

## MINUTES

**Eugene City Council  
Harris Hall, 125 East 8<sup>th</sup> 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,

Chuck Crockett  
Deputy City Recorder