

MINUTES

**Eugene City Council
Harris Hall, 125 East 8th Avenue
Eugene, Oregon 97401**

**January 27, 2016
12:00 p.m.**

Councilors Present: George Brown, Betty Taylor, *Alan Zelenka via phone*, George Poling, Mike Clark, Greg Evans, Claire Syrett, Chris Pryor

Mayor Piercy opened the January 27, 2016, city council work session.

MOTION: Councilor Poling, seconded by Councilor Clark, moved to direct the City Manager to prepare for council discussion a draft of an amendment to the Downtown Urban Renewal Plan. The draft amendment should include as possible projects (1) high-speed fiber, (2) downtown parks blocks/open spaces, and (3) year-round farmers' market. Also, direct the City Manager to bring wording back to place it on the November ballot.

MOTION TO POSTPONE AND VOTE: Councilor Poling, seconded by Council Evans, moved to postpone until the February 8, 2106 meeting. **PASSED 8:0**

1. WORK SESSION: Downtown Solutions Forum Update

Assistant City Manager Sarah Medary, Community Development Manager Denny Braud, and Communications Policy Analyst Laura Hammond gave a brief PowerPoint presentation discussing the highlights and themes of the Downtown Solutions Forum.

Council discussion:

- Forum was a success and was attended by a wide variety of people.
- Forum provided an important opportunity to check-in.
- Amenities such as restrooms, better lighting, benches and signage are needed downtown.
- Community-wide focus groups are needed to hear from every corner of the city.
- The relative value of information generated from this meeting should be considered.
- Additional conversations about funding options are needed.
- Consider DEI's capacity to help with initiatives and restoring parking meters in downtown as possible strategies to address funding needs.

3 WORK SESSION: Downtown Improvements – Continued

Assistant City Manager Sarah Medary and Community Development Manager Denny Braud led the council in a discussion of downtown improvements.

Council discussion:

- Identifying funding sources that are immediately available is a good idea.
- If the urban renewal district ends, the tax money will go to the State for distribution.
- Providing high-speed fiber only within a certain area of downtown may raise equity issues.
- Eventual provision of high-speed fiber to entire city must begin with expansion of network downtown.
- Detailed list of the businesses that would get fiber downtown requested.
- Several companies have reported that they will relocate if high-speed fiber isn't available downtown.

- List of cities that have invested in high-speed fiber requested.
- Important to move forward on high-speed fiber while decisions about the future of the Urban Renewal District are being made.

The meeting adjourned at 1:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Chuck Crockett

Chuck Crockett
Deputy City Recorder