

MINUTES

Eugene City Council Virtual Meeting Eugene, Oregon 97401

October 26, 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 October 26, 2020, meeting of the Eugene City Council in a virtual format.

1. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

- Councilor Yeh - acknowledged Breast Cancer Awareness Month and why Council and Mayor are wearing pink.
- Councilor Taylor - shared complaints she received about gas-powered leaf blowers and the new downtown mural; asked if a property owner can put anything on their building or if the City has some regulatory authority.
- Councilor Syrett - updated the council on the Human Services Commission's plans to allocate money for rental and mortgage assistance; asked how the City plans to ensure that people feel safe in the aftermath of the election; disapproved of mural being vandalized.
- Councilor Zelenka - took a moment to recognize a young college student who lost their life to COVID; encouraged community to take COVID seriously and to wear masks; updated the council on the work of the Ad Hoc Police Policy Committee and Police Commission; agreed that vandalism of the mural was wrong.
- Councilor Evans - shared his recent experiences presenting on the Cahoots program to the National League of Cities; reported that the League of Oregon Cities Conference included work on equity and diversity issues.
- Councilor Clark - commented on the mural vandalism, noting the content was needlessly controversial and insensitive; said he was ashamed of the vandal.
- Mayor Vinis - asked for an update of the plan to address shelter needs in anticipation of the cold nights ahead.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Approval of City Council Minutes
- B. Approval of City Council Tentative Agenda

Councilor Semple requested corrections to the September 28, 2020, work session and meeting minutes.

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

3. PUBLIC FORUM

- 1. Martha Bryson - supported decriminalization of homelessness and shared an article.
- 2. Richard Self - supported decriminalization of homelessness and making homelessness a protected class.

3. Tom Peck – supported creating a shelter for women who are unhoused and vulnerable.
4. Matthew Yook - appreciated the work and focus of the Human Rights Commission.
5. Joshua Stroud - applauded the work being done by Council, specifically on restorative justice.
6. Chelsea Swift - expressed concern for those who are without shelter during cold days and nights.

Council Discussion

- Councilor Zelenka - commented on the availability of shelters and beds; asked for clarification of the Boise decision, noting there were some misconceptions about the ruling.
- Councilor Syrett - clarified that Egan-type shelters are not activated unless the temperature is lower than 28 degrees; appreciated the work of neighborhood association; voiced concern about low participation in public forums and would like to allow video testimony by participants.
- Councilor Semple - agreed that she would like to be able to see participants; expressed her strong support for and involvement in efforts to find more housing and shelter options.,
- Mayor Vinis - shared information about EWEB’s weatherization program.

4. ACTION: An Ordinance Concerning Time Extensions for Approved Land Use Applications and Providing an Effective Date.

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Semple, seconded by Councilor Yeh, moved to adopt the ordinance included as attachment A to this AIS, concerning time extensions for approved land use applications and providing an effective date. PASSED 8:0.

5. ACTION: City Manager Evaluation Process October 26, 2020, Meeting

City Manager Sarah Medary briefly reviewed the proposed evaluation process that incorporates feedback from the council’s previous work session.

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Semple, seconded by Councilor Yeh, moved to establish the City Manager evaluation process as outlined in attachment A. PASSED 8:0.


Council Discussion:

- Councilor Zelenka - reiterated the point that a free-for-all process with no data and no guidance didn’t serve the council well in the past; supported a hybrid approach of using non-binding numbers and discussion of a better structure of the compensation package.

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Semple, seconded by Councilor Yeh, moved to authorize the Council President to execute the second amendment to Sarah Medary’s employment agreement set forth in Attachment B to this AIS. PASSED 8:0

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Julie Adams
Deputy City Recorder

(Recorded by Niyah Ross)

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