

MINUTES

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

**April 13, 2015
5:30 p.m.**

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

Mayor Piercy opened the April 13, 2015, City Council Workshop.

1. WELCOME

City Manager Jon Ruiz gave background information on the process to-date and talked about the three themes emerging: homelessness, economic development, and a sustainable budget.

2. HOMELESSNESS:

Council discussion:

- More clarity and discussion is still needed about the City's role in addressing homelessness.
- There are three types of homelessness: self-sufficient, medical/mental health population, travelling/lifestyle. Each requires a different response.
- Homelessness is a condition not a crime; need to create separation.
- Connections between economic health, mental health, addiction and homelessness are critical and need further discussion.
- Continue work on efforts and initiatives aimed at transitioning out of homelessness.
- Urgent local issue but regional effort and resources are needed to effectively address lack of housing and shelter.
- Continue to facilitate new approaches while reviewing laws and policies for unintended consequences.
- A real plan with goals, path, implementation, and measurables is needed.
- Need to divert money to single room occupancy housing, not permanent housing.
- Support legislation that would restore mental health facilities and services.
- Support initiatives that result in self-sufficiency.

What should the City's role be in addressing homelessness?

Council discussion:

- City should be a facilitator and partner, but not the owner of the issue.
- Need to fully utilize experience gained from City initiatives and research; bring voice to the table in multi-jurisdictional efforts.
- Need to define behaviors and how to address them; promoting homeownership is an effective approach.
- Regional effort preferred; Community Court model is effective.
- Pursue City-focused initiatives; support the Poverty and Homeless Board.
- Focus efforts on housing for the situationally homeless.
- Explore role as catalyst for new ideas/initiatives; creation of community partnerships.
- Future conversations should occur using lens of four categories/types of homeless population.

- Be more thoughtful about specific problem being addressed.
- Be more specific on what outcomes the City wants; be clearer.
- Make sure to include community groups who have an interest, desire, and ability to help.
- A detailed explanation of everything that can be done with CDBG funds would help inform the council's discussions.

4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: What will be evidence that strategies have been successful?

Council discussion:

- Work collaboratively with local governments; avoid duplicating efforts.
- Ensure adequate supply of land for development and expansion.
- Unemployment down, average income up; use incentives judiciously; support living wages.
- Improve and leverage public assets; recognize changing demographics.
- Support train service, livability issues, minority- and women-owned businesses.
- Need more investment dollars in community; stay connected with other cities.
- Don't accept status quo of lower wages and employment rates in Lane County.
- Focus on other parts of city besides downtown; seek partnerships, raise wages.
- Support workforce and vocational training; regional convention center.
- Need future-oriented mentality, better prepare for climate change and refugees.
- Need investment in education; need skilled workforce; improved infrastructure..
- Keep pace or lead the way with technology, inter-connectivity, high-speed internet access.
- Build on capital assets.
- Review and update regulations around apprenticeships which currently hinder business growth.
- Accept and embrace limitations of Eugene's size and then focus on taking care of it.
- Figure out how to attract and retain talent.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Chuck Crockett

Chuck Crockett
Deputy City Recorder