

MINUTES

Eugene City Council Virtual Meeting Eugene, Oregon 97401

September 28, 2020
7:30 p.m.

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

Councilors Absent: Greg Evans

Mayor Vinis opened the September 28, 2020, meeting of the Eugene City Council in a virtual format.

1. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

- Councilor Syrett – reported on Lane Area Commission on Transportation’s plans to pilot a facilitated area strategies process, to create priority areas for transportation infrastructure planning.
- Councilor Pryor – provided an update on the State DLCD process related to House Bill 2003, noting work on an inventory of the need for affordable housing and a strategy for the creation of that housing.
- Councilor Zelenka – reported on the Police Commission meeting and their work on technical policy review; noted the policies are available for preview on the City’s webpage and the opportunity for public comment.
- Mayor Vinis – announced that the Ad Hoc Committee on Police Policy was happening on Wednesday and information on how to comment was available on the City’s website.
- Councilor Yeh – shared that she would make a motion to appoint a second representative from the Eugene Islamic Center to the Ad Hoc Committee on Police Policy.

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Yeh, seconded by Councilor Pryor, moved that, notwithstanding Council’s September 1 deadline for groups to appoint ad hoc committee representatives, Ibrahim Eissa is the second representative of the Eugene Islamic Center appointed to the Ad Hoc Committee on Police Policy. **PASSED 7:0.**

2. CONSENT CALENDAR 1

- A. Approval of City Council Minutes
- September 14, 2020, Meeting
 - September 21, 2020 Public Hearing
- Councilor Syrett – asked for a correction to the September 14 meeting minutes, to reflect that she “signed up to volunteer” at a fire relief event.

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Semple, seconded by Councilor Yeh, moved to approve the items on the Consent Calendar 1. **PASSED 7:0.**

3. PUBLIC FORUM

1. Kathryn Dunn – supported short-term rentals, asked for clarification of word changes in ordinance.
2. Matthew Yook – said the area has more short-term rentals than reported, discussed buffer zones.

4. ACTION: An Ordinance Concerning Short-Term Rental Registration; Amending Section 3.005 of the Eugene Code, 1971; and Adding Section 3.350 to That Code

MOTION: Councilor Semple, seconded by Councilor Yeh, moved to adopt the proposed ordinance in Attachment A; An ordinance concerning short-term rental registration; Amending Section 3.005 of the Eugene Code, 1971; and adding section 3.350 to that Code.

Council Discussion

- Councilor Clark – requested the addition of a provision that fees changes come before council for approval; said substantive changes to registrant requirements should go to council, not administration, to minimize the possibility that they could be changed arbitrarily without check-in from council;
- Councilor Syrett – suggested adding a sentence in the registration language that says “should any more substantive changes be made to the required information, the proposal will be brought before council for review and input.”; supported asking for the contact information of a local person who has responsibility for addressing concerns and the definition of “owner” for legal framework.
- Councilor Pryor – agreed with notion that fee changes should be considered by the council; expressed confidence that the City Manager will inform the council of any desire or interest in changing the fee; clarified that registrant information gathering isn’t being used to punish short-term rental owners and the City may want more information in the future; cautioned against over solving a problem that may never materialize.
- Councilor Zelenka – noted that future councils will not be bound by the policies and systems now being put in place; supported Councilor Syrett’s suggested changes to the property language; expressed concern about setting a dangerous precedent with regard to fee-setting as it’s appropriately an administrative function and noted that the City Manager already informs the council of fee changes.
- Mayor Vinis – agreed the council should focus on policy-making and not get involved in operations; stated fees are the City Manager’s purview, established by code and precedent.
- Councilor Clark – clarified that he supported staff coming back to council with any proposed changes to the information gathering component of the short-term rental registration process; supported notification and Councilor Syrett’s proposed amendments.

MOTION TO AMEND: Councilor Clark, seconded by Councilor Syrett, moved to amend Section 2, so that 3.350(1)(a) states: A registrant must provide all the required registration information, the substantive registration information limited to the street address of the short-term rental(s), a local contact name and phone number of a person responsible for the short-term rental, and whether the short-term rental is owner-occupied. The provided information must be kept up to date. PASSED 6:1, Taylor opposed.

Council Discussion

- Councilor Zelenka – opposed the main motion stating it doesn’t address the issues caused by short-term rentals; supported the proposed amendments.
- Councilor Taylor – opposed the motion and proposed changes; said she thought the original motion proposed in 2019 was a good start towards solving the issues with short-term rentals.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED: PASSED 5:2, Councilors Zelenka and Taylor opposed.

5. ACTION: 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

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Semple, seconded by Councilor Yeh, moved to adopt 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. **PASSED 6:1**, Councilor Taylor opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie Adams
Deputy City Recorder

(Recorded by Julie Adams)

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