

## MINUTES

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

July 13, 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 July 13, 2020, work session of the Eugene City Council.

#### 1. **WORK SESSION: Library Local Option Levy**

City Manager Sarah Medary and Library Services Director Will O'Hearn provided information about service options and rates for a Library Local Option Levy.

##### Council Discussion:

- Councilor Semple – expressed support for Option 1 and for referring a levy to the ballot to maintain services; acknowledged Option 2 may become more of a priority as a response to economic uncertainty; talked about the availability of hot spots.
- Councilor Yeh – thanked staff for the presentation; talked about Option 2 and expressed concern about the equity issues it raises by presenting services as add-ons, rather than priorities; suggested consideration of shifting funds to re-prioritize.
- Councilor Clark – spoke about equity issues that were raised; asked staff to create more pro and con factual points regarding budget issues and impacts, rather than engaging in advocacy.
- Councilor Syrett – discussed other councilors' critiques and concerns regarding equity; expressed support for Option 2; talked about connectivity and availability of hot spots.
- Councilor Zelenka – expressed support for maintaining service levels and Option 2, noting post Covid-19 resources will be critical to local recovery.
- Councilor Pryor – agreed that the budget to maintain should include equity considerations; expressed support for Option 2.
- Councilor Taylor – expressed support for Option 1; expressed concern about increasing taxes and the inherent equity of the library.
- Mayor Vinis – expressed support for Option 2; spoke about the equity issues raised in specific areas.
- Councilor Clark – noted that conversations about budget cuts due to Covid-19 are still to come and the November election environment may look very different; said it may be a stronger message to cut tax rates while providing the same level of service.
- Councilor Semple – said the extent of Option 2 advantages are not known; advocated good stewardship of money through good investments.
- Councilor Yeh – inquired about the total Library budget for non-personnel costs.
- Councilor Syrett – spoke of the previous positive levy vote; talked about the services provided by the library and its place in the recovery offering both services and diversions.
- Councilor Taylor – asked about the Library's involvement with Work Source-like services.
- Councilor Semple – talked about the familiarity of the library and the equitable services provided; expressed support for Option 2.

**MOTION:** Councilor Semple, seconded by Councilor Syrett, move to direct the City Manager to return to Council with a resolution referring to the November 3, 2020, ballot a measure renewing the library levy that maintains the existing library service level and adds services to assist the community in its long-term recovery efforts.

**MOTION TO SUBSTITUTE and VOTE:** Councilor Clark, seconded by Councilor Taylor moved to substitute to direct the City Manager to return to Council with a resolution for both Option 1 and Option 2. **PASSED 5:3**, Councilors Yeh, Syrett and Pryor opposed.

**VOTE ON MAIN MOTION AS SUBSTITUTED: PASSED 8:0**

## 2. **WORK SESSION: City Policy Regarding Short-Term Rentals**

City Manager Sarah Medary and Building Permit Services Director Lydia Kaye provided an update regarding short-term rentals, including public comments received, registration and licensing information, and regulation and enforcement issues.

### Council Discussion:

- Councilor Clark – spoke about the licensing proposal and expressed support for Option 2.
- Councilor Taylor – asked staff about changes made to the original ordinance; read a citizen’s letter regarding opposition to short-term rentals, spoke of neighborhood livability and impacts on housing stock.
- Councilor Zelenka – spoke about how other Oregon cities have used regulations with short-term rentals, expressed support for Option 1.
- Councilor Syrett – talked about the public comments received and benefits of the short-term rentals outlined in the emails; expressed support for a registration system.
- Councilor Pryor – spoke about the diversity of opinions around this issue; expressed support for a registration system, not licensing.
- Councilor Yeh – asked staff if owner-occupied data will be gathered in the registration along with contact information; inquired about the registration requirement and enforcement; expressed support for Option 2.
- Councilor Semple – inquired about the fees associated with registration.
- Mayor Vinis – asked if it could be an annual versus one-time registration; inquired about the legality of data collection for short-term rentals; said collection of data about how active the rentals are could be instructive.
- Councilor Evans – spoke of enforcement issues and ordinances already in place; expressed support for registration for data collection.
- Councilor Syrett – asked staff about specific data that would be collected through registration.
- Councilor Evans – discussed the enforcement of nuisance issues.
- Councilor Zelenka – asked about requirements for registration and issues associated with noncompliance; discussed the data to be collected, when it is collected and the enforcement of registration.
- Councilor Taylor – expressed concern about housing supply and disappointment in the direction of council’s discussion.
- Councilor Semple – asked about lodging tax collection; spoke about compliance with registration requirement.
- Councilor Syrett – talked about registration compliance with Airbnb and other platforms.
- Councilor Clark – spoke about local housing supply and the high cost of housing.
- Councilor Zelenka – spoke about Portland’s experience with compliance with its lodging tax.

**MOTION AND VOTE:** Councilor Semple, seconded by Councilor Yeh, move to direct the City Manager to revise the June 15, 2020, ordinance to require short-term rentals to register annually and provide local contact information and return to Council for action on the revised ordinance.

**MOTION TO SUBSTITUTE:** Councilor Taylor, moved to substitute with the original ordinance. No second was received.

**VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: PASSED 5:3,** Councilors Zelenka, Clark and Taylor opposed.

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](#).