

## MINUTES

### Eugene City Council Virtual Work Session Eugene, Oregon 97401

April 8, 2020  
12:00 p.m.

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

Mayor Vinis opened the April 8, 2020, work session of the Eugene City Council.

#### 1. **WORK SESSION: COVID-19 Update**

Interim Fire Chief Chris Heppel provided an update on the COVID-19 situation, including efforts to flatten the curve, statics, Emergency Operation Center news, and safety information.

##### Council Discussion:

- Councilor Clark – expressed gratitude to the incident command staff and their efforts; asked about the public safety challenges with empty businesses; spoke about engaging the public and the need to support local restaurants.
- Councilor Zelenka – thanked staff and the public for their support and work being done; asked about the projected peak date in Oregon and what its implication are.
- Councilor Semple – spoke about the campers at Monroe Park and associated issues; asked for more sites for the unhoused; talked about communication with constituents, donating blood and gratitude for staff.
- Councilor Syrett – expressed appreciation for the leadership of the City Manager and staff; supported the policy of not permitting camping in city parks.
- Councilor Zelenka – discussed communication with and use of neighborhood associations email groups.

**MOTION AND VOTE:** Councilor Clark, seconded by Councilor Yeh, moved to support the City Manager Pro Tem extending the declaration of a state of emergency within the City of Eugene due to the COVID-19 pandemic. **PASSED 8:0**

#### 2. **ACTION: 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**

Intergovernmental Relations Manager Ethan Nelson discussed the NW Natural Gas Franchise Agreement, including previous council direction.

##### Council Discussion:

- Councilor Zelenka – spoke about the work being done to develop a new agreement with NW Natural and expressed support for the motion.
- Councilor Taylor – asked if the City would not be able to ban future expansion if the extension was approved.

**MOTION AND VOTE:** Councilor Semple, seconded by Councilor Yeh, moved to adopt 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. **PASSED 8:0.**

- Councilor Semple – asked questions about the inclusion of the phrase “twenty-year” in the title of the ordinance.
- Councilor Clark – asked about the possibility of discussing a suspension of the ordinance on reusable bags due to the use of personal reusable grocery bags and risk of contamination.
- Mayor Vinis – talked about her experience at grocery stores with the handling of personal reusable grocery bags.
- Councilor Zelenka – shared his experience with his local grocery store’s diligence in cleaning surfaces.

The meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Beth Forrest  
City Recorder

*(Recorded by Carolyn Dimick-Kronberger)*

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