

MINUTES

Eugene City Council Meeting Eugene, Oregon 97401

July 24, 2023
7:30 p.m.

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

Councilors Absent: Matt Keating

Mayor Vinis opened the July 24, 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. CEREMONIAL MATTERS

Mayor Vinis read a proclamation for Eugene/Springfield LGBTQ Pride Day.

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

- Councilor Zelenka – spoke about recent decisions by the Florida school board.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR 1

A. Approval of City Council Minutes

- June 12, 2023 Meeting
- June 20, 2023 Public Hearing

B. Approval of City Council Tentative Agenda

MOTION: Councilor Groves, seconded by Councilor Zelenka, moved to approve the items on Consent Calendar 1. **VOTE: 6:0 PASSED**
(Councilor Yeh was not present for the vote)

4. PUBLIC FORUM

1. Lin Woodrich – spoke in favor of a public health overlay zone in West Eugene.
2. Joann Shotola – spoke against the renter protections ordinance.
3. Jill Cole – spoke in favor of keeping the Emeralds in Eugene.
4. Steve Piercy – spoke against landlords providing relocation assistance.
5. Kathryn Dunn – spoke against the renter protections ordinance.
6. Don Heady – spoke in favor of considering things in context.
7. Geri VanPykeren – spoke in favor of providing camping resources for the unhoused.
8. Jonathan Schuman – spoke in favor of keeping the Emeralds in Eugene.
9. Emma Spratt – spoke in favor of keeping the Emeralds in Eugene.
10. Randolph Nelson – spoke in favor of the Breakfast Brigade being allowed to serve food at Washington Jefferson park.
11. Barry Nobel – spoke in favor of Breakfast Brigade serving food at Washington Jefferson park.

12. Lisa Levsen – spoke in favor of Breakfast Brigade serving food at Washington Jefferson park.
13. Suzanne O'Shea – spoke in favor of Breakfast Brigade serving food at Washington Jefferson park.
14. Allen McWayne – spoke against using public funds for Eugene Emeralds stadium.
15. Robert Stephens Sr. –spoke about experiences being stalked.
16. John Roberts – spoke against the renter protections ordinance.
17. Billy Harper – spoke in favor of Breakfast Brigade serving food at Washington Jefferson park.
18. Wayne Martin – spoke in favor of Breakfast Brigade serving food at Washington Jefferson park.
19. Sandi Mann – spoke in favor of Breakfast Brigade serving food at Washington Jefferson park.
20. Allan Benavides – spoke in favor of keeping the Emeralds in Eugene.
21. Gabriel Scott – spoke in favor of Breakfast Brigade serving food at Washington Jefferson park.
22. Timothy Williams – spoke in favor of continuing dialogue.
23. Joanie Flaherty – spoke in favor of Breakfast Brigade serving food at Washington Jefferson park.
24. Sammy Rothage – spoke in favor of Breakfast Brigade serving food at Washington Jefferson park.
25. Maya Lazaro – in favor of a health overlay zone and neighborhood plan for Bethel.

Council Discussion:

- Mayor Vinis – expressed her appreciation for those who gave testimony including members of the Breakfast Brigade.
- Councilor Groves – asked if there are other options for the Breakfast Brigade to be able to serve food; stated the Eugene Emeralds are an important part of the community; asked about the options to support building a stadium; stated that while the City is in a tough financial spot, one-time funds are different than ongoing costs; noted that Civic Stadium was an unsafe venue.
- Councilor Zelenka – asked City Manager to address the increase in stadium costs, potential ongoing costs, and commitment from the team at the next work session.

5. ACTION: An Ordinance Concerning Rental Housing; Amending Sections 8.405, 8.415, 8.425, 8.430, and 8.440 of the Eugene Code, 1971; and Adding Section 8.437 to that Code.

MOTION: Councilor Groves, seconded by Councilor Zelenka, moved to adopt an Ordinance Concerning Rental Housing; Amending Sections 8.405, 8.415, 8.425, 8.430 and 8.440 of the Eugene Code, 1971; and Adding Section 8.437 to that Code.

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Clark – asked why changes to the draft ordinance did not prompt a public hearing; believes that voting on the ordinance is premature; urged

Council to vote against the motion; stated the ordinance will negatively affect the rental market.

- Councilor Groves – stated that the shortage of housing is raising rental costs; stated he is unsure about supporting the motion.
- Councilor Zelenka – noted he withdrew the motion proposing another public hearing due to timing issues; asked if there was a two-year review process in the ordinance; stated his support for the motion; noted the ordinance can be amended as needed in the future.
- Councilor Leech – declared a potential conflict of interest; stated her support for the motion.
- Councilor Evans – noted concerns about the ordinance’s potential effect on the housing supply; noted that he would have preferred to have another public hearing on the proposed changes.
- Mayor Vinis – noted that this process began in 2018; stated that tenants are severely impacted in this rental market; stated that waiting to collect more data will only add to the number of vulnerable people in the community.
- Councilor Clark – stated he believes that the ordinance will hurt the community; asked if it possible to track sales of rental units and the numbers of evictions; noted that Springfield Eugene Tenant Association has an interest in the renter protections process and may not provide objective data.
- Councilor Yeh – noted the renters protection process started in 2016; stated she is comfortable moving forward with the vote; noted Council can complete a review sooner than two years out.
- Councilor Zelenka – stated public engagement with the process has been robust.
- Councilor Evans – asked if the review would include numbers of rentals converted from long-term rentals to short-term rentals.
- Councilor Clark – stated he expects to see many evictions in the 30 days before the ordinance takes effect.

VOTE: 5:2 PASSED (opposed by Councilors Clark and Groves)

Mayor Vinis adjourned the meeting at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Katie LaSala
City Recorder

(Recorded by Cherish Bradshaw)

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