

MINUTES

Eugene City Council
McNutt Room--City Hall

June 19, 1995
5:30 p.m.

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Nancy Nathanson, Tim Laue, Pat Farr, Kevin Hornbuckle,
Barbara Keller, Laurie Swanson Gribkov, Jim Torrey

COUNCILORS ABSENT: Shawn Boles

The special dinner work session of June 19, 1995, of the Eugene City Council was called to order by Her Honor Mayor Ruth Bascom.

Mr. Hornbuckle moved, seconded by Mr. Torrey, to move CityVote to the beginning of the agenda and to spend 10 minutes on the item. The motion passed unanimously, 7:0.

I. WORK SESSION: CityVote

Mr. Hornbuckle referred members to the CityVote briefing, and explained that the basic idea of CityVote was that there should be a national urban presidential primary. The primary would be used as advisory information for the nominating process. He explained that voters in a number of municipalities would have the opportunity on the same day to vote for a candidate for president. He said that currently the presidential political agenda was set in rural states, and candidates drop out of the race early in the process. He added that the Oregon legislature passed a bill to move the state's presidential primary to March in order to participate more fully in the presidential nominating process.

Mr. Hornbuckle said that for Eugene to participate in CityVote, the council would need to discuss the principle behind the project and the affordability of participating. He said that the estimated cost was \$50,000, and he had not anticipated that expense.

Mr. Gleason stated that the City had the authority to hold an election at any time; however, if it held the election at the same time as the State, it would not be able to use the official county system. He said that an ordinance would have to be created and a separate system would have to be devised, and that was why the project would be expensive.

Responding to Ms. Nathanson's question about the impact this project would have on the emergence of new candidates, Mr. Hornbuckle stated that the intention of CityVote was to demonstrate that those candidates that address

urban issues will receive votes and be viable candidates. He said that the outcome could be greater political interest in urban concerns.

Ms. Keller stated that she was interested in the concept of CityVote, but she had considerable concern about spending \$50,000 to participate in the project. She said that she could not see Eugene having enough effect on the nation's political process to warrant spending that amount of money. She suggested that the council could write a letter of support to the CityVote organization, rather than participate directly.

Mayor Bascom said that she found it interesting to review the cities that were going to participate in the project, and noted that some were very similar demographically to Eugene.

Responding to Mr. Farr's question, Mr. Hornbuckle stated that he was less enthusiastic about the project because of the expense.

Responding to Mr. Laue's question about the Attorney General's opinion, Mr. Gleason stated that the Attorney General's opinion was that the City could not put candidates on an advisory ballot.

Ms. Nathanson moved, seconded by Mr. Hornbuckle, to direct staff to prepare a resolution to participate in CityVote and schedule for action in a timely fashion.

Mr. Hornbuckle encouraged the City staff to review the resolutions from the other cities participating in the project and use them as models.

Ms. Nathanson withdrew her motion, and Mr. Hornbuckle withdrew his second.

Mr. Hornbuckle moved, seconded by Mr. Torrey, to develop a letter to CityVote explaining Eugene's support and the City's decision not to participate. The motion passed unanimously, 7:0.

II. WORKING TARGETS FOR COUNCIL GOALS

Public Safety

Mr. Laue stated that the council needed to revisit the working targets and come to agreement. He referred councilors to the Public Safety goal, working target number one, and opened the discussion.

Ms. Keller stated that she understood the intent of the target, but not the numbers listed in the document. She asked for clarification about the one percent.

City staff said that it was a one percent decrease in the crime rate as a rolling average.

Mr. Torrey stated that he intended to support the recommendation of the staff. He said that if community policing worked then the numbers would be higher than those reflected in the working target, but he did not mind having the target be lower because it could be revisited. He said it was a reasonable approach to a very untenable discussion around the specific number.

Mr. Farr stated his agreement with Mr. Torrey, and added that the crime rate was trending higher, and the working target basically stated that the council wanted to stop that trend.

Ms. Swanson Gribskov said she would support the target with the caveat that there was a lot to this one working target. She said that it encompassed nine measures, and it seemed like a lot to deal with in one target.

Ms. Keller said she would not support the motion to support the staff's recommendation because it did not seem to be a relevant measure. She said the target did not speak to community policing versus reactive policing and it did not clearly state how the goal would be achieved. She said she did not understand the methodology and how it was relevant, and noted she would rather look at outreach, number of contacts, personnel, or some other measure.

Ms. Nathanson said that she would support the target because the committee has worked very hard and discussed the issue at great length with staff. She said her support had more to do with starting out with collecting information and using it. She added that she hoped in following years, reports including some of the information that Ms. Keller discussed would be of interest to her.

Mr. Laue, responding to Ms. Keller's point about the measure not giving the council the type of information that it wanted, said that the council committee discussed this issue at great length, and members decided to focus upon outcomes, rather than strategy. He asked for a 1-5 finger vote to get informal approval of the target.

The council agreed with target number one.

Government

Mr. Laue introduced target number seven.

Ms. Swanson Gribskov said she flagged this chart because it contained a large amount of information and suggested that the council drop part B and agree to part A. She added that the other concern she had was with doubling current expenditures for street preservation because she did not see how the City would come up with another \$1 million for that project.

Terry Smith, Public Works department, stated that any increase would involve the same steps, either a search to see how current revenues were spent and changing those allocations, or discussing the issue with Lane County with regard to Road Funds.

Ms. Keller said she had no questions or concerns with implementing the EMS/Fire redeployment plan for facilities, and added that if the council went ahead with this target that that issue be separated out. Regarding the street preservation, she said that there were two issues that concerned her: did the doubling of current expenditures mean doubling the amount of road bed preserved and was it necessary to spend twice the amount of money. She said that if the council wanted to double the amount of miles preserved then she would feel better about that target. She questioned whether or not council would truly want to double the current expenditures for street preservation. She asked how the percentages under B related to the current situation.

Mr. Smith said that doubling current expenditures would not double the number of street miles preserved. He said that there was a backlog of \$30 million of infrastructure that needed to be repaired, and added that it was growing at a rate of \$4 million per year. He said the problem would continue to grow, it would just grow more slowly.

Ms. Nathanson said that she would rather see the information in this target be described by how many blocks or how many miles of streets/paths, rather than dollar amounts. She said that dollar amounts did not give the public an idea of the change. She added that she thought that when the council had set goals in December that this government goal was related to effective decision making and effective information sharing. She said that she was at a loss to understand how this specific target was added.

Mr. Laue stated that this target came from the goal statement that read "appropriate investment in public assets."

Ms. Keller suggested that the council adopt only part A, specifically the "implementing of the EMS/Fire redeployment plan for facilities."

Mr. Torrey said that he wanted to keep the implementation of the EMS/Fire redeployment plan for facilities, but he also wanted to keep the doubling of current expenditures because it would force the council to deal with the problem and give the public an explanation about the size of the problem.

Mr. Laue expressed his agreement with Mr. Torrey, and added that the issue of street preservation was a sleeping giant, and if the council did not begin to deal with the issue it would grow to be a larger concern three or four years down the road.

Mr. Farr stated his agreement that EMS/Fire was a very important issue, but he added that there needed to be a dialogue about the streets. He said he felt uncomfortable with the statement "doubling current expenditures." He said he would feel more comfortable with saying, "increasing the number of miles maintained."

Ms. Nathanson said if the council adopted the table as it was, she had concern with the lack of numbers for public safety, recreation buildings, and new park land and park development.

Mr. Smith said the boxes, on the chart, were empty because they all fell within the 50 percent number next to facilities, and there was not a quick and easy way to desegregate that information by type of facility. He said that the staff goal was to better explain that information.

Mr. Gleason urged the council to give staff some direction in the capital outlay area.

Mr. Smith said that staff had planned to bring to council a choice of two options about the issue of doubling current expenditures for street preservation: 1) this would require a regional conversation about funding with the ultimate goal of a funding election in 1997; and 2) continue to have that discussion during the course of the TransPlan work, and compile a roster of funding options that the council could implement in three or four years.

Mr. Hornbuckle stated that he thought the council was still looking for money regardless of the choice it made around this issue. He said that it was hard to participate meaningfully in the conversation because the council did not have a useful strategy for coming up with the money. He suggested creating a municipal jobs program to increase revenue.

Ms. Keller stated she wanted the council to support option B because it did not leave anything out. She said she hoped the council would come up with a solution and go ahead with part B.

Ms. Swanson Gribskov said she was going to ask the council to focus its comments to part A, and noted she still had concerns with part B.

Mr. Torrey said that the reason he wanted to stay with part B is that staff could make the chart understandable. He said he hoped that the council would step up to the issue of acquiring new parkland.

Mr. Smith said that to translate part B into something that was more user friendly would take 12-18 months of staff time.

Mr. Laue asked for a finger vote on gaining agreement for parts A and B.

The council did not agree with goal number seven because Mayor Bascom wanted to make further comments.

Mayor Bascom stated that it seemed that the target had been expanded, and her impression was that the council wanted to simplify the target.

Mr. Gleason stated that staff would fill out the chart in part B, and bring back that report to the council. He added that staff would bring back a multiple set of options.

Mr. Laue suggested that instead of saying "doubling current expenditures," the sentence read, "increasing public expenditures." He suggested that the chart

be accepted as well as the implementing of EMS/Fire redeployment plan for facilities. He asked for a finger vote.

The council agreed with target number seven.

Mr. Torrey asked if it was possible to add a part C to target number five that would state, "75 percent of respondents say that they feel the City of Eugene is average or above average in working with its intergovernmental partners."

Mr. Laue said that that would be a new question in the community survey.

Ms. Keller suggested that staff put that down as a recommendation for questions on the survey.

Mr. Torrey withdrew his recommendation.

Ms. Swanson Gribkov said that there were many financial issues in this document, and it would be important to look at the whole picture at some point. She suggested that the council discuss potential revenue measures and election dates at the Trimester work session.

Ms. Keller said she had a concern about the goals because she wanted to know what the council was committing to in terms of staff time and resources just to do all the processing. She said that the council needed a report back from the staff stating what resources and staff time had been committed by council.

Mr. Gleason said that the council and staff needed to strike a balance between measuring and doing. He said that it would be important for the council to go through an integration process to match resources and work plans to the targets and to specify election dates for which revenue measures would be developed.

III. WORK SESSION: INDOOR SOCCER CENTER

Mr. Hornbuckle left the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Jim Johnson, Library, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department Director, gave the staff report. He referred councilors to a map and said that the site was located off River Road about .6 of a mile from the Chambers Connector. He said the facility would be a large building about 250 feet long and 30,000 square feet total. He noted that the building would contain two fields; one full size soccer field and one field about the size of McArthur Court. He said the building would also contain some seating, a reception/concession area, some offices, storage, and changing areas for men and women. He noted that the building would not be heated or air conditioned and the translucent windows were not operable. He added that the building was designed to blend, as best as possible, with the environment.

Mr. Johnson referred the councilors to a chart that illustrated why people would be willing to pay what the staff was suggesting. He said that the market would bear \$500 per season for adults and \$350 for kids. He said that the cost per player per game would be approximately \$6.25, but would vary according to the number of players per team. He said that the users would pay for both debt service and operation. He said that staff estimated that there were 29,000 youth between the ages of 6-18 in the Eugene/Springfield area, and in order to be successful, the complex would need to capture 5 percent or 1,490 youth. He added that the project needed to meet 63 percent of the capacity of the building during the winter in order to be successful. He referred councilors to the staff's assumptions of capacities in their agenda packets. He said that staff was realistic about the percentage of capacity to expect in the summer months.

Ms. Keller stated that she was impressed with the thoroughness of the process, and she hoped that the council would support the project.

Ms. Nathanson stated that she was wondering about a letter concerning a private individual who was wanting to create a similar project, and if there was thought given to renting the space for birthday parties, etc.

Mr. Johnson said that the two fields could be used for various activities, and added that on the smaller field staff was looking into creating the opportunity for roller hockey and other activities.

Mr. Johnson added that he responded to Mr. Kosoris letter, and he and staff agreed to disagree about the demand in the community.

Ms. Swanson Gribkov stated that she was attracted to the project because of its ability to pay for itself. She said that sometimes the best public safety prevention programs were having readily available youth programs and a way to access youth in the community. She said she wanted to flag what the public might see as a waste of money on this facility when there were potholes in the streets. She said it was important to underscore the notion that it pays for itself and that the funding mechanism is participation bonds.

Mr. Johnson stated that there were three fallback funding mechanisms: 1) debt service reserve; 2) reserve of opportunity account dollars; and 3) the athletic programs in the City of Eugene would help fund the project. He said that the first two options would only be depleted following two years of no use of the building.

Mr. Farr said that he thought the numbers were dreadfully conservative and that the facility will be used considerably beyond present estimations.

Mayor Bascom emphasized that the site was a good choice and was easily accessible.

Mr. Torrey said that the best thing about the project was that it was for kids, and the second best thing was that it would be close to the Bethel area.

He said he had a question about privatization versus public ownership, and asked if the City could put out a use specific request for proposals (RFP). He said that it would be important to make it clear that the City would not start construction before all the funds were in hand.

Mr. Johnson said that the money would be essentially raised at one time, and the project would not be built unless the City had secured all of the funding required. He said that the City did not have to pay property taxes or large insurance bills and therefore had some advantages over the private sector.

Mr. Laue asked about artificial turf and injuries.

Mr. Johnson said that people sustain more injuries on artificial turf, but that staff was investigating various types of turf, including a new product that was made of sand, ground-up rubber tires, and artificial turf. He said that product looked very favorable.

Ms. Keller stated that in terms of privatization versus public ownership, this project was about making a long-term investment. She said the location was excellent, and that the user time predictions were very conservative. She warned against making promises for other use time because she thought that the facility would be used from five to midnight by soccer players.

Ms. Nathanson said that she was intrigued by the idea and she liked the site. She added that she was concerned about regional traffic coming into the area, and asked if there had been thinking about a deal with Lane Transit District (LTD) for discounted passes for facility users.

Mr. Johnson agreed that the idea was a good one.

Ms. Nathanson moved, seconded by Mr. Laue, to direct staff to proceed with the next phase of the project, which is land use approval and preparing for the sale of certificates of participation.

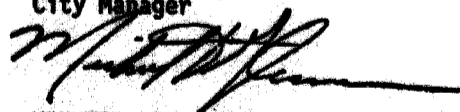
Mr. Torrey moved the previous question. The motion to move the previous question passed unanimously, 6:0.

The main motion passed unanimously, 6:0.

Council adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Micheal Gleason
City Manager



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