

MINUTES

Eugene City Council Virtual Meeting Eugene, Oregon 97401

September 21, 2020
7:30 p.m.

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

Mayor Vinis opened the September 21, 2020, meeting of the Eugene City Council.

1. PUBLIC HEARING: An Ordinance Concerning Digital Sign Code, Amending Sections 9.0500, 9.6610, 9.6615, 9.6620, 9.6630, 9.6635, 9.6640, 9.6645, 9.6650, 9.6655, 9.6660, 9.6665, 9.6670, 9.6675, and 9.6680 of the Eugene Code, 1971, and Providing an Effective Date. (City File CA 20-2).

Mayor Vinis opened the Public Hearing.

1. John Barofsky –on behalf of the Planning Commission (PC), noted concerns with the proposal.
2. Tiffany Edwards –expressed support for Vision Zero goals; shared the focus of PC deliberations.
3. Brittany Quick-Warner – supported updating the sign code to allow for digital billboards.
4. Aaron Noteboom – supported the amendment as a member of the outdoor advertising industry.
5. Brian Casady – supported the amendment; requested changing dwell time to eight seconds.
6. Christie Hill – expressed support for the amendment as a representative of the industry.
7. Claire Roth – shared concerns about the dangers of distracted driving and roadside ads.
8. James Carpentier – supported digital signs for institutional uses with appropriate oversight.

Mayor Vinis closed the Public Hearing.

Council Discussion

- Councilor Clark – asked for anecdotal information on safety near existing readerboards.

2. PUBLIC HEARING: An Ordinance Amending the Eugene-Springfield Metropolitan Area General Plan Diagram and the Willakenzie Area Plan Diagram to Redesignate the Property Identified as Assessor’s Map 17-03-16-41, Tax Lots 201, 300 And 400 and Assessor’s Map 17-09-16-44, Tax Lots 400 and 800 from Campus Industrial to Light Medium Industrial and Rezone the Property from E-1 Campus Employment to E-2 Mixed Use Employment

Councilors Clark, Yeh, and Evans disclosed that they had met with the applicant but it would not affect their ability to remain impartial about the issue.

Mayor Vinis opened the Public Hearing.

1. Phil Speers – shared his company’s plans for the site where rezoning was being requested, noting that the development would include EV capability and provide good jobs.
2. Brittany Quick-Warner – expressed the Chamber of Commerce’s support for the proposal.

Mayor Vinis closed the public hearing.

- Councilor Syrett - disclosed that she had also met with the applicant, but it would not affect her ability to remain impartial about the issue.

3. PUBLIC HEARING: 1059 Willamette Street Redevelopment

Mayor Vinis opened the public hearing.

1. Brittany Quick-Warner – supported the redevelopment proposal and the use of urban renewal funds.
2. Pete Knox – shared the Downtown Neighborhood Association’s support for the development and advocated for more low-income housing.

Mayor Vinis closed the public hearing.

4. PUBLIC HEARING: An Ordinance Extending the Term of Ordinance No. 20170 Granting to Northwest Natural Gas Company, a Corporation, a Non-Exclusive Natural Gas Franchise, to May 11, 2021

Mayor Vinis opened the public hearing.

1. Kathryn Williams – shared NW Natural’s commitment to climate action; supported the extension.
2. Zach Mulholland – read a resolution requesting City action on adopted gas reduction goals.
3. James Neu – supported phasing out natural gas use; said NW Natural is not being honest.
4. Betzi Hitz – discussed the dangers of fracked gas; supported letting the agreement expire.
5. Douglas Bovee – opposed the burning of fossil fuels; discussed impacts of leaking methane.

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie Adams
Deputy City Recorder

(Recorded by Beth Forrest)

Webcast of meeting available [here](#).