

MINUTES

Eugene City Council Virtual Work Session Eugene, Oregon 97401

April 15, 2020
12:00 p.m.

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

Councilors Absent: Greg Evans

Mayor Vinis opened the April 15, 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 statistics of cases, flattening the curve, test kits, local partnerships, emergency operation center updates, unhoused community efforts, future and recovery.

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Zelenka – spoke about recommendations for re-opening business being discussed by the California, Washington and Oregon governors’ as well as Dr. Luedke’s guidance; asked if city has started the 28-day period; thanked staff for their efforts and asked about the criteria for camp site locations.
- Councilor Syrett – expressed appreciation to staff; asked about local mask-making efforts.
- Councilor Semple – thanked staff; asked about handwashing station at Monroe Park; inquired about the Fairground and Peterson Barn facilities, noting concerns by neighbors; asked about youth shelters; spoke about blood donations and stimulus check access.
- Councilor Clark – thanked staff; talked about the local case numbers and Lane County Public Health data; asked for more data about flattening the curve locally; spoke about local businesses and recovery efforts.
- Councilor Taylor – expressed concerns about the Amazon Park facility and asked where the campers came from prior to placement; asked questions about freezing rents and evictions, the contact tracing process, and fire operations.

2. **WORK SESSION: Proposed Use of Affordable Housing Trust Fund Resources**

Michael Kinnison and Stephanie Jennings spoke about affordable housing trust fund allocation options, including progress update, changing housing needs, potential uses of funds and next steps.

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Syrett – thanked staff; spoke about the recommendations laid out by staff and how they are in line with the goals of the council; asked about the rental assistance option; asked about the timeline and the ability to back fund the resources used.
- Councilor Yeh – thanked staff; expressed support for the assistance this program provides, inquired about the breakdown of the funds used.
- Councilor Zelenka – spoke about the need for these funds for those most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and economic burdens it has placed on residents.
- Councilor Pryor – talked about considering short- and long-term strategies in order to find best use of funds, asked that the committee look at more options than it was previously directed to.

The meeting adjourned at 1:29 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](#).