

## MINUTES

### Eugene City Council Hybrid Public Hearing Eugene, Oregon 97401

June 21, 2022  
5:30 p.m.

**Councilors Present:** Emily Semple, Matt Keating, Alan Zelenka, Mike Clark, Greg Evans, Claire Syrett, Randy Groves

**Councilors Absent:** Jennifer Yeh

Mayor Vinis opened the June 21, 2022, Public Hearing of the Eugene City Council in hybrid format at 101 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 114, Eugene, OR 97401.

#### **1. PUBLIC HEARING – An Ordinance Concerning Public Contracts and Amending**

**Sections 2.1400, 2.1405, 2.1415, 2.1420, 2.1425, 2.1430, and 2.1451 of the Eugene Code, 1971.**

City Manager Sarah Medary provided background information and introduced the topic.

Mayor Vinis opened the Public Hearing.

There were no speakers for the Public Hearing.

Mayor Vinis closed the Public Hearing.

##### Council Discussion

- Councilor Evans – asked for data to determine the number of contracts that go to women, minority-owned emerging businesses, and disadvantaged businesses; asked how these proposed changes would impact contracting with such businesses.

#### **2. PUBLIC HEARING – An Ordinance Concerning Rental Housing and Amending**

**Sections 8.405, 8.415, 8.425, 8.430, and 8.440 of the Eugene Code, 1971.**

City Manager Sarah Medary provided background information and introduced the topic.

Mayor Vinis opened the Public Hearing.

1. Hazel Stirgwolt – shared concern over the cost of applying for rental housing.
2. Sylvan Scholl – spoke in favor of the ordinance.
3. Kevin C. Cronin – spoke in favor of the ordinance.
4. Carrie Goodwin – spoke in favor of the ordinance.
5. Ellen McKean – spoke in favor of the ordinance.
6. Candice King – spoke in favor of the ordinance.

7. John Prince – spoke in favor of the ordinance.
8. Celine Swenson Harris – spoke in favor of the ordinance.
9. Mysti Frost – spoke in favor of the ordinance.
10. Ethan Klein – spoke in favor of the ordinance.
11. Jeffrey Albanese – spoke in favor of the ordinance.
12. Sondra Melinder – spoke in favor of the ordinance.
13. Sandra – shared concerns about young adults accessing rental housing.
14. Tim Morris – spoke in favor of the ordinance.
15. Darren Stone – spoke in opposition to the ordinance.
16. Samantha Roberts – discussed unintended consequences of the ordinance.
17. Kathryn Dunn – spoke in opposition to the ordinance.
18. Lisa Bollinger – spoke in opposition to the ordinance.
19. John VanLandingham – noted concerns about the ordinance.
20. Joann Shotola – spoke in opposition to the ordinance.
21. Marcia Edwards – spoke in opposition to the ordinance.
22. Joshua Caraco – spoke in favor of the ordinance.
23. Cynthia Butler – spoke in favor of the ordinance.
24. Mike Gamble – spoke in opposition to the ordinance.
25. Jacob Trewe – spoke in favor of the ordinance.

Mayor Vinis closed the Public Hearing.

#### Council Discussion

- Councilor Groves – noted that this is a complex issue and the main problem is a lack of rental inventory in the community; expressed concern about losing rental inventory; noted that he is looking forward to the discussion on this topic.
- Councilor Zelenka – acknowledged the lack of housing and housing crisis in Eugene; noted that this ordinance is not intended to increase or decrease the number of rental units, but to improve fairness in the process through enforcement; asked staff for a detailed explanation of the code enforcement process for the next work session on this topic; expressed a desire to explore alternative enforcement options.
- Councilor Syrett – asked staff to determine if any parts of the ordinance duplicate existing laws; stated that this ordinance was modeled after a similar ordinance in Portland, but with modifications developed with input from the local rental protection committee; stated that these proposals are intended to increase equity and opportunity to access housing, while considering input from rental housing providers.
- Councilor Keating – noted that this proposal is not intended to increase the number of rental units, but to prevent homelessness and housing stress; asked staff to clarify the language for capping the screening and application fees; stated his support for one flat cap for screening and application fees at the state level.
- Councilor Clark – noted that how the cap is enforced is important and deserves further discussion; expressed concerns about Eugene experiencing negative consequences similar to those experienced in Portland; noted that the proposal is meant to increase opportunity to access housing but stated his concern is that it will cause landlords to disinvest in Eugene properties; stated he believes this ordinance will have negative unintended consequences.

- Mayor Vinis – emphasized that this proposal is a response to the vulnerability of renters; encouraged landlords to suggest alternative measures to provide protection to renters.
- Councilor Clark – stated he would like to see increased landlord participation in discussions regarding alternative measures to improve access to rental housing.

Mayor Vinis adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Katie LaSala  
City Recorder

*(Recorded by Olivia Clark)*

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