

## MINUTES

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

May 11, 2020  
5:30 p.m.

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

Mayor Vinis opened the May 11, 2020, work session of the Eugene City Council.

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

City Manager Pro Tem Sarah Medary, Planning and Development Director Denny Braud, and Planning and Development staff Allison Camp and Amy Bradbury provided an update on the COVID-19 recovery situation, including longer-term community recovery roles, responsibilities, and planning process.

##### Council Discussion:

- Mayor Vinis – thanked staff; spoke about the positive impacts of keeping the permitting office running for the benefit of construction.
- Councilor Clark – expressed appreciation to staff; asked about concerns about a second wave of infections; spoke about flattening the curve, the health care system, long-term consequences of the shutdown on the economy and other long-lasting impacts.
- Councilor Syrett – talked about the goals of the City prior to the pandemic and moving forward with those goals; spoke of creative permitting to accommodate business reopening; asked about mask wearing requirements and the authority of the City to require them.
- Councilor Clark – expressed appreciation to staff for their recovery efforts; talked about creating a framework to reopen businesses quickly in order to mitigate the long-term consequences; spoke about reopening based on facts and data rather than on fear of the unknown in order to lessen the impacts to the economy; talked about the lower risk of infection locally in comparison to other locations.
- Mayor Vinis – spoke about the anxiety and concerns of constituents.
- Councilor Zelenka- expressed concerns about a possible second round of COVID-19 and about people not abiding by social distancing rules after reopening; discussed the reopening phases; asked about face masks how enforcement could occur.
- Councilor Pryor – spoke about the issues associated with the enforcement of face mask regulations.
- Councilor Syrett – encouraged mask wearing in indoor locations but not mandating them; talked about untested, unreported, and asymptomatic cases of COVID19 in the area.
- Councilor Clark – spoke about the number of people tested and not tested; opposed extension of the emergency declaration and encouraged more testing capability.

**MOTION AND VOTE:** Councilor Semple, seconded by Councilor Yeh, moved to support the City Manager Pro Tem in extending the City's Emergency Declaration by an additional two weeks. **PASSED: 7:1, Councilor Clark opposed.**

## 2. WORK SESSION: Review of 2019 Implementation of Bond Measure to Fix Streets and 2020 Pavement Management Report

Principle Civil Engineer Katie Marwitz presented the 2019 Implementation of Bond Measure to Fix Streets and 2020 Pavement Management Report, including information about 2019 projects, and projected 2020 construction projects.

### Council Discussion:

- Councilor Clark – thanked staff; asked hypothetically about the rate at which local streets deteriorate compared to other city’s streets; talked about the downgrading of the street congestion classification and the impacts of that decision.
- Councilor Pryor – discussed the backlog and yearly maintenance issues; spoke about the use of bond monies.
- Councilor Zelenka – talked about the road bond fund and the transparency of its use; thanked the committee and staff for the work being done; spoke about impacts of heavy truck usage on residential streets; desired more projects being completed on an accelerated schedule.
- Councilor Semple – expressed thanks about the use of warm mix asphalt for sustainability; asked about bicycle projects.
- Councilor Clark – discussed the need to fund road construction and yearly maintenance; asked how Eugene’s usage of roads and funds needed for maintenance compares to other cities.
- Councilor Zelenka – spoke about capital and maintenance funds used for addressing backlog issues; asked about the use of concrete versus asphalt on projects
- Councilor Pryor – talked about other local cities with the same backlog issues.

The meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Beth Forrest  
City Recorder

*(Recorded by Carolyn Dimick-Kronberger)*

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