

MINUTES
Eugene City Council
Work Session
Eugene, Oregon 97401

December 14, 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 December 14, 2022, work session of the Eugene City Council in a hybrid format at 101 W 10th Avenue, Eugene OR 97401.

1. WORK SESSION: Interim City Council Appointment, Ward 7

Councilor Discussion:

- Councilor Evans – asked to clarify the process; deferred making a motion to Councilor Semple.

MOTION: Councilor Semple, seconded by Councilor Clark, moved to appoint Thomas Hiura for interim Ward 7 councilor.

MOTION TO SUBSTITUTE: Councilor Yeh, seconded by Councilor Keating, moved to substitute for Lyndsie Leech.

Councilor Discussion:

- Councilor Yeh – noted that Dan Isaacson had the best interview, but due to other factors she is moving to her second choice, Lyndsie Leech; found Lyndsie Leech articulate and thoughtful in her interview answers.
- Councilor Zelenka – noted that Dan Isaacson was his first choice; believes that Lyndsie Leech’s background will make her a positive asset to Council; will support appointing her.
- Councilor Clark – intends to make a motion to appoint Barbie Walker; believes that Lyndsie Leech’s political and ideological views are too similar to the recalled councilor.

VOTE ON MOTION TO SUBSTITUTE: FAILED 3:4 (opposed by Councilor Clark, Evans, Groves, and Semple)

Councilor Discussion:

- Councilor Semple – believes that Thomas Hiura is a neutral party that could encourage people to listen to each other; noted that Council has received many emails in support of Thomas Hiura; stated her reasons for moving to appoint him; noted concern over political alignment of other candidates.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: FAILED 2:5 (opposed by Councilors Evans, Groves, Keating, Yeh, and Zelenka)

MOTION: Councilor Clark, seconded by Councilor Groves, moved to appoint Barbie Walker for interim Ward 7 councilor.

Councilor Discussion:

- Councilor Clark – stated that he has known Barbie Walker personally and believes that she is a middle of the road option; noted that she is passionate about the Willamette Greenway.

VOTE: FAILED 2:5 (opposed by Councilors Evans, Keating, Semple, Yeh and Zelenka)

MOTION: Councilor Evans, seconded by Councilor Keating, moved to reconsider Lyndsie Leech.

Councilor Discussion:

- Councilor Evans – noted that he was impressed with Lyndsie Leech in her interview; noted his opinions regarding the appointment process and concerns about input received; despite reservations regarding Lyndsie Leech’s candidacy, believes she is the right choice in the interim.
- Councilor Groves – noted that Council needs to look at the interest and welfare of the community; believes that Council should show unity in welcoming a new councilor; will vote in favor of Lyndsie Leech.
- Councilor Zelenka – noted that Lyndsie Leech is his second choice for the appointment, will vote in support of the motion.
- Councilor Clark – noted that he will not vote in favor of Lyndsie Leech; stated that her views align too closely with that of the previous ward 7 councilor.
- Councilor Semple – believes the appointment process has not been smooth and efficient; noted that the recall noted need for a change to Council; does not believe that Lyndsie Leech is in line with bold actions; noted her disappointment in the direction the appointment is moving.

VOTE TO RECONSIDER: PASSED 5:2 (opposed by Councilors Clark and Semple)

VOTE ON RECONSIDERED MOTION (to appoint Lyndsie Leech): PASSED 5:2 (opposed by Councilors Clark and Semple)

2. WORK SESSION: Eugene Public Library – Year 1 Levy Report

Sarah Medary introduced Interim Executive Director of Library, Recreation Cultural Services, Ben Klipfel and Library Services Director, Will O’Hearn, who presented the Eugene Public Library Year 1 Levy Report.

Councilor Discussion:

- Councilor Clark – is a big supporter of the library and its services; voted against the library levy due to budget deficits and cuts to other services; noted his concern that the City has budget shortfalls and cannot cut or reduce the services promised in the library and police levies.
- Councilor Zelenka – asked when the levy was passed and when it is up for renewal; asked what the financial impact was for discontinuing fines; noted that 12,000 kids participated in the summer reading program; asked about the collection size; asked what a Star Library is; asked to confirm that the Eugene Library was in the top one percent of the country for cost effectiveness and utilization; asked what the top three safety issues are at the library; asked if staff feel they have sufficient security inside and out of the building.
- Councilor Groves – stated that the library is important to the community; has concerns regarding budget restraints and services cuts; asked what kind of programs are available for underserved youth; noted that ward 8 does not have a branch library, community center, pool, or dog park.
- Councilor Keating – is proud of the library levy; asked staff what the challenges and wish list is for the Sheldon and Bethel Branch; asked if there is a plan for increased book deposit sites, including Amazon Pool; asked if the P.A.A.W.S. (People and Animals Who Serve) program will be restarted; asked about the Library of Things program; noted appreciation for Wi-Fi hotspots throughout the community.
- Councilor Evans – asked staff if there a way to link bus passes to library cards to increase accessibility; noted that there are federal grant funds available to help fund such a program; noted that there is no branch library in the south and southwest regions.
- Councilor Zelenka – noted both the Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funding could be used for a library card/bus pass program; noted that ward 3 has no pool, branch library, community center, or dog park.
- Mayor Vinis – noted that the recent community survey demonstrated the importance and value that the library and its programs hold in the community.

Mayor Vinis adjourned the meeting at 1:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Katie LaSala
City Recorder

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