

## MINUTES

### Eugene City Council Special Meeting Eugene, Oregon 97401

April 5, 2023  
12:00 p.m.

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

**Councilors Absent:** Greg Evans

Mayor Vinis opened the April 5, 2023, special meeting of the Eugene City Council in a virtual format.

#### 1. **SPECIAL MEETING: Presentation of Referendum Petition 2023-1 to Council**

City Manager Sarah Medary gave a brief background of Ordinance Number 20681, An Ordinance Prohibiting Fossil Fuel Infrastructure In New Low-Rise Residential Buildings; And Adding Sections 6.695 And 6.696 To The Eugene Code, 1971 and the referendum petition 2023-1. City Manager Medary then introduced Kathryn Brotherton, City Attorney, and Katie LaSala, City Recorder, who presented further information regarding the Referendum Petition 2023-1.

#### Councilor Discussion:

- Mayor Vinis – asked what the process would be for adjusting the effective date if Council takes no action and the measure passes.
- Councilor Zelenka – asked if the effective date would be retroactive if the measure passes in November; asked if Council can change the effective date of the ordinance; asked how repealing the current ordinance and creating a new ordinance with a different effective date would impact the referendum petition; asked if a work session regarding the topic can be scheduled at a later date, prior to the November election.
- Councilor Semple – noted that Council can state their intention to change the effective date without repealing and redrafting the ordinance.
- Councilor Clark – noted that talking about what action can be taken after the vote may not have an impact on the voters; is concerned about the timeframe for which Council has for providing information to the public; is concerned that the number of new homes built will drastically decrease for the summer due to the uncertainty of the ordinance’s effective date.
- Councilor Zelenka – asked about alternative ways to change the effective date other than repealing and redrafting the ordinance; asked if referring an ordinance to the ballot would take the current item off of the ballot and replace it; asked what the deadline for such action would be; asked staff to clarify the process for referring a new ordinance; asked if Council could amend the ordinance.
- Councilor Clark – asked for clarification on the timeline for repealing and referring ordinances.

- Mayor Vinis – noted that the effective date of the ordinance is of the most concern.
- Councilor Zelenka – asked to clarify what action Council needs to take at this meeting; asked if Council loses any options by not taking action at this meeting.
- Councilor Groves – indicated he would not put a motion forward; noted that he believes that Council should let the public vote on the matter.
- Councilor Semple – asked for clarity on why the special meeting was called if action at this meeting is not required.

Mayor Vinis adjourned the meeting at 12:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Katie LaSala". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail.

Katie LaSala  
City Recorder

*(Recorded by Sara McKinney)*

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