

## MINUTES

Eugene City Council  
McNutt Room--City Hall

August 12, 1996  
10:30 a.m.

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

Her Honor Mayor Ruth Bascom called the special meeting to order.

Ms. Bascom announced that she was planning a potluck event for the council in September, and information would be in the council packets.

Ms. Bascom said that she would send a memorandum regarding the Celebration Parade to the council, noting that the event was scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, September 21.

### I. ACTION: ORDINANCE PROHIBITING DOGS AND SKATEBOARDS IN THE UNIVERSITY AREA

Mr. Laue read council bill 4588, an ordinance concerning dogs and skateboards; adding Section 4.427 to the Eugene Code, 1971; amending Section 5.450 of that code; and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Laue moved, seconded by Ms. Swanson Gribakov, that the bill be approved and given final passage.

Mr. Boles noted his continued opposition to the bill, saying that the proposal was not a solution to the problem. He said that the City had adequate ordinances in place to address the problems in the University area. Mr. Boles believed that the council was not dealing with the actual issue, which was what happened to violators after they were cited for an offense. He said that the City has no real way to deal with those people. Mr. Boles said that the proposal would merely move the problem outside the area where it was now occurring.

Mr. Boles suggested, as an alternative, the City consider how to address those who violate its current ordinances. He said that merchants in the area had a responsibility to refuse to serve those who "act like jerks"; he did not perceive any unanimity of response from the merchants, and believed if there was unanimity, much of the problem would be eliminated.

Ms. Keller agreed that the proposal was not a solution, but she believed it was a tool for the community to use as it worked toward a solution. She endorsed the proposal, saying that it was specific to problematic behaviors and represented a component of the City's community policing.

approach. Ms. Keller believed that the proposal was responsive to merchants and residents of the area. She reported that the wooner's median planters beyond the area in the west University neighborhood were being signed to preclude loitering, and suggested that might address some of the council's concerns about the problem being moved.

Ms. Keller said that merchants in the area may not feel competent to deal with some of the people who are creating problems, but had, as a group, been working toward a resolution of the problem. She pointed out that the merchants had financed a portion of the City's public safety efforts in the area. Ms. Keller said that the proposal may embolden the merchants to deal with those who cause problems. She believed that the proposal was a beginning step in the West University Partners revitalization effort.

Mr. Hornbuckle noted his continued opposition to the proposal. He disagreed that the proposal was specific to the problems that existed in the area. Mr. Hornbuckle said that the proposal had the effect of banning skateboarders and dog owners who had not created any problem. He believed the proposal contributed to the diminution of civil liberties and civic freedoms. Mr. Hornbuckle acknowledged the problems in the area and emphasized that they were caused by individuals. He said that such proposals were part of the "war on the poor" and did not address the basic problem, which he considered to be a permanent underclass. Mr. Hornbuckle said that the council contributed to the problem through its persistent support of regressive taxation proposals. He said that the council needed to acknowledge the systematic nature of the problem, and recognize that it was getting worse as society continued to develop in capitalistic class patterns. Mr. Hornbuckle suggested that the proposal would push the problem into other parts of the community, creating a demand for more such laws.

Mr. Treney expressed concern about the impact of the proposal on the area along 13th Avenue between Ferry and High streets, and asked public safety staff to consider how to communicate with those property owners to explain the situation and let them know who to contact with complaints if the problem shifted in location.

Roll call: the motion passed, 6:2; Mr. Boles and Mr. Hornbuckle voting no.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

(Recorded by Kimberly Young)  
cc103012.086

Respectfully submitted,

*Linda H. Norris*

Linda Norris  
City Manager pro tem