

# MINUTES

## Eugene City Council Virtual Meeting Eugene, Oregon 97401

May 26, 2020  
7:30 p.m.

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

Mayor Vinis opened the May 26, 2020, meeting of the Eugene City Council in a virtual format.

### 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

In honor of Memorial Day on May 25, Mayor Vinis read an excerpt from a recent Presidential proclamation and led the meeting participants in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

### 2. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

#### Council Discussion

- Councilor Semple – expressed concern about the pace and availability of Covid-19 testing; asked about the City’s exit strategy for homeless camps.

### 3. CONSENT CALENDAR 1

- A. Approval of City Council Minutes
  - April 29, 2020, Work Session
  - May 11, 2020, Work Session
  - May 11, 2020, Meeting
- B. Approval of City Council Tentative Agenda

**MOTION AND VOTE:** Councilor Semple, seconded by Councilor Yeh, moved to approve the items on the Consent Calendar 1. **PASSED 8:0.**

### 4. PUBLIC FORUM

1. Lin Woodrich – reported on Active Bethel Citizens activities and outreach on meetings.
2. Bill Edmonds – shared Northwest Natural’s commitment to carbon neutrality.
3. Amy Cabbage – supported extending the Low-Income Rental Housing Property Tax Exemption program.
4. Elizabeth Deffenbaugh – advocated safe places for unhoused residents to sleep.
5. Penny Royale – supported the Amazon Park camp and efforts to safely relocate them.
6. William Smith – opposed the proliferation of 5G infrastructure, noting the lawsuit against telecoms.
7. Chelsea Swift – urged council to address the issue of shelter beds in the current environment.
8. Jessica Worley – spoke about the advantages of shelter-in-place camps for the unhoused.

#### Council Discussion

- Councilor Evans – inquired about the City’s transition plans for homeless camps.
- Councilor Syrett – asked about the proposed date for closing the Lane County shelters.
- Mayor Vinis – supported the concept of smaller shelter sites and said additional appropriate sites are being pursued.

**5. ACTION: Resolution Authorizing Financing of Projects Described in the Riverfront Urban Renewal District Plan**

**MOTION AND VOTE:** Councilor Semple, seconded by Councilor Yeh, moved to adopt a Resolution Authorizing Financing of Projects Described in the Riverfront Urban Renewal District Plan. **PASSED 6:2**, Councilors Taylor and Zelenka opposed.

**6. ACTION: Ordinance Concerning Multiple-Unit Property Tax Exemptions and Amending Sections 2.946 and 2.947 of the Eugene Code, 1971 (Ordinance to Incorporate State Updates to MUPTE's Green Building and Construction Deadline Provisions)**

**MOTION AND VOTE:** Councilor Semple, seconded by Councilor Yeh, moved to adopt an Ordinance Concerning Multiple-Unit Property Tax Exemptions and Amending Sections 2.946 and 2.947 of the Eugene Code, 1971. **PASSED: 8:0**.

**7. ACTION: Ordinance Concerning Low-Income Rental Housing Property Tax Exemptions and Amending Sections 2.938, 2.939 and 2.940 of the Eugene Code, 1971; and Resolution Adopting Amended Standards and Guidelines for Processing Applications for Low-Income Rental Housing Property Tax Exemptions and Repealing Resolution No. 5028.**

**MOTION AND VOTE:** Councilor Semple, seconded by Councilor Yeh, moved to adopt an Ordinance Concerning Low-Income Rental Housing Property Tax Exemptions and Amending Sections 2.938, 2.939 and 2.940 of the Eugene Code, 1971. **PASSED 8:0**.

**MOTION AND VOTE:** Councilor Semple, seconded by Councilor Yeh, moved to adopt the Resolution Adopting Amended Standards and Guidelines for Processing Applications for Low-Income Rental Housing Property Tax Exemptions and Repealing Resolution No. 5028. **PASSED 8:0**.

**8. ACTION: A Resolution Opposing All Forms of Anti-Asian Sentiment as Related to COVID-19 and Declaring May as Asian and Pacific Islander American Heritage Month**

**Council Discussion**

- Councilor Yeh – shared the impetus behind the proposed resolution; encouraged council to adopt the resolution in support of shared community values around hate and bias.
- Councilor Evans – echoed Councilor Yeh's remarks and encouraged council to adopt the resolution.
- Councilor Clark – voiced support for the resolution, noting it is still appropriate to be critical of the Chinese government's response to the Covid-19 crisis.
- Councilor Zelenka – thanked councilors Yeh and Evans for bringing the resolution to council.
- Councilor Syrett – thanked councilors Yeh and Evans and supported the resolution, noting it was long overdue.

**MOTION AND VOTE:** Councilor Semple, seconded by Councilor Yeh, moved to adopt a Resolution Opposing All Forms of Anti-Asian Sentiment as Related to COVID-19 and Declaring May as Asian and Pacific Islander American Heritage Month. **PASSED 8:0**.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Beth Forrest*

Beth Forrest  
City Recorder

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