

MINUTES
Eugene City Council
Meeting
Eugene, Oregon 97401

July 25, 2022
7:30 p.m.

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

Mayor Vinis opened the July 25, 2022, meeting of the Eugene City Council in hybrid format at 101 W. 10th Avenue, Suite 114, Eugene, OR 97401.

1. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

- Councilor Syrett – stated that she spent time with the Ethiopian Athletic Federation at the Riverfront Festival, and it was an amazing event; noted that two women shared with her that because Eugene made them feel so welcome they were winning in their events; reported that there is a new suicide crisis line, 988, and it is similar to 911 but is staffed by mental health counselors, providing services for those having mental health crisis or family members of those in crisis.
- Councilor Yeh – reminded everyone that the Asian Celebration will occur on Saturday at Alton Baker Park from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; noted there will be a shared booth for the Police Auditor’s Office, Police Commission, and the Civilian Review Board at the celebration.
- Councilor Keating – noted that the Ethiopian team experience was a great experience; shared the final tally of medals of the World Championship; stated that the Ethiopian people are inspiring and he would like to remember the connection made with them when the Sister City program is reviewed; noted appreciation for staff that made the meeting possible and for all who volunteered at the events; expressed his appreciation to the Eugene Police Department for their work during the World Championships.
- Councilor Semple – expressed appreciation for the work and efforts to clean up and beautify downtown Eugene.
- Councilor Zelenka – noted that he spoke with many people at the events who complimented the World Championship and Riverfront Festival.
- Councilor Syrett – noted that there is some frustration about the parks in Whiteaker and how resources are being allocated in terms of park ambassadors; stated that Whiteaker bears a disproportional burden of the unhoused and disruptive individuals; requested that the City Manager work with Chief Skinner to reconsider the allocations; noted that there are playgrounds that are often used for camping which prevents families from using the parks as intended.
- Mayor Vinis – expressed appreciation to councilors Syrett and Keating for stepping in to cover her duties during the World Championships; noted that the fan festival was well-executed and appreciated; shared quotes from emails sent by individuals from all over regarding the event.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR 1

A. Approval of City Council Minutes

- May 23, 2022, Work Session
- May 23, 2022, Meeting
- June 13, 2022, Work Session

B. Approval of City Council Tentative Agenda

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Syrett, seconded by Councilor Keating, moved to approve the items on Consent Calendar 1, minus the June 13, 2022, Work Session minutes. **PASSED: 8:0**

3. PUBLIC FORUM

1. Matthew O-G – spoke about Councilor Keating’s comments at Dove Medical.
2. David Peiccioni – spoke about the causes of homelessness.
3. Kelly Hoell – spoke about the CAP 2.0 climate plan.
4. Niyah Ross – spoke about her recent employment experiences with the City of Eugene.
5. Sabrina Siegel – spoke about microwave radiation and Wi-Fi.
6. Joshua Korn – spoke about climate change, solar radiation, and radiation issues.
7. Richard Locke – commended Sarah Medary for the work done to clean up camps.
8. Thomas Newman – spoke about reducing the city’s carbon footprint.
9. Lisa Arkin – spoke in favor of a public health overlay.
10. Aimée Okotie-Oyekan – spoke in favor of climate protection and fossil free Eugene.
11. Arjorie Arberry-Baribeault – spoke in favor of a public health overlay.
12. Todd Boyle – spoke in favor of increasing housing for the bottom 20 percent.
13. Nicholas R – spoke about Councilor Keating’s comments at Dove Medical.
14. William Smith – spoke against 5G and Wi-Fi and in favor of hiring a building biologist.
15. Lin Woodrich – spoke about the need for a Bethel area plan.
16. Stephen Fuller-Rowell – spoke in favor of a public health overlay zone.

Council Discussion

- Councilor Evans – asked if there have been any complaints filed with the Police Auditor’s Office related to the protest about Roe v. Wade being overturned.
- Councilor Keating – stated that he and Councilor Syrett check in with the Police Auditor and he supports oversight processes that provide accountability; noted a need for an interagency oversight with Springfield Police Department; expressed appreciation for Richard Locke’s comments regarding council pay; noted that family leave processes are cumbersome and difficult and that there is a childcare crisis currently.
- Councilor Syrett – stated that when you push the unhoused from one area, they end up in another area; noted that Whitaker has historically been a gathering point for the unhoused; encouraged those who spoke regarding Councilor Keating’s comments to focus their energy on constructive actions to protect women’s right to choose abortion.
- Mayor Vinis – noted that the building electrification conversation will continue Wednesday, July 27, 2022, and may cause the public health overlay topic to be pushed to a date after council break.

4. PUBLIC HEARING: An Ordinance Adopting Hazardous Substance User Fees

1. Richard Locke – spoke about the impact of the fees on small business.

Council Discussion

- Councilor Groves – applauded staff for finding a way to trim costs; encouraged staff to work with the State on a single database entry system.
- Mayor Vinis confirmed unanimous consent to take action on the ordinance during the same meeting.

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Syrett, seconded by Councilor Keating, moved to adopt an ordinance adopting hazardous substance user fees.

VOTE: PASSED 8:0

5. CONSENT CALENDAR 2

A. Resolution Annexing Land at the Southwest Corner of the Intersection of Loretta Way and Denis Drive

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Syrett, seconded by Councilor Keating, moved to approve the items on Consent Calendar 2. **VOTE: PASSED 8:0**

6. ACTION: An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 20650 (Temporary Establishment of “Safe Parking” and “Safe Tent” Sites that are Larger Than Allowed Under Section 4.816 of the Eugene Code, 1971); and Extending Its Sunset Date.

City Manager Sarah Medary introduced the topic and gave background information regarding the topic.

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Syrett, seconded by Councilor Keating, moved to adopt the ordinance amending Ordinance No. 20650 (temporary establishment of “safe parking” and “safe tent” sites that are larger than allowed under section 4.816 of the Eugene Code, 1971); and extending its sunset date to June 30, 2024. **VOTE: PASSED 7:1**, Councilor Clark opposed.

7. ACTION: An Ordinance Amending Transient Lodging Tax Code Provisions in Chapter 3 of the Eugene Code, 1971, to Enable Tax Collection by the Oregon Department of Revenue on the City’s Behalf, and Providing for an Effective Date.

MOTION: Councilor Syrett, seconded by Councilor Keating, moved to adopt the ordinance concerning the Transient Lodging Tax.

Council Discussion

- Councilor Keating – asked if this transition represents a job lost; asked if the employee will remain employed with the City of Eugene; asked when the program and the job will sunset.

VOTE: PASSED 7:1, Councilor Keating opposed.

8. ACTION: Initiation of Land Use Code Amendment For 5th Street Market Expansion

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Syrett, seconded by Councilor Keating, moved to initiate a land use code amendment creating a parcel specific height limit in the Skinner Butte Height Limitation Area. **VOTE: PASSED 8:0**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Katie LaSala
City Recorder

(Recorded by Sara McKinney)

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