

MINUTES

Eugene City Council
McNutt Room--City Hall

April 19, 1995
11:30 a.m.

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

COUNCILORS ABSENT: Jim Torrey.

The adjourned meeting of April 17, 1995, 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, 7:0.

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

A. Fenced Public Alley

Mr. Hornbuckle reported a complaint about a private fence prohibiting access to a public alley. He said the alley has been closed off for 20 years and up until now no surrounding property owners had complained. Mr. Hornbuckle said the City needed to review alley maintenance in general and complaint-driven enforcement. He asked for council oversight of this issue because the fence owner is a City employee. The issue was flagged for discussion, time permitting, at the end of the agenda item.

B. Legislature

Mr. Laue asked those present to get involved in legislative issues to protect the interests of municipalities.

C. Boy Scouts

Ms. Keller said that Peter Thurston, Lane County, asked that the City Council support a resolution celebrating the 85th anniversary of the Boy Scouts. She explained to Mr. Thurston that the council did not pass this kind of resolutions; however, she would publicize the event and encourage council attendance at the celebration. Mayor Bascom offered to write a letter of support, which she will circulate for councilor signatures.

D. Dog Care/Control

Mr. Boles said that at the last Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC) meeting, the County expressed interest in the "care and feeding of dogs," in partnership with other jurisdictions. He asked the council if it was interested in discussing the matter with the County. This item was flagged for discussion, time permitting, at the end of the agenda item.

E. Celebrating Traditions

Mr. Boles said he was hesitant to ask the council to consider a funding request for the Native American annual event "Celebrating Traditions" because donations are being solicited. The request was flagged for discussion at the end of the item, time permitting.

F. Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) Recommendations

Mr. Boles said the IGR Committee will discuss on April 21 the issue raised by Mr. Hornbuckle regarding legislative bills relating to personnel issues.

G. High Speed Rail

Mayor Bascom reported that funding for high speed rail was "killed" in a State legislative subcommittee today; it also rescinded funding approved at the last session. In response to a question from Ms. Nathanson, Mayor Bascom said the subcommittee decided that the local share was more than the area could match. She said she was embarrassed to carry the message to meetings scheduled over the next two days in Seattle, Portland, and Salem.

H. Willamette Street Reopening

Mayor Bascom reported that at this morning's Lane County Board of Commissioners meeting, commissioners voted unanimous support of the City's process for reopening of Willamette Street, but postponed discussion of its share of the costs to this afternoon.

I. Council Agenda Changes

Mayor Bascom called attention to council agenda changes, saying the Graville public hearing and Planning Commission appointments were postponed to May 8. She asked staff to ensure that background memorandums on both the Graville and Whiteaker issues are distributed to the council.

J. Housing

Mayor Bascom said she distributed a memorandum and article to councilors regarding the importance of permanent affordable housing.

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

A. Fenced Public Alley (Continued)

City Manager Mike Gleason said staff has suggested issuing a revocable permit allowing the fence and asking the property owner to install a walk-through gate for members of the public wishing access.

Ms. Nathanson said she has received much information about the issue and it seems to be an issue of fairness in applying existing ordinances and administrative rules. It is obvious that the alley is not currently used by the public, but it could at some point, so the revocable permit seems like a good solution. She was concerned about setting a precedent resulting in requests from others wanting to fence off public areas.

Ms. Swanson Gribskov said she was familiar with the situation, calling it an isolated incident. She wondered if a revocable permit was acceptable to Mr. Hornbuckle. Mr. Hornbuckle said he would first need to know what the code provisions were for that type of permit.

Ms. Keller said it was reasonable for a member of the public to want to use a public alley and asked staff to consider opening the alley.

Addressing a question from Mr. Laue, City Attorney Bill Gary said that adverse possession did not run against the public. Mr. Laue said the usual way of dealing with this type of issue was administratively or through community mediation, if required. He agreed with councilors Keller and Hornbuckle and suggested that staff distribute a memorandum outlining the council's options.

Mr. Hornbuckle wondered how many people need to be affected by something before it became a public issue.

Mr. Gleason said staff would postpone enforcement, speak to the property owners, and distribute a memorandum on staff's recommendations for solutions, adding that no response from the council will be interpreted as agreement. Ms. Nathanson asked that a due date for responses be noted on the memo. Ms. Keller asked staff to ensure that the revocable permit applied to a fence that is two decades old and such a permit would not necessarily be issued for any new fences.

D. Dogs (Continued)

Mr. Boles said that in agreeing to a discussion in MPC about dogs, the City was inviting a document from the County describing the issues and suggesting interjurisdictional resolutions. Addressing questions raised by Ms. Nathanson, Mr. Boles said he believed a jurisdictional approach made sense and the only City resource expended, to that point, is the time taken by the three interjurisdictional executives in crafting the report.

E. Celebrating Traditions

There was consensual agreement to accept a funding application for the Celebrating Traditions event.

III. COUNCIL GOALS WORK PLAN--PUBLIC SAFETY/HOUSING

Mr. Laue introduced the topic and said there were three issues for the council to consider: 1) the goals statements themselves; 2) benchmarks, measures, and strategies for the public safety goal; and 3) benchmarks, measures, and strategies for the housing goal.

A. Council Goals Statement

Mr. Laue said the Council Committee on Working Relationships (CCWR) at its April 12 meeting recommended a redraft of the council's original February 23 statements. He suggested adopting the final goal statements at the May 17 meeting, when Councilor Torrey would be present.

1. Preamble

Mr. Laue read the preamble to the council goals. The council made the following changes/comments.

The word "are" was substituted for the word "feel" in the first sentence.

2. Public Safety Goal

The council accepted the committee's recommended changes to the public safety goal. Addressing a comment from Ms. Keller, Mr. Laue said that "optimum response time" referred to a 4-minute response time, 85 percent of the time.

3. Government Goal

The council added the phrase "acts in a thoughtful and deliberative manner and" following "A municipal government that. . ."

4. Housing

The first bullet was changed to read: "an identified and approved revenue stream dedicated to the sustained development of affordable housing."

The second bullet was changed to "a review of municipal regulations for the creation and maintenance of affordable housing."

Mayor Bascom expressed concern that "affordable" was a relative term.

Mr. Boles pointed out that the finished product was a strategy rather than a goal statement.

5. Transportation

The second bullet was changed to read: "encouraging options such as local trolleys and frequent passenger train service in the Cascadia Corridor."

The first bullet was changed to: "enhancing our transportation strategies for pedestrian access, bike routes, car pooling, buses, and roadways."

6. Land Use

Mr. Boles pointed out that the phrase "development and redevelopment" had been omitted from the first bullet. The council agreed to add the phrase back while deleting the word "growth."

B. Draft Work Plan

Barb Bellamy, Administrative Services, oriented the council to its position in its goals cycle and said that the next step was to set targets for evaluating results. She said the committee would seek council direction on targets and priorities in the next few meetings and adjust the work program accordingly. Ms. Bellamy explained that there were two levels of measures, for broad community outcomes and for the City's two-year work plan objectives. She said that the CCWR would work on the two-year objectives, which measure the organization's strategies and measures. She said the committee was interested in the council's input today on outcome measures and strategies. At the end of the meeting, she added, the council will decide whether to hold a similar meeting to discuss the other goals or accept a packet from the committee with recommended community outcome measures for each of the other goals for input individually.

1. Community Outcomes

Mr. Laue explained that the starred outcomes were local equivalents of Oregon benchmarks. He also noted that outcome measures considered but not recommended by the committee were also listed.

a. Public Safety

Police Services: The council reduced the list of seven recommendations to the first three.

Ms. Nathanson argued for including Outcomes 4 and 5.

Mr. Boles explained that in choosing the outcomes the committee considered if the City had control over activities that influenced the variables in the outcomes, e.g., smoking (Outcome 4.c.).

Ms. Keller said there was no link to any of the goals, adding that "less smoking among youth" should be made a goal.

Ms. Nathanson urged the council to add 4 (a and b) and 5 because it was important to add as many measure as feasible and prudent that have to do with youth. She added this would enhance deterrent and prevention programs by providing baseline information.

Ms. Nathanson moved, seconded by Mr. Laue, to include Outcome 4 (a and b).

Ms. Swanson Gribkov expressed concern with having too many outcomes.

Ms. Keller agreed that it was important to do measurement on youth and suggested measuring positive youth activity as well.

Mr. Boles said he could not support the motion without 4c.

Mr. Laue clarified that a shorter set of outcomes and measures would not preclude measures around the other outcomes at the strategy level.

There was insufficient support for the motion, based on the five-finger straw voting process.

Mr. Laue suggested dropping 4 through 7 now and revisiting them on May 17 after reviewing the work plan for the area. The council agreed. Mr. Boles added that setting targets may assuage some of the concerns.

Fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS): There was a brief discussion about adding Outcome 3 to the two recommended by the committee but the council decided it should be considered when setting measures at the strategy level.

b. Housing

Mr. Laue reviewed the committee's recommendations.

Addressing a question from Ms. Nathanson, staff indicated that the number of affordable units in relation to total housing stock would be measured by counting subsidized housing; i.e., housing where rent is kept below market through public support.

Ms. Keller said it would also be helpful to know how many non-subsidized affordable units there are in the community as a way of measuring a reduction in the volume. Mr. Boles said the committee wanted to make the distinction between low-income subsidized housing and what a person of median income could afford, adding that there are two-income families that cannot afford housing.

Ms. Swanson Gribkov encouraged the council to look at housing more comprehensively, including activities the City can engage in to make affordable and moderate housing more attractive to private developers. Mr. Hornbuckle noted that the types of things Ms. Swanson Gribkov was suggesting were just other forms of subsidies.

In response to a question from Mr. Hornbuckle, Mr. Boles said he was supportive of calling out low-income and affordable housing separately. He added that subsidies were a "red herring"--what actually happens is that "we directly subsidize low-income people and indirectly subsidize the wealthy."

The council agreed to change Outcome 3 to: "Number of affordable and low-

income units in relation to total housing stock."

Addressing a question from Ms. Swanson Gribkov, Mr. Laue said that Outcome 4 referred to the balance between owner-occupied and rental units in neighborhoods.

Ms. Keller questioned home ownership as an indicator of affordable and low-income housing and suggested addressing that as a lower level measure.

Ms. Nathanson said this type of measure relates more to public safety and neighborhood liveability, but not directly to affordable housing.

Mr. Boles said the committee saw that the mix between owner-occupied and rented homes was quite different from neighborhood to neighborhood and wanted to bring something that would say what that mix should be. He suggested retaining the outcome and deleting it at the next review, if the council wished. The council agreed.

The meeting adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Gleason
City Manager

(Recorded by Yolanda Paule)
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