

MINUTES

Eugene City Council Meeting Eugene, Oregon 97401

January 9, 2023
7:30 p.m.

Councilors Present: Emily Semple, Matt Keating, Alan Zelenka, Jennifer Yeh, Mike Clark, Greg Evans, Lyndsie Leech, Randy Groves

Mayor Vinis opened the January 9, 2023, meeting of the Eugene City Council in a hybrid in-person and virtual format at 101 W. 10th Avenue, Suite 114, Eugene, OR 97401.

1. ELECTION OF CITY COUNCIL OFFICERS FOR 2023

MOTION: Councilor Evans, seconded by Councilor Keating, moved to elect Councilor Groves as President of the City Council for 2023.

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Semple – noted that the proposed election of Councilor Groves was outside of the normal order of the Council.

MOTION TO SUBSTITUTE: Councilor Semple, seconded by Councilor Yeh, moved to substitute Councilor Keating for Council President.

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Keating – requested that his nomination be withdrawn; spoke about the demands on his schedule during the upcoming year; noted his support for the nomination of Councilor Groves for Council President.

MOTION WITHDRAWN: Councilor Semple withdrew her motion for substitution. Councilor Yeh accepted the withdrawal.

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Yeh – noted her appreciation for Councilor Keating's explanation.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: PASSED 8:0

MOTION: Councilor Groves, seconded by Councilor Yeh, moved to elect Councilor Keating as Vice President of the City Council for 2023.

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Semple – commented about time served on Council leadership by various members.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: PASSED 8:0

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

- Councilor Groves – noted his appreciation for the work of outgoing Council President Evans.
- Councilor Evans – noted that the next Intergovernmental Relations committee will be February 1, 2023 at 1:30pm; noted that the City was awarded federal funds for a bike and pedestrian bridge over the Beltline at River Road; noted that the House of Representatives elected Kevin McCarthy as Speaker; noted that Congressman Hoyle was sworn in to represent the fourth congressional district; encouraged people to view the City’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) video; noted Governor Kotek was sworn in today and is appointing agency heads; noted that the Oregon legislative assembly will convene January 17, 2023; noted upcoming IGR updates.
- Councilor Keating – noted that there is currently no way to track if houselessness is a contributing factor to someone’s death; stated support for efforts to ameliorate houselessness.
- Mayor Vinis – noted that she will be attending the US Conference of Mayors next week; noted that she will be meeting with Climate Mayors and the Environmental Protection Agency to discuss the use of Inflation Reduction Funds; stated her appreciation for the work of Representative DeFazio to ensure we received funds for the pedestrian bridge at River Road; noted various community events in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day; noted that a new peer support counseling center has opened in downtown.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR 1

A. Approval of City Council Minutes

- November 28, 2022, Meeting
- November 30, 2022, Work Session
- December 5, 2022, Special Meeting
- December 12, 2022, Work Session
- December 12, 2022, Meeting
- December 14, 2022, Work Session

B. Approval of City Council Tentative Agenda

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Groves, seconded by Councilor Keating, moved to approve the items on Consent Calendar 1.

VOTE: PASSED 8:0

4. PUBLIC FORUM

1. Janet Ayres – suggested a template be created for future interim appointments.
2. William Smith – welcomed Councilor Leech and asked for a moment of silence for Mark Hurwitz.
3. Laurie Powell – spoke in favor of the natural gas ban.
4. Tai Pruce-Zimmerman – spoke in favor of a Bethel area plan.
5. Robin Bloomgarden – spoke in favor of electrification.
6. Brittany Quick-Warner – spoke on improving the local business climate.
7. Patricia Hine – spoke in favor of electrification.

8. Thomas Newman – spoke in favor of funding for parks.
9. Drew Simrin – spoke in favor of electrification.
10. Aya Cockram – spoke in favor of electrification.
11. Richard Locke – spoke about the effects of unsanctioned camping.

Council Discussion

- Councilor Groves – noted his appreciation for the public forum speakers; spoke in support of a Bethel area plan and public health overlay zones; responded to the comment about the interim appointment process.
- Councilor Zelenka – spoke in response to the comment about the interim appointment process; noted that the University area also needs an area plan.
- Councilor Leech – noted her appreciation for those who have been supportive of her since her appointment.

Mayor Vinis adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Katie LaSala
City Recorder

(Recorded by Cherish Bradshaw)

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