

MINUTES

Eugene City Council
McNutt Room--City Hall

June 21, 1995
11:30 a.m.

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

COUNCILORS ABSENT: Shawn Boles.

Mayor Ruth Bascom called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m.

I. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

Ms. Nathanson moved, seconded by Mr. Laue, to approve the order of the agenda.

Ms. Keller moved, seconded by Mr. Hornbuckle, to amend the motion to move item III regarding the war memorial to be the last item on the agenda. The amendment passed unanimously, 7:0.

The main motion passed unanimously, 7:0.

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

A. Eugene-Springfield Access Book

Ms. Swanson Gribskov showed the council the Eugene-Springfield Access Book, which was recently printed and had been distributed at the Human Rights Commission meeting. Ms. Swanson Gribskov said the book was designed for citizens and visitors to locate available services and facilities with accessibility for people with disabilities. She said the development of the book had been a successful joint venture between the City of Eugene, Willamalane Parks and Recreation District, the University of Oregon, Lane Community College, Lane Transit District, the Eugene Water & Electric Board, the City of Springfield, and Lane County.

B. Public Forums on Hyundai

Mr. Farr said that he had enjoyed the two public discussions about Hyundai, although he was disappointed about the timing for the Monday night forum, which he said appeared to be timed to exclude City Councilors from participating as a City Council meeting had been previously scheduled. Ms. Keller clarified that the time was chosen only because of the availability of Harris

Hall. She thanked both organizations involved for putting on the two public forums on the Hyundai development proposal. She said that the turnout indicated widespread concern about the project.

Mr. Hornbuckle said the Citizens for Public Accountability had tried to put together an inclusive forum, but that the City Council had made it difficult to participate. However, Mr. Hornbuckle said the forum had been a rousing success.

Mr. Torrey complimented staff members for their presentations as panel members at the June 20 League of Women Voters Forum on Hyundai.

C. Sign Code

Mr. Hornbuckle reported that he had noticed large signs on Lane Transit District buses, and described the signs as "visual garbage." Mr. Hornbuckle said he would ballot council members about changing the sign code to limit the size of signs on buses. Mr. Hornbuckle added that the issue should include discussion of the City's policy regarding banners over the roadway, and he suggested the City should limit the use of this signage to City programs only.

D. Lincoln Street Fair

Mr. Hornbuckle said although the street fair on Lincoln Street had been rained out, the effort represented hard work by the neighborhood groups.

E. Council Committee on Automation

Ms. Nathanson reported that the automation committee had been meeting and brainstorming ideas that had been forwarded for its review. She said the committee had been looking at two paths, one for general information and service and the other for decision making. Ms. Nathanson told the council that she, Mr. Farr, and Mr. Boles were participating on the committee and asked members to feel free to ask questions of her or Randy Kolb, Information Services Division.

F. Council Committee on Financing Affordable Housing

Ms. Nathanson reported that she was pleased with the progress of the committee, and in particular the contributions of citizen members. She said the discussion has broadened, and last week included representatives from the Eugene Water & Electric Board.

G. Trip to Washington, DC

Mr. Torrey told the council he had been in Washington, DC, on a business trip, and had taken time to meet with Federal elected officials and the City's lobbyists. He stressed information from the offices of Senator Mark Hatfield and Representative Peter DeFazio that indicated the Federal funding for the Ferry Street Bridge project could be in jeopardy, particularly beyond another vote. He urged the council to consider the options recommended by the citizen committee, and expressed hope that the funding would still be available.

H. Wetlands Plan

Mr. Torrey told the council that the City of Eugene's wetlands plan is nationally recognized as a successful partnership of government, development, and the environment. He urged the council to "take a step back" and recognize successes like this one.

I. Initiative Petition

Ms. Keller congratulated Mr. Hornbuckle and his group for their work on the initiative petition. She said the concept of at-large and weighted voting could allow better representation in the wider community, as well as more diversity on the council.

J. School District 4J Property

Mr. Laue announced that School District 4J wants to sell a tract of property to the Waldorf School. Mr. Laue explained that the City has reversionary interest in the property which must be relinquished before the district can sell it. He said he had participated in a review of this issue and agrees that the best approach would be to relinquish the City's interest with the agreement that Waldorf would provide a public easement for access to the property. Mr. Laue sought council direction.

Ms. Swanson Gribkov asked staff to flag this item for questions and discussion later in the meeting.

K. Response to Bern Johnson

Mayor Bascom referred councilors to her memorandum to Bern Johnson in response to Ms. Keller's distribution of his report on economic incentives for job creation. She said her memorandum pointed to omissions in his reading of a report from the State Office of Economic Development.

L. High-Speed Rail

Mayor Bascom reported that she had met with Mayor Vera Katz in Portland last Friday to work on maintaining rail service. She said that Amtrack would need operating moneys to continue to operate the service after the end of September.

M. Northwest Youth Corps

Mayor Bascom announced that the Northwest Youth Corps had been awarded a grant for a project to allow youth to participate in the construction of low-income housing. She said it was gratifying to see this group's efforts rewarded.

N. Voter's Pamphlet

Mayor Bascom clarified that a review of the minutes containing council discussion about the voter's pamphlet revealed that the issue was not closed.

O. Eugene Symphony

Mayor Bascom announced that she had participated in a celebration with the Eugene Symphony performing in Portland, which she termed "thrilling."

P. City Departments Move

Mr. Gleason reported on the recent move of the Planning and Development Department to The Atrium Building, noting that it was the first time that the department has been in one physical location. Mr. Gleason told the council that one of his goals was to move departments into physical spaces that allow better customer service.

Q. Enterprise Zone

Mr. Gleason referred the council to materials requested by Mr. Boles and answers to Mr. Boles' questions, and an outline of the timing of the memorandum of understanding (MOU). Mr. Gleason pointed out that MOUs are signed frequently as an administrative task. He said such MOUs were not ordinarily shared with the council, and only was in this case because of a specific request. He said that if the council wished him to change this policy, it may wish to direct him to do so.

There being sufficient time, the council then returned to the issue of school district property.

Ms. Swanson Gribkov asked about compensation for the property, stating that it appears to be a gift to a private organization if there is no compensation. Mr. Gleason responded that a lease would be executed if the City did not release its interest. City Attorney Bill Gary explained that the City's interest in the property is reversionary. In other words, if the school district did something it was not supposed to do, the property would revert to the City under the terms of interest, which state it could only be used as a park. Mr. Gary characterized the practical affect of the agreement as veto power.

In response to a question by Mr. Farr, Mr. Gary answered that if the property were sold to the Waldorf School, the easement would last only as long as property was owned by them. Mr. Gary added that if Waldorf School decided to sell the property, the City would have right of first purchase.

Ms. Nathanson asked if the customary use of the property, i.e., general recreation, would continue. She expressed appreciation to Mr. Laue for responding to some of her concerns about this issue. Ms. Nathanson said she would prefer not to obligate the City when this part of town already has parks and access, while other parts of the City are not as similarly well-served.

Mr. Torrey said he would prefer an exchange or compensation, but he added that if the negotiations had moved beyond that stage, he could accept the proposal. Mr. Gleason pointed out that the district has what it wants, and has no reason to offer remuneration. Mr. Torrey asked if the City had the option of attaching the easement to the land, so that access could be assured. Mr.

Gleason responded that option had been explored, but the Waldorf School was not interested. Mr. Torrey concluded his remarks by saying that although he had concerns about the amount of open space and parkland in the area, the school district has been generous with the City, and that as long as public access can be retained, this proposal was a reasonable approach to take.

Ms. Keller detailed her concerns as: 1) the customary use had changed and could change again; 2) the patrons of Waldorf school could withdraw, leaving it on shaky financial ground, at which point the school could sell the property for any kind of development, without City Council input; and 3) it would be a mistake to give up the City's financial interest unless there minimally is a way to ensure a continuous open space easement that goes with the land.

Mayor Bascom reminded the council that it was five minutes over the scheduled time. Mr. Laue proposed an information ballot to be sent to council members. The council concurred.

III. COUNCIL-SPONSORED COMMUNITY DISCUSSION REGARDING HYUNDAI

Ms. Swanson Gribskov said she appreciated the public discussions, and she hoped the July 10 council briefing would be an opportunity to get more information out. She said the council would need to develop a strategy to respond to the concerns and passions that will be expressed at the briefing. She asked to have information organized by what is known, what is not known, and when will it be known. She suggested organizing the briefing around topic-specific issues, and demonstrating leadership on this issue.

Mr. Hornbuckle asked about the council's agreement to register an affirmative vote for Mr. Boles. Council members confirmed this agreement, and Mr. Gary clarified that on informal issues such as setting a process, this agreement was not inappropriate.

Mr. Hornbuckle expressed uncertainty about supporting a session that he characterized as a propaganda session. He said the answers to questions are generally available; for example, the Citizens for Public Accountability had ready access to information that the City has not acknowledged.

Ms. Keller reiterated her position that the council needed to hold a forum to actively listen to people's concerns and deal with the issue in an official capacity. She said information is needed, both from public forums and in written form.

Mr. Farr supported the idea of a 4-1/2 hour forum, but said it needed to be a questions and answer session where the council can ask "clean" questions and get "clean" answers.

Ms. Nathanson commented that the time as allocated in Councilor Boles' proposal was not an ideal breakdown. She said the idea of moving from room to room did not seem like a good idea. Ms. Nathanson said there are a variety of issues involved, including financing, environmental questions, and trans-

portation issues. She pointed out that some of these topics are within the purview of the council, while others are more appropriate for the State Department of Environmental Quality or another agency. Ms. Nathanson stressed the need to be clear about the areas in which the Eugene City Council has jurisdiction, and the areas that are addressed by the State.

In terms of the issue of information versus propaganda, Ms. Nathanson said everyone hears information differently, and she suggested a format of specific questions and answers.

Mr. Torrey expressed concern that the proposal was an attempt to delay action on the project, adding that the proposed time allotment was more than what was needed. Mr. Torrey remarked that the real question was one of growth versus no growth, and argued that the community was prepared to accommodate development of this size. Although Mr. Torrey agreed that many issues needed to be addressed, he stressed that the council should move forward, supporting the decisions of prior councils and the Planning Commission. Mr. Torrey said he would not support a proposal that includes anything other than a question and answer session.

Mr. Laue indicated that he was inclined to support the proposal with reservations, the biggest of which was the idea that this council was revisiting decisions that have already been made. Mr. Laue said there is concern about the size of this project, and a public hearing is appropriate because of those considerations. Mr. Laue suggested that the council needed to deal with the question of revisiting previous council decisions, as well as the question of enterprise zones.

In response to questions, Mr. Gary confirmed that the motion which was made and tabled at the last meeting was currently on the table for discussion and action.

Mr. Gleason asked the council to consider what Ms. Swanson Gribkov had said, adding that people saw these meetings as surrogates for voting, and they become a contest. He remarked that there was value for the council to have a researched set of questions, such as questions about revisiting environmental issues and enterprise zones. Mr. Gleason added that many questions had already been forwarded; the volume of questions could exceed staff's capacity to answer.

Mayor Bascom expressed interest in exploring questions of how the City monitors the environmental impact of development. She suggested looking at measures taken by the Silicon Valley and Portland as examples. Mayor Bascom expressed disappointment at the timing of the public involvement portion of the meeting, noting that 6:30 p.m. was not the best time for the general public.

Mr. Hornbuckle indicated support for the proposal, depending on changes that would allow for the meeting to take place in one room and a format that would allow for council argument and analysis. He said the forum could be used for information gathering, as well as to satisfy constituents who want accountability.

Ms. Nathanson emphasized the need to be clear about the purpose and expected outcomes of the meeting. She added that it would be important to distinguish between the response to the specific project which complies with regulations, and general policies that the council may want to work on in the future.

Ms. Keller supported the idea of holding a public hearing as soon as possible. She reiterated that the council had not participated in the discussion, and needs to conduct an official meeting on the issue.

Ms. Keller moved, seconded by Mr. Hornbuckle, to amend the motion on the table to indicate that the council would meet in the McNutt Room, switch to the Council Chamber at 6:30 p.m. and remain in the chamber throughout the rest of the agenda, leaving the ending time flexible.

Mr. Gleason noted that the Council Chamber may not accommodate the number of people who might come to the meeting.

Ms. Swanson Gribkov supported the component of the motion that kept the council in the chamber, but said she was not sure how to manage the idea of not having a cutoff time. She said she had other questions about how to manage the hearing in terms of space and time.

Mayor Bascom observed that several dozen people waited for a turn to speak at the public forums. Therefore, Mayor Bascom said, the council should decide how long people could speak and how they would be selected to speak.

Ms. Keller deleted the component of her amendment that referred to a flexible ending time; Mr. Hornbuckle accepted the revision.

Ms. Keller moved the question. The motion failed 5:2, with Ms. Keller and Mr. Hornbuckle voting yes.

Ms. Nathanson moved, seconded by Mr. Torrey, to extend the time on this item by ten minutes from the last agenda item, the war memorial. The motion passed 6:1, with Ms. Keller voting in opposition.

Mr. Farr said he could not support the proposal with or without the amendment. He reiterated his desire for a 3-1/2-hour question and answer session for specific and clean questions about the project and then about the policy, to be answered.

Mr. Torrey said he could not support the motion the way it was proposed or amended. He believed that calling the forum a public hearing created an expectation in the minds of citizens that there could be changes in the Hyundai project, which the council has no legal right to adjust.

Ms. Swanson Gribkov said her issues were about managing a public hearing and polarizing the community. She suggested visiting other elected officials regarding their work with moving companies into their areas. Ms. Swanson

Gribskov urged the council to use the collective talents in the community to make the Hyundai development a model project and a model process.

Ms. Nathanson said that she did not support the structure of the meeting, calling it disjointed. She said 30-second responses without further explanation, and breaking the forum into segments, works against continuous train of thought.

Mr. Laue said he shared some of Mr. Torrey's concerns about creating expectations and about changing decisions that have already been made, but he also expressed concern about public reaction if the council does not hold a forum. Mr. Laue suggested the forum would allow the council to hear concerns while clarifying that it is not revisiting old issues.

Mayor Bascom asked for a vote on a proposal.

Ms. Nathanson moved, seconded by Mr. Torrey, to amend the motion to hold a public comment session from 5-6 p.m., a break from 6-6:30 p.m., and then meet with staff in a space large enough to accommodate the public for council deliberation, questions and answers, and staff response from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Mr. Torrey asked to specify to have the entire meeting at a reasonably sized facility.

Ms Keller called the question. The motion to vote immediately passed 6:2, with Mr. Laue and Ms. Swanson Gribskov voting in opposition.

The amendment failed 4:3, with Ms. Nathanson, Ms. Swanson Gribskov, and Mr. Torrey voting yes.

The vote on the main motion was 4:4, with Mr. Hornbuckle, Ms. Keller, Mr. Laue, and Mr. Boles (in absentia) voting in favor. Mayor Bascom voted in opposition to the motion, which failed, 5:4.

Ms. Nathanson suggested a five-minute break to consider a motion that would satisfy the majority. Mr. Hornbuckle urged against this suggestion, stating that the public's business should be done in public.

The council took a five-minute break.

Mayor Bascom reconvened the meeting and asked for a decision about how to allocate the remaining 30 minutes.

Ms. Keller moved, seconded by Mr. Hornbuckle, to allocate another five minutes to the current discussion, with the remainder of the time to SportsPlan, deferring discussion on the war memorial. The motion failed 4:3, with Ms. Keller, Mr. Hornbuckle, and Ms. Nathanson voting in favor, and Mr. Torrey,

Ms. Swanson Gribskov, Mr. Farr, and Mayor Bascom voting in opposition; Mr. Laue was not present for the vote.

Ms. Swanson Gribskov moved, seconded by Mr. Torrey, to allocate 20 minutes on the SportsPlan and 10 minutes to the war memorial. The motion passed 6:1, with Ms. Keller voting no.

IV. WORK SESSION: METROPOLITAN SPORTS COMMISSION'S SPORTSPLAN

Jim Johnson, Library, Recreation and Cultural Services Director, introduced the item, noting that the SportsPlan is a product of the Metro Sports Commission. Members include Councilor Keller, along with representatives of other local agencies. Mr. Johnson said that the draft plan was not part of the City's comprehensive planning efforts, and not an implementation plan, but a suggested direction. Mr. Johnson said if the council was comfortable with the draft, he would come back at a later date with a resolution endorsing the plan and its implementation.

Ms. Swanson Gribskov asked Ms. Keller to speak from her perspective as a member of the commission, adding that she liked the idea of the plan being developed interjurisdictionally.

Ms. Keller referred to the plan as a first phase, which will be followed by an implementation phase to identify gaps and prioritize services.

Ms. Nathanson supported efforts to increase opportunities for young people and adults. She said the report did a good job in the task of this group, but added that she also wanted to look at ways to support nontraditional, noncompetitive, and cultural activities.

Mr. Torrey supported the need to look at funding for people who lacked the financial means to participate in sports activities.

Mr. Hornbuckle agreed with Ms. Nathanson's comment about broadening the purview of activities, and he asked for more information. Mr. Johnson responded that the SportsPlan deals with amateur athletic activities only, but that another group is developing an ArtsPlan which will emphasize other types of activities. Mr. Johnson said that he hoped to schedule a council work session on the ArtsPlan at a later date.

Mayor Bascom expressed appreciation for the effort that went into producing the plan. She mentioned chess tournaments as an example of an alternative to sports activities.

Ms. Keller confirmed that the scope of SportsPlan was limited to traditional sports. She said that although the list of activities was limited, it was not exclusive; for example, many facilities could be used for a variety of activities. Ms. Keller said the commission was asking the City of Springfield and Lane County to adopt the plan, and she hoped the council would adopt it as well.

Ms. Keller moved, seconded by Mr. Farr to adopt SportsPlan.

After brief comments, Ms. Keller changed the wording of the motion to endorse SportsPlan.

Ms. Swanson remarked that she supported the plan, but would rather have a vote after citizens have had an opportunity to hear and comment on it.

Ms. Keller withdrew her motion. Mr. Farr withdrew his second.

By consensus, the council agreed the issue could come back on a council consent calendar.

Ms. Keller referred to the implementation phase of the plan, noting that the City of Springfield had an employee working on the plan, and Commissioner Steve Cornacchia is working to get staff participation from the County. Ms. Keller asked the council to consider funding a one-half year, one-time employee to coordinate volunteer efforts and work on implementation of the plan.

Mr. Laue suggested the council should endorse the plan and wait on implementation efforts; Ms. Keller agreed.

V. WORK SESSION: DONATION OF A WAR MEMORIAL WALL IN SKINNER BUTTE PARK

John Etter, Public Works Maintenance Division, introduced this item, referring to information in the agenda packet. Mr. Etter said that staff was looking for direction from the council.

Mr. Hornbuckle asked what the plaque on the wall would say; Mr. Etter responded that he had not seen a design yet. Mr. Hornbuckle said the council would need to see the text, as well as find a reliable way to find out what names should be on it, to ensure no names are left off. Mr. Hornbuckle said he was confused by the staff notes about rearrangement; the pronouns made it unclear which "this," "them," or "it" was referring to which monument.

Ms. Swanson Gribkov asked why this item was controversial for the council.

Ms. Keller responded that she was concerned that Eugene has two war memorials at Skinner Butte Park already. Ms. Keller said these memorials were dedicated to people who actually prosecuted war, not to people who suffered or protested, but to people who killed people. She objected to the park becoming a war park, as well as honoring people who were willing to kill.

Mr. Torrey disagreed. He said recognizing, in a public place, those who gave the ultimate sacrifice to this country was appropriate and reasonable.

Ms. Nathanson asked about the intent of the policy. She said it appeared to address recognition of individuals, rather than designed to encompass organizations and events. Ms. Nathanson remarked that the policy might not be related to this specific request. Mr. Etter responded that the policy was the

only one currently in place, although he said staff had contacted the City of Portland requesting its policies on memorials. Ms. Nathanson asked how many personal plaque or markers are currently placed in the public parks. Mr. Etter responded that different levels of donation allow the City to provide small plaques on benches. Ms. Nathanson asked whether there were any markers commemorating events or organizations. Mr. Etter responded that there were not.

Mr. Gleason asked the council to think about the Skinner Butte Park location so as to affirm what the voters said about the cross as a war memorial, emphasizing that anything the City could do to clarify this could help calm that controversy.

Mr. Laue asked whether the white marble could be graffiti proofed. Mr. Etter responded that staff would look at coatings, and would consider this potential when locating the monument.

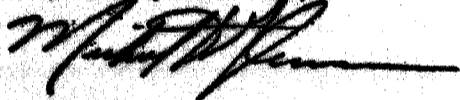
Mayor Bascom commented that she found the Vietnam Memorial very moving, and enjoyment of memorials does not necessarily indicate an approval of war, but an interest in history.

Mr. Hornbuckle commended Ms. Keller for the courage in her statement. He said although he was hoping the memorial could be worded in a way that would not promote violence, it did not sound like the council was willing to look at the issue in a social context. Mr. Hornbuckle said the fact that anyone could ask why this is controversial shows how insidious these messages are; they can cause people to go off and kill for multinational corporations. Mr. Hornbuckle also objected to the policy, which he said infers that citizens can buy their way into history here in Eugene.

Mayor Bascom said this item was a work session only, and would come back on the agenda for action next week.

This meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mike Gleason
City Manager

(Recorded by Hannah Bradford)
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