

MINUTES

Eugene City Council Virtual Meeting Eugene, Oregon 97401

September 14, 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 September 14, 2020, meeting of the Eugene City Council in a virtual format.

1. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

Council Discussion

- Councilor Semple – shared information about her health following a serious car accident, noting she planned to listen in on the meeting.
- Councilor Taylor – expressed concern that many people are just one unexpected expense away from being homeless.
- Councilor Syrett – shared information about the resources available on the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency’s website related to the fire and air quality conditions; said she planned to volunteer at an emergency distribution center and noted there are other opportunities for people to get involved in the relief efforts; said the person nominated by Mayor Vinis to fill the Police Commission vacancy will be an excellent addition to that advisory group; supported a moratorium on evictions.
- Mayor Vinis – shared Councilor Syrett’s enthusiasm for the Police Commission appointee, noting his relevant experience and eagerness to engage in this important work; said the prior week had been a very difficult one and the work to recover is far from over; stated the homeless crisis is growing and the City continues to work hard with its partners on solutions, recognizing that a more robust plan and more shelter space is needed.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR 1

- A. Approval of City Council Minutes
 - July 15, 2020, Work Session
 - July 20, 2020, Work Session
 - July 20, 2020, Public Hearing
 - July 22, 2020, Work Session
 - July 27, 2020, Work Session
 - July 27, 2020, Meeting
- B. Approval of City Council Tentative Agenda
- C. Appointment to Police Commission

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

3. PUBLIC FORUM

- 1. Joshua Korn – voiced concern that more 5G towers are being erected and they are not a legal height.
- 2. Marianne Senhouse – expressed disappointment with the City’s smoke/air quality response.

3. Jen Smith – asked why the parks sweeps were still happening, noting the homeless need protection.
4. Lin Woodrich – thanked councilors Evans and Syrett for their involvement with Bethel area issues.
5. Katrina – voiced concern about the health of the homeless; discussed the impact of Covid restrictions.
6. Tyler Stewart – said the City must act immediately to assist the homeless and provide shelter.
7. Matthew Yook – discussed the economic impacts of Covid; suggested using schools for shelter.
8. Isiah Wagner – said that more needs to be done to provide shelter; it is a moral issue.
9. Sarah Astra – said the community is demanding the abolition of police; imagined a new world.
10. Erin Grady – said the City’s response to the fire conditions was inadequate.
11. Haley Wilson – expressed concern that there are no resources for a shelter.

Council Discussion

- Councilor Zelenka – sympathized with those expressing frustration about the lack of shelter; said that most viable facilities are not owned by the City; encouraged people to also contact the County and school districts; noted that Covid protections must be maintained.
- Councilor Yeh – requested help from everyone in getting the word out about existing shelter resources; shared that the Police Commission is addressing policies related to the use of teargas and pepper balls.
- Councilor Evans – thanked Lin Woodrich for the opportunity to participate in the Active Bethel Citizens workshop on race and equity; encouraged other neighborhood associations to offer something similar.
- Councilor Taylor – inquired about the City’s response to allegations that the 5G installations are illegal.
- City Manager Medary – shared information about what the City is doing in response to the fire and smoke conditions.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR 1

A. Adoption of a Resolution Annexing Land to the City of Eugene (Assessor’s Map 17-04-11-13; Tax Lot 1900; Located at 3060 River Road) (City File: Peace Presbyterian Church; A 20-2)

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Semple, seconded by Councilor Yeh, moved to approve the item on the Consent Calendar 2. **PASSED 8:0.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie Adams
Deputy City Recorder

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