

MINUTES

Eugene City Council Work Session Eugene, Oregon 97401

February 27, 2023
12:00 p.m.

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

Councilors Absent: Greg Evans

Mayor Vinis opened the February 27, 2023, work session of the Eugene City Council in a hybrid format at 101 W 10th Avenue, Eugene OR 97401.

1. **WORK SESSION: Budget Update**

City Manager, Sarah Medary and Finance Director, Twylla Miller provided a high-level update of the upcoming budget process, including a recommendation for a revenue team to address funding options for unfunded service needs.

Councilor Discussion:

- Mayor Vinis –noted that budget concerns seem to be consistent from year-to-year.
- Councilor Semple – noted her excitement for a new revenue committee; stated that she had previously served on the payroll tax committee.
- Councilor Zelenka – asked how the budget needs for housing services, climate change work, and downtown resilience will be determined; noted there is not a high level of detail for those three projects; stated that he hopes incentives will be included in the climate work.
- Councilor Keating – stated interest in the suggested revenue streams; asked if funding for future housing will be limited to the downtown area; asked for clarity on where funds for downtown and the unhoused will be spent.
- Councilor Clark – asked what climate work will be affected by a reduced budget; asked how much funding is spent on Climate Friendly & Equitable Communities (CFEC) compliance; believes that housing is a higher priority than climate; asked how funding decisions will be made; asked about Council’s authority to determine spending priorities.
- Councilor Groves – noted that state or federal support is not guaranteed; stated that we need to focus on long-term economic development; stated that the downtown area is vital to the community but faces its own unique set of challenges; stated that the focus of the revenue committee should be closing the budget gap; expressed hesitation about increasing taxes in the current economic climate.
- Councilor Yeh –noted that it is difficult to effectively source new revenue.
- Councilor Zelenka – noted hesitation about moving forward with the revenue committee as presented; stated that he is looking for more specific recommendations for a committee, including guidelines for membership, funding areas, and needed funds.

- Councilor Clark – stated his support for voluntary annexation as part of any new revenue plan.
- Councilor Leech – stated her support for the creation of the committee.
- Councilor Semple – concerned that widening the scope of the revenue committee project may make it less effective.
- Mayor Vinis – noted that the budget committee meeting Saturday will help refine the revenue committee plan.
- Councilor Groves – asked about the refinement process for the revenue committee if established today.
- Mayor Vinis – noted that councilors will be serving on the revenue committee.
- Councilor Zelenka – stated that the proposed motion is not clear.
- Councilor Groves – asked how to amend the proposed motion.
- Councilor Zelenka – stated that the committee will be more effective if the process is determined prior to the
- Mayor Vinis – asked if there will be more clarity about the purpose of the revenue committee after the budget committee meeting.
- Councilor Semple – stated that the revenue committee will be more effective if it has a limited scope.
- Councilor Keating – suggested an amended motion establishing the revenue committee with Council oversight and staff input.

2. **WORK SESSION: Introduction to HB 3115**

Mayor Vinis introduced City Attorney Kathryn Brotherton to discuss House Bill 3115.

Councilor Discussion:

- Councilor Groves – asked how the proposed bill will affect car camping; asked about the difference between temporary camps and permanent structures; asked if the clear space beyond the camp includes trash and personal possessions; noted concerns about the potential for camps to stay on public property for longer periods of time.
- Councilor Clark – asked about the criteria to determine whether there is alternative available shelter; asked what criteria make a shelter unavailable; asked if there is a law about an individual’s responsibility to provide for their own shelter.
- Councilor Zelenka – asked about the distinction between camping and sleeping; asked about the criteria to determine whether there is alternative available shelter; asked if Council will receive specific language to review.

Mayor Vinis adjourned the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Katie LaSala". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Katie" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "LaSala".

Katie LaSala
City Recorder

(Recorded by Cherish Bradshaw)
Webcast of meeting available [here](#).