

MINUTES

Eugene City Council Virtual Work Session Eugene, Oregon 97401

May 18, 2020
5:30 p.m.

Councilors Present: Betty Taylor, Emily Semple, Alan Zelenka, Jennifer Yeh, Chris Pryor, Greg Evans

Councilors Absent: Claire Syrett, Mike Clark

Mayor Vinis opened the May 18, 2020, work session of the Eugene City Council.

1. WORK SESSION: Resolution Adopting a Supplemental Budget; Making Appropriations for the City of Eugene for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2019 and Ending June 30, 2020.

City Manager Pro Tem Sarah Medary, Acting Public Works Director Matt Rodrigues, Planning and Development Director Denny Braud and Finance Director Twylla Miller introduced the item and gave background about the topic, specifically its connection to the Riverfront project.

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Semple – asked for clarification regarding the budget and line items; inquired about the specific use of bonds and loans and when the bond will be paid off; asked about the City’s capacity to borrow for other projects rather than the Riverfront project; asked about the potential for creating local jobs with the project, noting possible economic recovery issues.
- Councilor Zelenka – expressed concern about the level of uncertainty with the developer partner; supported placing the project on hold and further discussion of expectations with the Williams and Dame partnership.
- Councilor Pryor – spoke about comfort levels with risk, project timing, investment, and partnerships needed to realize the Riverfront project vision.
- Councilor Taylor – recounted other failed development projects; expressed opposition to the supplemental budget as it relates to the Riverfront project.
- Councilor Zelenka – discussed the phasing of the project and the risk of investing into the project at this stage; reiterated support for pausing the project.
- Mayor Vinis – talked about the risks of a possible delay of the project and waiting for certainty from developers; spoke about the project’s role in local recovery efforts and the creation of jobs.

Mayor Vinis postponed the vote until the Wednesday, May 20 work session, due to the absence of two councilors.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Beth Forrest
City Recorder

(Recorded by Carolyn Dimick-Kronberger)

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