

MINUTES

Eugene City Council Virtual Meeting Eugene, Oregon 97401

September 14, 2020
5:30 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, work session of the Eugene City Council in a virtual format.

Councilor Semple shared information about her health following a serious car accident, noting she planned to listen in on the meeting.

1. **UPDATE FROM FIRE CHIEF ON FIRE RESPONSE**

Fire Chief Chris Heppel and Public Works Director Matt Rodrigues provided an update on the coordinated response to the Holiday Farms fire and relief efforts.

Council Discussion

- Councilor Clark – expressed support for the evacuees and displaced persons and asked about the City’s role in providing assistance; asked about the availability of FEMA vouchers and other resources for shelter; asked who is in charge of decisions involving the care and needs of the evacuees.
- Councilor Yeh – thanked staff for their quick response to this emergency; asked questions about the use and capacity of the Lane Events Centers during the day, the distribution and availability of protective masks and the City’s ability to procure more supplies independent of Lane County.
- Councilor Syrett – asked why the Lane County Fairgrounds shelter was limited to 15 people; suggested reaching out to those involved with the Egan Warming Centers to consider a similar structure; said protective equipment needs to be distributed to the homeless population or the consequences could be dire; suggested outreach to determine why more people aren’t using the available shelter.
- Councilor Zelenka – questioned why the City was not permitted to operate a 24-hour site until almost a week into the emergency; asked if more the Fairgrounds space was now available and whether the City had any space it could use for shelter.
- Councilor Clark – asked about the potential for using University of Oregon residence halls.

2. **WORK SESSION and POSSIBLE ACTION: Resolution Concerning Compensation for the Members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Police Policy for Committee Meeting Hours**

Assistant City Manager Kristie Hammitt provided information about the proposal to compensate members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Police Policy.

Council Discussion

- Councilor Clark – asked what makes this committee different from other advisory groups that warrants compensation for members’ time; asked if an analysis of the impacts of “employment” by the City had been done; said he understood the desire for particular expertise on the committee but was concerned about the precedent being set.

- Councilor Syrett – supported the proposed motion and expressed appreciation that the multi-cultural liaison and Mo Young would be involved with the committee; noted the barriers to participation and felt that compensation was an appropriate means to address those barriers.
- Councilor Taylor – said she was opposed to paying volunteers and the proposal sets a bad precedent; said she opposed the creation of the ad hoc committee because its membership was not representative of the whole community.
- Councilor Pryor – supported the proposed compensation as a stipend, not a paycheck; noted that most boards and commission members were volunteers and the ad hoc committee members were invited to participate.
- Councilor Zelenka – asked how much money was in the council contingency fund; said he felt the proposal was a good start on efforts to ensure diverse participation.
- Councilor Yeh – suggested that council should have a larger discussion about making participation on advisory groups more equitable.
- Councilor Evans – said that under-represented communities are extremely under-represented on council advisory groups; said proposal is for short-term, intensive work on an issue needing the participants’ input; said the compensation proposal is a good way to get people involved and maintain their interest in this issue.
- Councilor Clark – clarified that individuals were not invited to be on the committee, but groups were asked to participate; understood the importance of compensating these committee members.

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Yeh, seconded by Councilor Evans moved to adopt a Resolution Concerning Compensation for the Members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Police Policy for Committee Meeting Hours. **PASSED 7:1**, Councilor Taylor opposed.

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Yeh, seconded by Councilor Evans moved to use the Council Contingency Fund as the funding source for members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Police Policy for Committee Meeting Hours. **PASSED 7:1**, Councilor Taylor opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie Adams
Deputy City Recorder

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