

**MINUTES**  
**Eugene City Council**  
**Harris Hall, 125 East 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue**  
**Eugene, Oregon 97401**

**February 19, 2020**  
**12:00 p.m.**

**Councilors Present:** Betty Taylor, Emily Semple, Alan Zelenka, Jennifer Yeh, Mike Clark, Greg Evans

**Councilors Absent:** Claire Syrett, Chris Pryor

Mayor Vinis opened the February 19, 2020, work session of the Eugene City Council.

**1. Executive Session: Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e)**

City Council met in Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e).

The council reconvened in public session.

**MOTION AND VOTE:** Councilor Yeh, seconded by Councilor Clark, moved to direct the City Manager to schedule a public hearing regarding an ordinance extending by six months the term of Northwest Natural Gas company's franchise agreement. **PASSED: 5:1**, Councilor Taylor opposed.

**2. Work Session: Fuels Reduction Update**

Eugene Springfield Fire Department Chief Chris Heppel and AIC Fire Marshal Amy Linder, along with staff from Oregon Department of Forestry, Eugene Parks and Open Space, and the Northwest Youth Corp, gave an update about the wildland urban interface fuels reduction project. Community engagement, education, fuels reduction, and workforce development were primary topics.

Council Discussion

- Councilor Semple – thanked staff and expressed gratitude for the work.
- Councilor Clark – appreciated the collaborative nature of the work and spoke about ongoing education outreach to children; asked if there is quantifiable evidence that the work has increased public safety.
- Councilor Zelenka – appreciated the collaboration of the groups involved; asked about the next steps of the project; expressed support for including funding for the project in the upcoming budget.
- Councilor Taylor – spoke about living in the area of the pilot project and encouraged continued neighborhood involvement; expressed desire to ban fireworks; asked staff about enforcement options, including new ordinances, requirements or fines; spoke to the importance of a strong nuisance ordinance.
- Mayor Vinis – talked about opportunities to involve CERT volunteers in the work; addressed nuisance code violations, community involvement and education; stated that the project was presented on a national level and there is interest in creating a model program.

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Beth Forrest*

Beth Forrest  
City Recorder

*(Recorded by Carolyn Dimick-Kronberger)*

Link to the webcast of this City Council meeting [here](#).