

MINUTES

Eugene City Council Virtual Meeting Eugene, Oregon 97401

September 13, 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 September 13, 2021, meeting of the Eugene City Council in a virtual format.

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

Council Discussion

- Councilor Semple – reported that three of her unhoused friends now had shelter in Conestoga huts; announced a vaccination clinic on September 18 sponsored by Betty Snowden.
- Councilor Groves – thanked Eugene Springfield firefighters for their 9/11 remembrance ceremony and said it was a fitting tribute for this anniversary.
- Councilor Zelenka – thanked the firefighters for their tribute and remembered the victims and families of the 9/11 terror attacks; reported that most of the bills related to police policy that are being considered by the state legislature have already been implemented in Eugene.
- Councilor Clark – announced the upcoming Northeast Neighbors meeting and noted that he and Councilor Yeh planned to attend and be available for questions.
- Councilor Keating – announced a meeting of the Human Services Commission chairs; said COVID is still raging in the community and encouraged everyone to get vaccinated; said the City should fully support vaccine access.
- Councilor Evans – related his personal experience with the impacts of COVID on friends and family members locally and around the country.
- Councilor Zelenka – agreed with comments supporting vaccinations and announced a meeting of the Fairmount Neighbors.
- Mayor Vinis – appreciated the work of neighborhood associations; reported that she was named to the Environmental Protection Agency’s local government affairs council and was already receiving a lot of constituent input and interest.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR 1

A. Approval of City Council Minutes

- April 19, 2021, Work Session
- April 21, 2021, Work Session
- April 26, 2021, Work Session
- April 26, 2021, Meeting
- May 10, 2021, Meeting
- May 19, 2021, Work Session
- May 26, 2021, Joint Work Session
- June 9, 2021, Work Session
- June 14, 2021, Meeting
- June 23, 2021, Work Session

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. Joel Iboa – reflected on his work with the Human Rights Commission and the community.
2. Kaarin Knudsen – supported the proposed ADU ordinance and Councilor Syrett’s amendments.
3. Doyle Canning – supported the Fossil Free Eugene platform.
4. Madeline Cowen – supported the Fossil Free Eugene platform.
5. Melanie Plaut – spoke about the health impacts of methane gas use.
6. Ed McMahon - supported the proposed ADU ordinance and Councilor Syrett’s amendments.
7. Molly Cox – encouraged Eugene to be a leader in climate actions
8. Carmel Perez Snyder – supported the proposed ADU ordinance and Councilor Syrett’s amendments.
9. Dylan Lamar – spoke about his experience developing a house and ADU; supported the ordinance.
10. Carla Bengston – supported the Fossil Free Eugene platform.
11. Douglas Bovee – spoke about the impacts of fossil fuels use.
12. Sue Wolling – said car use is increasing; encouraged stronger actions to reach climate targets.
13. Michael Soraci – supported the proposed ADU ordinance and Councilor Syrett’s amendments.
14. Dylan Plummer – said climate action is needed now; supported legislation to eliminate gas use.
15. Lin Woodrich – shared the work she is helping with to gather data on local polluters.
16. Arjorie Arberry-Baribeault – Beyond Toxics, spoke about the pollution concerns in West Eugene.
17. Greer Ryan – opposed fossil fuel use; supported decarbonization efforts.
18. Eliza Kashinsky – supported the proposed ADU ordinance and Councilor Syrett’s amendments.
19. MacKenzie – supported the Fossil Free Eugene platform.
20. Marty Wilder – said misleading information was given in the Community Safety Initiative discussion.
21. Mira Mason-Reader – spoke about pollution in West Eugene and encouraged immediate action.
22. Jonny Kocher – supported efforts to electrify all buildings in Eugene and spoke to the benefits.
23. Emily Pyle – spoke about pollution in West Eugene and encouraged immediate action.
24. Jenna Witzleben – supported a ban on new natural gas infrastructure.
25. Seth Sadofsky – discussed the benefits of creating new housing in the urban core on climate efforts.
26. William Smith – reported on recent news about the dangers of wireless radiation.
27. Danny Noonan – supported the Fossil Free Eugene platform.
28. Ali Aasum – voiced concern about pollution from the JH Baxter facility and the lack of accountability.
29. Sahara Valentine – requested immediate climate action to decarbonize.
30. Ryan Moore – supported the Fossil Free Eugene platform and the proposed ADU ordinance.
31. Karen Austin – supported the Fossil Free Eugene platform.
32. Bailey Greben – spoke as a climate activist and educator, noting the climate crisis is here.
33. Matt Walton – spoke about the toxic air in West Eugene and asked for the council’s help to address.
34. Peter Dragovich – spoke about the impacts of fossil fuels and the role of the Public Utility Commission.
35. Harry Sanger – talked about the impacts of COVID and vaccinations as a personal choice.
36. Julie Daniel – supported the CAP2.0 goals and efforts to decarbonize.
37. Eric Jackson – suggested using CSI funds for housing; said the recent changes at WJ park are bad.
38. Eloise Parish-Mueller – requested that the council take steps to address the climate crisis.
39. Jacob Trewe – supported banning new gas hook-ups and encouraged vaccinations.

Council Discussion

- Councilor Clark – clarified that Washington Jefferson Park is a park and not a sanctioned camp.
- Councilor Keating – thanked those who testified about pollution from the JH Baxter plant; suggested that the council have a joint meeting with the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency Board to discuss

potential actions; supported proposed legislation to electrify and to ban or sanction for-profit gas providers that actively lure new customers .

- Councilor Groves – shared concern about pollution levels in West Eugene and asked what authority the City has to respond; clarified that the Boise lawsuit related to camping in the right-of way was being misinterpreted by some homeless advocates.
- Councilor Evans – commented on the JH Baxter issue, noting that the State and County need to act regardless of political influence; supported having a work session on the topic.
- Mayor Vinis – announced upcoming council work sessions related to electrification (with EWEB Board), the City’s natural gas policy and the CAP2.0,

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Beth Forrest
City Recorder

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