and Community Services Agency, St. Vincent de Paul, the Interfaith Shelter Network, Lane Shelter Care, Womenspace, NEDCO, Habitat for Humanity, Metropolitan Affordable Housing Corporation, and private housing providers, financial institutions, and advocates who serve the homeless and low-income communities.

Councilor Kevin Hornbuckle, Ward 3, spoke about accountability, democracy, and the public interest, recognizing the work of the Citizens for Public Accountability. He asserted that the City's current form of government was "illegally and otherwise unfairly adopted in 1944 by a charter amendment that violates the Oregon Constitution" and urged the community to change the method by which the City Council is elected to preference voting, which allows for proportional representation.

Councilor Jim Torrey, Ward 5, expressed appreciation for his colleagues on the council. Mr. Torrey described and recognized the work of the West End Planning Group, the City's partners, Lane County and the City of Springfield, and the Council Committee on Environment and Economics.

Councilor Laurie Swanson Gribskov, Ward 4, described and recognized the work of the Lane Council of Governments, the Council Committee on Public Safety, the Lane County Leadership Team, and the Eugene Human Rights Commission, including its Committee on Accessibility, Committee on Education and Outreach, and the Human Rights Support System.

Councillor Patrick Farr, Ward 6, described and recognized the work of the Citizen Involvement Committee, the Southern Willamette Private Industry Council, and the volunteers who coordinated the City's first First Night event.

Mayor Ruth Bascom described and acknowledged the work of the City Club, A New Community Meeting, the Eastside School, Lane Transit Board and staff, and the Ferry Street Bridge Corridor Committee. She also expressed appreciation for supporters of high speed rail and the East Bank Bikepath.

V. OREGON CHILDREN'S GIRLS' CHOIR

The choir sang "In Praise of Music," "I Got the Sun in the Morning," and a variation of "A Bicycle Built for Two," in the Mayor's honor.

VI. ADJOURN

Mayor Bascom announced the kick-off of the Utility Consumption Tax Campaign and recognized State Legislators and other elected officials in the audience.

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Gleason
City Manager

(Recorded by Yolanda Paule)
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