

MINUTES

Eugene City Council Work Session Eugene, Oregon 97401

November 30, 2022
12:00 p.m.

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

Mayor Vinis opened the November 30, 2022, work session of the Eugene City Council in a hybrid format at 101 W 10th Avenue, Eugene OR 97401.

1. **EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e) real property transactions**
2. **WORK SESSION: Reconsideration of An Ordinance Concerning Clear and Objective Approval Criteria for Housing**

MOTION: Councilor Clark, seconded by Councilor Semple, moved to reconsider the ordinance passed Monday night on clear and objective housing standards.

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Clark – stated he was unclear of the implications of the original vote and feels the definition of residential character is not clear.
- Councilor Zelenka – asked to clarify the motion.
- Councilor Groves – supports the motion to reconsider.

VOTE: PASSED 5:2 (opposed by Councilors Keating and Yeh.)

MAIN MOTION ON TABLE: Move to adopt the Ordinance concerning clear and objective approval criteria for housing included as Attachment B.

MOTION TO AMEND: Councilor Clark, seconded by Councilor Semple, moved to add the following text to the beginning of the Policy 1 in the findings on page 18: “The City Council finds that ‘residential character’ in this refinement plan policy has the meaning as defined in EC 9.0500, i.e. “A combination of qualities and features that gives identity to a particular area where the predominant use is housing and that distinguishes the area from other areas.”

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Clark – stated that Council should create findings that an appeals body would refer to for defining pieces of the code; noted that clarity on the definition of residential character is important to establish.

- Councilor Zelenka – stated the definition is embedded in the findings for the refinement plan; asked why this would not be applied to all areas; stated he is unsure of the ramifications of this motion and would therefore not support at this time; would consider further discussions to make it broadly applicable; is not in favor of this being applied to one refinement plan.
- Councilor Groves – would like to see this apply universally across the city in the future; asked City Manager to provide clarity on the amount of staff work this would require.
- Councilor Yeh – asked how much time this motion would require for staff to implement; believes residential transition zones are a good idea; asked if this would create strict limits on future development for residential areas; noted this definition appears vague; would support further conversations regarding this topic for understanding.
- Councilor Keating – noted the definition of ‘residential’ is the key to clarifying the issue; stated the unintended consequences may have ramifications in the future; will vote against the amendment.
- Councilor Zelenka – asked if this were approved what impact it would have on West University and all other refinement plans; noted that this would make one neighborhood held to different standards; asked City Attorney if this definition would be applied to any other refinement plans;

MOTION TO SUBSTITUTE and VOTE: Councilor Zelenka, seconded by Councilor Yeh, moved to add a work session to discuss adding definition in Eugene Code 9.0500 to all refinement plans. **FAILED 3:4** (opposed by Councilors Evans, Groves, Semple and Clark)

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Yeh – asked staff if they anticipate any unintended or negative consequences in passing the motion to amend.
- Councilor Semple – asked to add a friendly amendment to add a work session to this amendment.

VOTE ON MOTION TO AMEND WITH FRIENDLY AMENDMENT: PASSED
4:3 (opposed by Councilors Keating, Yeh and Zelenka)

MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED RESTATED and VOTE: Councilor Clark, seconded by Councilor Semple, moved to adopt the Ordinance concerning clear and objective approval criteria for housing included as Attachment B, adding the following text to the beginning of the Policy 1 in the findings on page 18: “The City Council finds that ‘residential character’ in this refinement plan policy has the meaning as defined in EC 9.0500, i.e. “A combination of qualities and features that gives identity to a particular area where the predominant use is housing and that distinguishes the area from other areas” and scheduling a work session to discuss adding definition in Eugene Code 9.0500 to all refinement plans. **PASSED 6:1** (opposed by Councilor Keating)

3. WORK SESSION: Interim Ward 7 Appointment Process Discussion

City Manager, Sarah Medary and City Attorney, Kathryn Brotherton and City Recorder, Katie LaSala led a discussion regarding the ward 7 appointment process.

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Clark – is disappointed that a specific candidate was not put forward to interview via the process that was set forth; noted that Council can choose to appoint an interim councilor that is not interviewed; is not interested in changing the votes.
- Councilor Zelenka – stated it is not uncommon for people to change their mind; stated the deadlines were created by staff and are not law; likes the option to open the floor to change votes by the end of the day to modify the ballot.
- Councilor Yeh – would like to interview all of the candidates; would support the option to modify ballots.
- Councilor Keating – would like to hear from all eligible candidates, based on voter registration; noted that he would hope that Council would embrace the option to change votes.
- Councilor Semple – noted that she requested to change her ballot and would like to hear from more candidates.
- Councilor Clark – stated he would be open to interviewing anyone that is an eligible candidate.

MOTION: Councilor Keating, seconded by Councilor Semple, moved to allow until end of day today to allow every councilor the opportunity to supplement their ballot selections.

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Zelenka – supports the motion; noted that if a councilor wants to interview all candidates, they should modify their ballot to reflect such.

VOTE: PASSED 7:0

Mayor Vinis adjourned the meeting at 1:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Katie LaSala
City Recorder

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