

MINUTES

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

**March 9, 2020
7:30 p.m.**

Councilors Present: Emily Semple, Alan Zelenka, Jennifer Yeh, Mike Clark, Claire Syrett, Chris Pryor

Councilors Absent: Betty Taylor, Greg Evans

Mayor Vinis opened the March 9, 2020, meeting of the Eugene City Council.

1. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

- Councilor Yeh – read a list of spring break programming offered by the Library.
- Councilor Semple – spoke about the Kindness Campaign within the city and challenged community members to count how many acts of kindness they could perform in 24 hours.
- Councilor Clark – announced the Northeast Neighbors meeting was cancelled over concerns about coronavirus transmission.

City Manager Pro Tem Sarah Medary – announced that a work session was added to update council on the City's COVID-19 response; noted the Oregon Health Association issued interim shelter guidelines and that staff was working with local organizations serving unsheltered people.

- Councilor Zelenka – reminded everyone about the Franklin Boulevard Transformation Project open house and encouraged people to attend.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR I

A. Approval of City Council Minutes

- **January 13, 2020, Work Session**
- **January 13, 2020, Meeting**
- **January 15, 2020, Work Session**
- **January 22, 2020, Work session**
- **January 27, 2020, Work Session**
- **January 29, 2020, Work Session**
- **February 10, 2020, Meeting**
- **February 19, 2020, Meeting**
- **February 26, 2020, Work Session**

B. Approval of City Council Tentative Agenda

C. Approval of Motion Relating to Voters' Pamphlet for the May 19, 2020, Primary Election

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Semple, seconded by Councilor Yeh, moved to approve the items on Consent Calendar I. **PASSED 6:0.**

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Public Forum opened with a report from Eugene’s youth ambassadors on a recent trip to Chinju, South Korea, a sister city. Candace Shorack, the President of the Eugene-Chinju Sister City Committee, introduced the ambassadors, Ashley Morzenti and Jasmine Vasquez, who spoke about their experience with the cultural exchange.

1. Nate Otto – advocated for adoption of Score Then Automatic Runoff voting.
2. Tom Peck – shared actions council could take to help with help the spread of COVID-19.
3. David Ivan Piccioni – supported STAR voting and raised concerns about deforestation.
4. Samuel Schall – shared how STAR voting empowers voters.
5. Brett Blundon – supported short-term rentals and a reduction in building fees.
6. Chris Widdop – thought complaints about STRs were anecdotal rather than fact-based.
7. Allen Zundel – thanked council for considering whether to put STAR voting on the ballot.
8. Stephanie McLaughlin – expressed interest in sharing data about STRs.
9. Charles Fournier – spoke in support of STAR voting.
10. Wayne Martin – supported making it safer for unhoused people to sleep outdoors.
11. Erika Propst – spoke about traffic calming efforts on Jefferson Street.
12. Kim Hyland – asked council to make decisions on STRs based on validated data.
13. Sue Sierralupé – advocated for bathrooms to be opened for people to wash their hands.
14. Steve Piercy – asked for more traffic calming funds and de-prioritization of parking.
15. Jay Concotta – asked council to refer STAR voting to the ballot.
16. Rich Self – wanted full adoption of recommendations from recent report on unhoused.
17. Travis Johannes – supported Bethel receiving more community development funds.
18. Sara Wolk – explained more about how STAR voting works.
19. Bruce Sisson – shared data from a recent survey on STRs.
20. Jonathan Miller – spoke in support of STAR voting.
21. Joshua Korn – spoke of the ethical issues surrounding 5G technology.
22. Holly Berry – shared concerns about a potential 90-day limit on STRs.
23. Kristina Lang – shared her experiences managing a STR.
24. Anthony Martins – spoke of the challenges of the petition signature-gathering window.
25. Mark Osterloh – said he thought council should place STAR voting on the ballot.
26. Todd Boyle – shared recent report on homelessness from Lane County Legal Aid.
27. Karen Alvarado – shared concerns about the STR ad-hoc committee’s process
28. Tim Kovash – voiced concern about the lack of collaboration on the STR committee.
29. Rowan – spoke about his recent experiences researching 5G.
30. Pamela Krause – requested more resources for public health to deal with COVID-19.
31. Hallie Roberts – spoke about the challenges the STAR voting campaign faced.
32. Matthew Yook – wanted an STR tax and greater transparency and access generally.
33. Mark Frohnmayer– urged council to push STAR voting to the ballot.
34. Katherine Dunn – spoke in support of STRs.
35. Will Phillips – urged council to review the data on STRs; noted professionalism of hosts.
36. Tommy “Soybean” Hiura – spoke about STAR voting; sang the national anthem.
37. Linda Sisson – shared concerns about the STR ad-hoc committee’s process.
38. Jared Weybright – thanked the City for its support of the McKenzie Watershed Council.

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Semple – spoke about the work of the McKenzie Watershed Council; shared the City website was going through a redesign and invited people to complete an online survey to give their input on what they would like to see; expressed her intent to bring a work session poll to council to discuss the recent report on the unhoused and its recommendations; noted she was already circulating a work session poll to add housing status as a protected class; expressed interest in meeting with people about STRs.
- Councilor Syrett – voiced concern about the process used by the ad-hoc advisory committee on STRs, which she had intended through her motion to be comprised of STR hosts and owners, and not include impacted neighbors or hotel lobbyists in its membership; explained that the City could not require developers to build affordable housing unless they did so as part of a tax incentive program; expressed support of residents calling for traffic calming along Jefferson Street.
- Councilor Zelenka – shared information about the City’s commitment to Vision Zero and his support for traffic calming, noting he would like to consider putting more funding toward the effort; thought registration, license and accountability mechanisms would prevent some of the problems the community was experiencing with STRs.
- Councilor Clark – agreed with Councilor Syrett regarding the intent of the motion to form an ad-hoc committee and thought the committee focus should be on any unintended consequences of the draft code on the STR owners.

2. PUBLIC HEARING: An Ordinance Extending the Term of Ordinance No. 20170 Granting to Northwest Natural Gas Company, a Corporation, a Twenty-Year Non-Exclusive Right and Franchise to Lay, Maintain and Operate Facilities in the Public Way Within the City of Eugene, Oregon; and Providing for the Payment of Compensation to the City

City Manager Pro-Tem Sarah Medary introduced the public hearing.

1. Jim Neu – encouraged council to take steps to phase out the use of natural gas in the city in order to reach its emissions goals.
2. Patricia Hine – urged council that any extension should result in an agreement to reduce natural gas emissions.
3. Linda Perrine – expressed frustration with the extension and council’s lack of meaningful action to reduce greenhouse emissions.
4. Tiffany Edwards – relayed the Eugene Chamber of Commerce’s support for the franchise agreement extension so long as the parties involved were negotiating in good faith.
5. Linda Heyl – said steep reductions in natural gas were needed for the City to meet its climate goals; asked council to explore specific ways to reduce natural gas usage.

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Zelenka – said carbon offsets were an important tool for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Forrest

Beth Forrest
City Recorder

(Recorded by Cas Casados)

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