

MINUTES

Eugene City Council Virtual Meeting Eugene, Oregon 97401

February 22, 2021
7:30 p.m.

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

Mayor Vinis opened the February 22, 2021, meeting of the Eugene City Council in a virtual format.

1. CEREMONIAL MATTER

- Recognition of Outgoing Police Auditor Mark Gissiner

Council Discussion

- Councilor Evans- appreciated Mark's leadership and his efforts to listen and respond to the community.
- Councilor Semple- shared her gratitude for working with Mark Gissiner.
- Councilor Groves- appreciated the relationship and the legacy Mark Gissiner is leaving.
- Councilor Clark- shared he was sad to see Mark Gissiner go yet is happy for him; big shoes to fill.
- Councilor Zelenka- shared that Mark Gissiner created a model for the country as a steady and fair Police Auditor with an excellent team and the model works well.
- Councilor Syrett- shared her gratitude for Mark Gissiner.

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

- Councilor Groves – shared that Mike McFarlane has been appointed to the Sustainability Commission, shared information about LCOG's virtual awards on March 5; shared outrage about uptick in hate activities.
- Councilor Syrett - shared an article in *The Register-Guard* about a North Eugene High School Theatre Group theatrical performance called *Zoomed*; shared she participated in a picket line for a memory care organization's staff to become unionized.
- Councilor Semple - shared that it was the six-month anniversary of getting hit by a drunk driver; shared update on McKenzie Watershed activities; shared Sustainability Commission update.
- Councilor Yeh - said that hate speech and hate symbols do not belong in Eugene and encouraged Council to be intentional about equity and inclusion at all meetings; shared that the boards and commissions application period is happening now.
- Councilor Clark - shared outrage over hate crimes and said he was sickened by recent events; called for a work session on Council's options to effectively address hate crimes.
- Councilor Keating - shared his concern that there are gaps in services for the vulnerable and unhoused.
- Councilor Evans - shared a quote from Doc Rivers about racism: "We love our Country, but our country doesn't love us back"; shared his family's experience in the military and fighting in wars.
- Councilor Zelenka - said he condemns racist activities in the community and more needs to be done to stop these actions; encouraged community members to apply for boards and commissions positions.
- Mayor Vinis - shared her gratitude for colleagues for speaking out against the hate and bias crimes; agreed a work session on how Council will address hate crimes is necessary.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR 1

A. Approval of City Council Minutes

- September 26, 2020, Goals Workshop
- November 23, 2020, Meeting
- December 14, 2020 Work Session
- December 14, 2020 Meeting
- January 13, 2021 Work Session
- January 20, 2021, Work Session
- January 25, 2021, Work Session
- January 25, 2021, Meeting
- January 27, 2021, Work Session

B. Approval of City Council Tentative Agenda

C. Appointment of Civilian Review Board Representative to Police Commission

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Yeh, seconded by Councilor Syrett, moved to approve items Consent Calendar 1. **PASSED 8:0.**

4. PUBLIC FORUM

1. Avery Temple - shared gratitude for Council walking away from NW Natural franchise agreement.
2. Sarah Lamog – asked what actions Council has taken to fight back against white supremacy.
3. Maizie Goodpasture - shared that the local air quality is negatively affecting her breathing.
5. Dylan Plummer - shared information about the negative health impacts of natural gas in homes.
6. Patty Hine - shared facts on the clean energy revolution and said NW Natural doesn't dictate policy.
7. Xia Wang - shared yard sign theft incident, encouraged racism to be declared a public health crisis.
8. Jeffrey Cina - shared information on a course he is teaching about the science of climate change.
9. Ben Christensen – requested that Council declare racism as a public health crisis.
10. Olivia Ross - urged Council to transition to 100 percent renewable energy and ban fossil fuel use.
11. Nicholas Tippins - encouraged Council to act against hate crimes and restrict new gas use.
12. Sylvia Tearington - supported the Fossil Free Eugene Campaign and demands.
13. Madalyn Blum - testified Eugene is failing to live up to climate standards and needs clean buildings.
14. Jim Neu - shared information about the impacts of fossil fuels on the planet; opposed NW Natural.
15. Brian Stewart- shared that Electrify Coalition has been formed to promote renewable, clean energy.
16. Sophia Trotter – supported the demands of the Fossil Free Eugene Coalition.
17. Marshall Chad Dannen - shared that Marshalls has been installing high efficiency appliances since 1948.
18. Satya Guinsbourg - testified about impact of climate change on the natural areas near Eugene.
19. Sean Basarava - shared that he works on natural gas distribution line; supports NW Natural plan.
20. Linda Kelley - supported a five-year agreement with NW Natural and no new gas infrastructure.
21. Selena Blick - testified about the ongoing use and expansion of fracked gas and encouraged action.
22. Seneca Burgess - shared gratitude for letting the NW Natural franchise agreement lapse.
23. Eloise Parish Mueller - supported the demands of the Fossil Free Eugene Coalition movement.
24. Brandon Kauten - asked Council to walk away from the NW Natural agreements.
25. Tyee Williams - said he worked on fire lines this past summer and saw the impacts of climate change.
26. Jesse - asked Council to enact what is needed to meet the City's climate recovery goals in 2030.
27. Kelsey Zlevor - supported Fossil Free Eugene Coalition's demands.
28. Tom Walter - supported NW Natural Gas and future gas production and infrastructure.
29. Alexandria York - shared that her sister was unhoused and needed help for mental health issues.
30. Madalyn Cowan - supported the Fossil Free Coalition Campaign.
31. Lydia Scott - supported Fossil Free Eugene Coalition's demands and action to defeat racism.
32. Ellen Rifkin - thanked Councilors for speaking out against racist actions in the community.
33. Nate Stokes- shared his story about a rewarding career as a journeyman building infrastructure.

34. Linda Carnine - encouraged Council to establish more shelters and decriminalize homelessness.
35. Lena - shared that hate crimes are heartbreaking; supported rooting out white nationalists in Police.

Council Discussion

- Mayor Vinis - shared that Council has already taken a number of concrete steps to address climate change and is committed to learning and doing more.
- Councilor Yeh - thanked Sheldon High School Students for calling in and encouraged them to contact her directly with their concerns.
- Councilor Keating - thanked community members for their continued activism; shared that South Eugene neighbors offered solutions for accommodating the unhoused in their neighborhood.

4. PUBLIC HEARING: An Ordinance Providing for Withdrawal of Annexed Properties from the Following Special Districts: River Road Parks & Recreation

1. Mysti Frost- asked Council to reconsider removing fees for low-income families for annexation.

Council Discussion

- Councilor Clark- appreciated the testimony from Mysti Frost and supported the fund for low-income families.

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie Adams
Deputy City Recorder

(Recorded by Niyah Ross)

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