

MINUTES

Eugene City Council Virtual Meeting Eugene, Oregon 97401

June 14, 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 June 14, 2021, meeting of the Eugene City Council in a virtual format.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

In honor of Flag Day, Kyshan Nichols-Smith, a member of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Board, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CEREMONIAL ITEMS

Mayor Vinis read a proclamation declaring the month of June to be Elder Abuse Awareness Month.

Mayor Vinis read a proclamation declaring the month of June to be LGBTQ+ Pride Month.

- Councilor Syrett stated that at some point in the past, Eugene's Pride Day was moved to August due to the possibility of rain in June and to prevent conflicts with Pride Day in other cities.
- Councilor Keating – shared that Eugene's Pride Day will be August 14 this year.

Mayor Vinis read a proclamation declaring June 19 to be Juneteenth.

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

Council Discussion

- Councilor Semple – stated she is concerned because the rent moratorium ends on June 30 and renters will have to pay full rent beginning July 1; provided information for renters to apply for rent and utility assistance through Lane County; shared the foreclosure moratorium goes through the end of September and a Landlord Compensation Fund is available through June 18 and can be accessed on the Lane County website; shared the Springfield Eugene Tenant Association (SETA) has a hotline to provide advice and support.
- Councilor Evans – expressed condolences to Senator James Manning on the passing of his wife, Lawanda; shared the Lane Transit District (LTD) Strategic Planning Committee is continuing its visioning and strategic planning process and welcomes public comment via the LTD website.
- Councilor Keating – echoed condolences to Senator Manning; thanked the Mayor for the three proclamations; thanked the Oregon legislative body for making Juneteenth a state holiday beginning in 2022; shared the Human Services Commission will be hearing from SETA, Homes For Good and the Oregon Law Center on June 21 regarding rent protections, renters' rights and emergency rental assistance; encouraged renters in need to access Lane County's website to apply for assistance.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR 1

- A. Approval of City Council Minutes
 - February 27, 2021, Goals Workshop
- B. Approval of City Council Tentative Agenda

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

4. PUBLIC FORUM

1. Scott Strickland – (union representative) encouraged continued negotiations with NW Natural Gas.
2. Jeff McGillivray – (union representative) encouraged continued negotiations with NW Natural Gas.
3. Ethan Klein – responded to comments made by councilors regarding repeated testimonies and emails.
4. Sandra Bishop – concerned about construction of EWEB water storage tanks at 40th & Patterson.
5. Zach Mulholland – spoke to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adhering to City’s climate goals.
6. Matthew Yook – concerned about limiting public participation and access at the Public Forum.
7. Brittany Quick-Warner – supported carbon reduction goals and continued efforts to find camp sites.
8. Ed McMahon – Homebuilders Assoc. supports consumer choice and working with NW Natural Gas.
9. Tadashi Jones – Owen Lp. business owner affected by vehicle camping and appreciates Council’s help.
10. Lin Woodrich – thanked Council for listening to needs and supporting the planning for Bethel.

Council Discussion

- Councilor Syrett – thanked those who spoke at the forum; stated the City’s rest stops have reduced the impacts of unsanctioned camping around those sites; shared that multiple identical emails are frustrating and reduce her ability to work effectively and suggested circulation of a petition instead; would like a virtual component to continue to be offered when Council meetings resume in-person; shared there will be a work session on proposed amendments to the council’s Operating Agreements.
- Councilor Groves – stated that Council is not attempting to prevent the public from voicing opinions but trying to increase participation by providing access to more people to speak; shared the intent of identifying safe camping sites is to provide more order and safety for camps and the community and that Council will be looking for solutions that are in the best interest of the broader community.
- Councilor Zelenka – stated his proposed amendments to the Operating Agreements are about the council finding a balance to get their work done in an appropriate manner and hear from the community; suggested exploring if residents of rest stops and safe sleeping sites can be part of a Neighborhood Watch or a similar program.
- Mayor Vinis – thanked the public for the diversity of comments and stated these topics are in motion as part of Council’s work plan.

5. PUBLIC HEARING: An Ordinance Concerning Parking and Storage of Vehicles on Streets, and Amending Sections 5.010, 5.135, 5.225, and 5.265 of the Eugene Code, 1971

Mayor Vinis opened the public hearing.

1. Marty Wilder – said code amendments are a move in the wrong direction and criminalize poverty.
2. Kenlei Cowell – opposed code amendments; said natural disaster refugees and unhoused need options.
3. Scott Rogers – said the Eugene Chamber of Commerce supports these code amendments.
4. Pastor Steve Kimes – suggested tabling code amendments until after safe camp sites are opened.
5. Max Rink – opposed the code amendments and enforcement, focus on human services instead.
6. Sandra Bishop – supported reinstating requirement to post where vehicle has been towed.

Mayor Vinis closed the public hearing.

Council Discussion

- Councilor Keating – stated he is concerned that some commercial vehicles may not have markings/logos that exactly match the business name with which they are associated and

requested the City Attorney's Office to review the language included in Section 5.010 with this in mind.

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Beth Forrest
City Recorder

(Recorded by Jessica Gebb)

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