

MINUTES

Eugene City Council  
McNutt Room--City Hall

January 17, 1996  
11:30 a.m.

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

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

I. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

Ms. Nathanson moved, seconded by Mr. Laue, to approve the order of the agenda. The motion passed unanimously, 8:0.

II. ITEMS FROM THE MAYOR, THE CITY COUNCIL, AND THE CITY MANAGER

A. Council Officers

Ms. Nathanson reviewed her year as Council President, noting this was her last meeting in that capacity.

Mr. Boles said the critical feature of being a Council Officer was representing the entire council. He added that the Eugene Code was quite clear on the selection of Council Officers: councilors must have served for at least two years in order to be officers; if there is no interest or there are no councilors who have served for two years, others may be elected to the offices.

Mr. Laue said that in his view, council officers recommend and the council authorizes.

B. Hazardous Trees

Ms. Nathanson thanked the City's Urban Forester for preparing information for the public on how to deal with dangerous trees, adding that she hoped the information would be widely available.

C. Growth Management Study

Mr. Boles said that almost every decision made by the council was a "growth

decision' and the council should not wait for the Growth Management Study (GMS) report to take action.

Mr. Laue said that he found the personal comments at the end of the GMS report very interesting.

**D. Transportation Fair**

Mr. Boles distributed information regarding transportation and bicycle commuting which was prepared by former councilor Paul Nicholson

**E. Public Hearings on Ordinances**

Mr. Boles questioned whether the scheduling of public hearings on ordinances required ratification by the entire council.

**F. Harlow Neighbors**

Mr. Hornbuckle announced that he will be speaking at the meeting of the Harlow Neighbors this evening, adding that Ms. Swanson Gribbskov was also on the agenda.

**G. Assignments on Boards and Commissions**

Mr. Hornbuckle expressed interest in continuing to represent the council on the Intergovernmental Human Services Committee (IHSC).

**H. Sustainability**

Mr. Farr reported on the issue of sustainability as presented at a National League of Cities Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona.

**I. Assessment to Residents in the Urban Growth Boundary**

Mr. Torrey expressed concern that people who live across from Ayres Road outside the Ward 5 boundary but within the urban growth boundary (UGB) will receive substantial property assessments. He flagged the issue for future discussion with the County.

**J. Development Permits**

Mr. Torrey asked for additional information on the turnaround time for development permit issuances. Ms. Norris replied that staff would prepare a report.

**K. Memorial Fund**

Ms. Keller announced a memorial fund to cover medical costs for Vern Ho, former Planning Commissioner.

**L. Noise Variance**

Ms. Keller asked the council officers to consider reviewing the noise ordinance and flagged the issue for discussion at the end of the item, time permitting.

**M. Thank-You's**

Ms. Keller thanked those involved in the following: Eugene Celebration report; First Night Eugene Committee; 4J School District/South Eugene High School for the "no loitering zone."

**N. Lorane Highway**

Ms. Keller thanked council officers for their recommendation that Lorane Highway be considered as a "distinctive street." She asked staff for a progress report on the recommendation.

**O. Centro Latino Medical Center**

Ms. Keller inquired about a request for contingency funds from Centro Latino for a medical access program. Mr. Laue expressed support for the clinic. Mr. Boles clarified that the request had already been noted and would be scheduled for council action.

**P. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration**

Ms. Swanson Gribkov thanked the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration's coordinating committee. Mr. Laue called this year's event "the best ever."

**Q. Public Safety**

Ms. Swanson Gribkov reported on the previous meeting of the Council Committee on Public Safety (CCPS), saying both the County's Leadership Team and the Human Rights Commission are very interested in the issues. She noted that she and Mr. Laue have been invited to continue working with the County's Leadership Team on the Sheriff's levy.

Mr. Laue called attention to a letter in the meeting packet from County Administrator Bill Van Vactor regarding the Sheriff's Department budget. He added that he would invite County Commissioner Bobby Green to discussions of the CCPS around community policing.

**R. National League of Cities**

Ms. Swanson Gribkov commented on her report on the National League of Cities Conference, which emphasized public safety.

**S. Utility Tax Kick-off**

Mr. Laue reported on the kick-off event for the "1% for Housing" campaign,

adding that it was going well.

**T. Cascadia Conference**

Mayor Bascom announced a meeting for Oregon Cascadia stakeholders on February 8 in Salem.

**U. Mayor's Report Program**

Mayor Bascom said an upcoming Mayor's Report program would focus on educating people about the urban growth boundary.

**V. Clean Air Appreciation Award**

Don Arkell said he was asked by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to recognize local governments for progress on the Clean Air Act. He presented the City with an appreciation award in recognition of its effort, noting the Regional Air Pollution Authority was in the process of redesignating the area as "an attainment area for Federal standards."

There being sufficient time, the council returned to items flagged for discussion.

**P. Centro Latino Medical Access Center (Continued)**

There was consensual agreement to accept an application for contingency funds from Centro Latino for a medical access center. Mr. Boles clarified that the clinic would not be exclusively for Latinos, but for low-income citizens.

**L. Noise Ordinance (Continued)**

Ms. Keller asked council to schedule a review of the noise variance ordinance procedure. Ms. Nathanson asked to broaden the discussion to include how the noise ordinance works. Mr. Boles asked that leaf blowers be considered in the review, adding that a history of where variances have been made in the past would also be helpful.

**III. ELECTION OF 1996 CITY COUNCIL OFFICERS**

At the Mayor's request, City Attorney Glenn Klein clarified the code. He called attention to the second paragraph of the code outlining an exception: the vice president may be nominated and elected as president regardless of time served.

Mr. Hornbuckle asked to discuss at the next process session the method by which officers are elected as the current method creates "a manufactured majority" and it is "not democratic."

Ms. Nathanson moved, seconded by Mr. Laue, to extend the discussion time on the topic, with the time taken from the next item.

The motion passed unanimously, 8:0.

At the Mayor's request, councilors expressed their interest, if any, in serving. Councilors Laue, Swanson Gribkov, and Torrey expressed interest.

#### IV. WORK SESSION: WILLAMETTE PLAZA DESIGN COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

##### A. Committee Report

Willamette Plaza Committee Chair Douglas Beauchamp presented the committee's recommendations. He described the 13-member committee and its process, highlighting public and private interest in the core area. He recalled the three budget scenarios previously presented and noted that the council had chosen Option C. Mr. Beauchamp thanked the committee members, staff, and consultant Carl Sherwood.

Jan Bohman, Planning and Development Department, presented information on the budget for the project and reviewed the status of the Urban Renewal Agency (URA) Fund, saying funding was sufficient to cover the costs of the plaza design as recommended. She asked for council direction on bus traffic on Willamette Street, noting that the City Attorney has recommended that any restrictions be tied to the sale of the transit station site.

##### B. Council Questions/Discussion

Ms. Nathanson wondered if the committee had considered possible future physical changes to the space such as door openings through the wall. Mr. Beauchamp said the committee believed that whatever was put on the wall should add to the space aesthetically. Addressing a follow-up question, he said the committee had not addressed enhancing the connection between the plaza area and the park blocks. Mr. Beauchamp noted that the new bus transit station will include a plaza zone at 10th Avenue and Olive Street and another committee may wish to review the entire downtown zone. Ms. Nathanson asked about the potential for private money matched by public money to finance some of the special integrated art features or the special site furnishings. Ms. Bohman said this was something that has worked in other communities and if the project had a longer time line, the concept could be explored further.

In response to a question from Mr. Boles, staff indicated that the proposed light fixtures were compatible with those on Olive Street. Mr. Boles asked for a historical record on the council vote on allocation of URA funds, adding he was not opposed to reprogramming the funds.

Addressing a question from Mr. Farr, Mr. Beauchamp explained that the committee considered transitory activities such as food carts and the design of the plaza to accommodate those activities.

Mr. Torrey expressed concern with visibility at the intersection and wall lighting, noting their importance to public safety. He called attention to a letter from Mr. Biggs, a citizen, and wondered if he had been given an

opportunity to give input. Mr. Beauchamp said Mr. Biggs attended most of the committee's meetings and spoke at all the public forums. In response to a follow-up question, Mr. Beauchamp added that the committee may need to reconvene if the bids for the project are higher than expected.

Ms. Swanson Gribskov said she supported the project but would raise funding issues at the next meeting. She wondered about the potential for phasing the project. She asked for more discussion about mass transit on Willamette Street.

Ms. Keller expressed concern with the lack of trees in the plaza area. At her request, staff explained that the permanent elements were envisioned as ceremonial markings and part of the opportunity for integrated art. Ms. Keller was also concerned with what she called dim lighting in the plaza and lighting at the pavement level. Consultant Sherwood described the lighting design, adding that final locations for lighting had yet to be established.

Mr. Laue moved, seconded by Ms. Nathanson, to extend the discussion by seven minutes, with the time to be taken from the next item. The motion passed unanimously, 8:0.

Addressing a question from Ms. Keller, staff explained that to avoid a sunken area when the fountain is removed, the committee decided to bring the area up to grade and the additional cost is insignificant.

Mr. Boles expressed appreciation for the work of the committee, adding that he continues to believe that it is a mistake not to hold design contests for public areas. He pleaded with the council to make this a truly valued public space, with preference given to pedestrian traffic as opposed to bus use.

Mr. Laue echoed appreciation for the committee's work, calling it excellent.

Ms. Swanson Gribskov reiterated her concern with funding and her interest in phasing the project.

The Mayor asked staff for information on the URA Fund for the council's January 22 discussion.

The council returned to the agenda topic regarding election of Council Officers.

### III. ELECTION OF 1996 CITY COUNCIL OFFICERS (Continued)

Ms. Nathanson moved, seconded by Mr. Boles, to elect Mr. Laue as City Council President. The motion passed unanimously, 8:0.

Ms. Nathanson moved, seconded by Mr. Boles to elect Ms. Swanson Gribskov as City Council Vice President. The motion passed unanimously, 8:0.

The council reversed the order of agenda items V and VI.

**V. POSTPONEMENT OF CONSIDERATION OF URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET #1**

Mayor Bascom adjourned the meeting of the City Council and convened a meeting of the Urban Renewal Agency.

Mr. Klein indicated that the Urban Renewal Agency had postponed to a date certain the supplemental budget, and that date was today so the item had to be listed on today's agenda. He added that staff had asked to postpone the item.

Mr. Laue moved, seconded by Ms. Swanson Gribkov, to postpone the URA supplemental budget. The motion passed unanimously, 7:0 (Ms. Nathanson was out of the room.)

Mayor Bascom adjourned the meeting of the URA and reconvened the meeting of the City Council.

**VI. WORK SESSION: FERRY STREET BRIDGE CORRIDOR CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee Chair John Lawless thanked all involved in developing the recommendation. He provided the committee's final recommendations, saying the committee believed in a concept of a distributed system of smaller scale river crossings. He said the recommendations were intended to create the foundation of the Mayor's vision of returning to the river. Mr. Lawless said the group believed there needed to be a long-term strategy, body, or commission to oversee and be the steward of the concepts, protection, development, and planning of the entire river corridor.

Ms. Keller thanked the committee and made the following suggestions: 1) instead of creating a new body, assign the different phases to existing groups; 2) before adopting the report, remove the funding options for a later discussion; and 3) review the material closely, particularly the multiple bridges into Alton Baker Park.

Ms. Swanson Gribkov said regional funding options should be explored.

Ms. Nathanson supported Ms. Swanson Gribkov's suggestion. She praised the report's format and said she liked the recommendations' emphasis on retaining human scale projects.

Addressing a question from Mr. Boles, Mr. Lawless said the committee intended full modal crossings, but did not get to a level of specificity for the Valley River Center crossing.

In response to a question from Ms. Swanson Gribkov, committee member Neale Hyatt said original revenue estimates for each funding source were double what

is presented today. Mr. Boles asked for full cost estimates, as the revenue projections in the Finance Plan seemed inadequate. He expressed support for a management committee to oversee corridor projects.

Mr. Torrey said the State should be considered as part of the City's regional partners. He expressed concern that the proposed Valley River Center crossing would be adequate to address the volume issue and wondered how to make mass transit more attractive to the public.

Dave Reinhard, Public Works, distributed a flow chart outlining the time line. He reviewed the staff recommendation, asking the council to adopt the committee report as the basis for future action and suggested that the council consider the financial strategies in the context of its long-term financial strategies and the project prioritization in the context of the TransPlan.

Ms. Keller left the meeting.

Mr. Laue agreed with the committee that the river was one of the City's most valuable assets.

Ms. Nathanson urged that the river be treated with respect, while at the same time acknowledging that it was an urban river front. She noted that rapidly changing social, educational, and employment patterns make it difficult to predict future transportation needs and time sensitivity may not be such an issue.

Former Councilor Paul Nicholson assured the council that he approved the report as a representative of the council; however, if he were giving input as a private citizen, he would not recommend any construction, preferring instead to have people "pay as they go." He assured the council that the committee had accommodated the traffic projections in the plan.

The meeting adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Linda H. Norris*

Linda H. Norris  
City Manager pro tem

(Recorded by Yolanda Paule)  
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