

MINUTES

Eugene City Council Work Session Eugene, Oregon 97401

October 12, 2022
12:00 p.m.

Councilors Present: Matt Keating, Jennifer Yeh, Mike Clark, Randy Groves, and Emily Semple

Councilors Absent: Alan Zelenka, Greg Evans

Mayor Vinis opened the October 12, 2022, work session of the Eugene City Council in a hybrid format at 101 W 10th Avenue, Eugene OR 97401.

1. **WORK SESSION: Sister Cities Review Discussion**

City Manager, Sarah Medary introduced Policy Analyst and Sister Cities Program Manager, Jason Detric who presented information on the Sister Cities program.

Council Discussion:

- Mayor Vinis – noted appreciation for the citizen volunteers that have kept the sister city connections going during COVID; recognized the strong relationships with Nepalese and Japanese communities because of the program.
- Councilor Semple – noted that the program benefits to the City; believes the program needs more attention; stated she would like to see it expanded; noted a desire to refocus on the program with the pandemic coming to an end.
- Councilor Yeh – noted that the program should be re-assessed to determine City goals; noted that the program needs more focus and support; asked how funding is dispersed, and if the programs are required to outline their intention for the funds prior to disbursement; asked if staff verifies intention and use of funding; asked if there is staff capacity to properly support this program.
- Councilor Groves – noted that a strength of the program is relationship building between peoples, not governments; stated that he would like to see re-engagement with Irkutsk in the future; would be in favor of a more structured program; stated that Ukraine would be a good option to consider; noted the importance of providing information to the public on why this program is worth continuing to fund when there are still unresolved funding issues for assisting the unhoused community.
- Councilor Keating – reflected on the advantages of the strong sister city relationship held in his hometown; would be in favor of developing a sister city relationship with a community south of the border; noted the Ethiopian delegates who came for Oregon '22 expressed a desire to develop a sister city relationship with Eugene; would also like to explore a sister city relationship with Ukraine.
- Councilor Clark – asked about economic development aspects to the program through the Chamber of Commerce or other agencies; stated the potential for economic development as a reason for the program to move forward; noted he would like to see

the program expand to China; noted the community benefits from continued or expanded development.

- Mayor Vinis – asked staff to elaborate on sister city engagement during Oregon '22; noted the requests for heightened visibility such as a signpost with mileage to the sister cities; requested Council reach out to her if they are willing to volunteer additional time toward sister cities relationships; noted that the last delegation was in 2018; asked staff to explain how delegation funding is handled; stated her interest in having a more robust and formal welcome response.
- Councilor Keating – stated an interest in signposts as well as planting trees that are native to the City's sister cities at the Riverfront Plaza.
- Councilor Groves – likes the idea of signposts with information about and mileage to sister cities at Riverfront Park; noted he was impressed with the delegation visitors from Kakegawa to Eugene Springfield Fire and noted the importance of learning from one another; expressed the importance of public communication about the program and why it is being funded.
- Councilor Clark – noted that delegation trips used to be funded annually or bi-annually by the City until budget cuts made it a personal cost to Council; noted that sending delegations would make the program more robust; asked staff about the location of sister city gifts; noted a preference to display those gifts more prominently.
- Councilor Yeh – stated that being able to express why the program is important to the public is critical; noted that each sister city relationship does not have to have the same structure; recognized that evaluating and creating a strong program will take additional staff or Council time; noted that the City should concentrate on building the relationships that exist instead of creating additional sister city relationships; noted a concern that the programs are handled by private non-profit agencies; stated support for having sister city art and gifts on display in a public building.
- Councilor Keating – noted that he looks forward to having the art and gifts pulled out of archives and placed on display.
- Mayor Vinis – stated that she would welcome Council involvement in sharing the role of hosting delegates when they visit; stated it may be possible to partner with surrounding cities when delegates visit.

2. WORK SESSION: 2021 State Legislative Changes to the Offense of Interfering with a Police Officer

City Manager, Sarah Medary introduced City Prosecutor, Travis Smith who presented information regarding legislative changes to the offense of interfering with a police officer.

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Groves – asked if the decline in staffing at the Lane County District Attorney has an impact on this issue; asked if this change would also apply to interfering with firefighters or paramedics; noted he would like staff to look into expanding this provision to include interference with firefighters and paramedics.
- Councilor Clark – asked about the ability of communities to create ordinances around crimes or violations not addressed by statute; asked how staff determined the proposed change is the right course of action; asked if the City has the authority to take this action; asked about the consequences of disagreeing with the legislature and keeping this part of a police officer's job.

- Councilor Groves – provided the ORS reference that makes interference with a firefighter or emergency medical service provider a misdemeanor; asked staff to look at incorporating ORS 162.257 into the changes.
- Councilor Semple – stated that it makes sense to align with the legislature on this matter.
- Councilor Keating – explained that prior to the legislative reform, if someone was recording an incident and was given a lawful order from a peace officer to stop, they could be violating a lawful order; asked staff if this type of activity has been prosecuted; asked staff if they have seen records expunged, sentence decreased, or other retroactive change post legislative reform.

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Keating, seconded by Councilor Groves, moved to direct the City Manager to prepare an ordinance amending EC 4.907 consistent with HB 3164 and schedule a public hearing.

PASSED: 5:0

Mayor Vinis adjourned the meeting at 1:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Katie LaSala
City Recorder

(Recorded by Sara McKinney)
Webcast of meeting available [here](#).