

MINUTES

Eugene City Council Meeting and Eugene Urban Renewal Agency Meeting Eugene, Oregon 97401

January 22, 2024
7:30 p.m.

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

Mayor Vinis opened the January 22, 2024, meeting of the Eugene City Council in a hybrid in-person and virtual format at 101 W. 10th Avenue, Suite 114, Eugene, OR 97401.

1. ACTION: Election of City Council Officers for 2024

MOTION: Councilor Groves, seconded by Councilor Zelenka, moved to elect Councilor Matt Keating as President of the City Council for 2024.

VOTE: 8:0 PASSED

MOTION: Councilor Keating, seconded by Councilor Semple, moved to elect Randy Groves as Vice President of the City Council for 2024.

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Zelenka – clarified that when the Mayor is out of town the Council President does not become the Mayor; noted the Council President becomes Mayor under only very specific circumstances.

VOTE: 8:0 PASSED

2. CEREMONIAL MATTERS

Mayor Vinis read proclamations for Martin Luther King Jr. Day and International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

- Councilor Evans – shared updates from the Intergovernmental Relations Committee regarding legislative priorities, policies, and preparation for the 2024 legislative session.
- Councilor Zelenka – stated his renewed appreciation for electricity after losing power during the ice storm; noted his appreciation for Eugene Water and Electric Board work crews restoring power to the community.
- Councilor Semple – stated Wards 1, 2, 7, and 8 are up for reelection this year and encouraged Eugene residents to apply.
- Councilor Keating – expressed his appreciation for first responders' work during the ice storm; shared how to report storm debris and downed power lines; thanked the Human Rights Commission for co-sponsoring H.O.N.E.Y. Inc.'s Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration; noted his attendance at the 2023 National Homeless Persons'

Memorial Day in Eugene; noted Big City Gaming worked hard to support the community during the ice storm; noted the opening of the Old Spaghetti Factory in the former Oregon Electric Station.

- Councilor Groves – noted his appreciation for utility workers, first responders, 911 workers, and public works employees for their work during the ice storm; noted that neighbors helping neighbors is an essential part of community resiliency during an emergency event; encouraged the community to plan ahead for emergency situations.
- Councilor Leech – noted her appreciation for those who were a part of the ice storm response; noted many residents are still without power; stated the Human Rights Commission meeting has been rescheduled; noted her recent attendance at the Lane Workforce Partnership meeting; thanked the Whiteaker Community Council for bringing together a collaborative inter-governmental team to work towards an unhoused response.
- Councilor Yeh – shared updates from the Metropolitan Water Management Commission.
- Councilor Clark – noted his appreciation for city staff who worked during the ice storm; asked how residents of Eugene would be contacted for boil water notices or other emergency situations.
- Mayor Vinis – noted how well the City handled the storm response.

4. PRIORITY GOAL ACTION: Adoption of a Resolution Approving a Low-Income Rental Housing Property Tax Exemption for Olive Plaza Senior Housing

City Manager, Sarah Medary, introduced the topic and provided background information.

MOTION: Councilor Keating, seconded by Councilor Groves, moved to adopt A Resolution Approving a Low-Income Rental Housing Property Tax Exemption for Property located on Olive Street in Eugene, Oregon (Assessor’s Map 17-03-31-42 Tax Lot 00300; Assessor’s Property Account No. 1238557) (Applicant Olive Plaza Senior Housing, Limited Partnership).

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Zelenka – noted the definition of low-income as it applies to qualifying for this low-income rental housing; stated the importance of providing this type of housing.

VOTE: 8:0 PASSED

5. PRIORITY GOAL ACTION: Adoption of a Resolution Approving a Low-Income Rental Housing Property Tax Exemption for Peace Village Housing Cooperative

City Manager, Sarah Medary, introduced the topic and provided background information.

MOTION: Councilor Keating, seconded by Councilor Groves, moved to adopt A Resolution Approving a Low-Income Rental Housing Property Tax Exemption for Property located on River Road in Eugene, Oregon (Assessor's Map 17-04-11-13 Tax Lot 01900; Assessor's Property Account No. 0357804) (Applicant Peace Village Housing Cooperative).

VOTE: 8:0 PASSED

6. PRIORITY GOAL ACTION: Adoption of a Resolution Approving a Low-Income Rental Housing Property Tax Exemption for Reveille on Sixth

City Manager, Sarah Medary, introduced the topic and provided background information.

MOTION: Councilor Keating, seconded by Councilor Groves, moved to adopt A Resolution Approving a Low-Income Rental Housing Property Tax Exemption for Property located on 6th Avenue in Eugene, Oregon (Assessor's Map 17-04-36-11 Tax Lots 09700, CC Agenda Page 32 January 22, 2024 Meeting - Item 6 09800, 09900, 09999; Assessor's Property Account Nos. 0473213, 0473221, 0473239, 0473247) (Applicant Reveille Foundation).

VOTE: 8:0 PASSED

7. CONSENT CALENDAR 1

A. Approval of City Council Minutes

- October 23, 2023 Work Session
- October 23, 2023 Meeting
- December 13, 2023 Work Session
- January 8, 2023 State of the City

B. Approval of City Council Tentative Agenda

C. Approval of Appointment to the Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission

D. Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Sale of General Obligation Bonds to Fund Street Repair, and Walking, Biking, Safety, and Street Tree Projects

MOTION: Councilor Keating, seconded by Councilor Groves, moved to approve the items on Consent Calendar 1.

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Zelenka - stated Peter Ruffier, the appointee to the Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission, is highly qualified; noted this is the fourth time the City has offered road bonds.

VOTE: 8:0 PASSED

Mayor Vinis closed the meeting of the Eugene City Council and convened a meeting of the Eugene Urban Renewal Agency.

8. ACTION: Resolution Acknowledging Receipt of the Annual Financial Report of the Urban Renewal Agency of the City of Eugene for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Agency Director, Sarah Medary, introduced the topic and provided background information.

MOTION: Councilor Keating, seconded by Councilor Groves, moved to approve a resolution acknowledging receipt of the Annual Financial Report for the Urban Renewal Agency of the City of Eugene for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. **VOTE: 8:0 PASSED**

Mayor Vinis closed the meeting of the Eugene Urban Renewal Agency and convened a meeting of the Eugene City Council.

9. ACTION: Resolution Acknowledging Receipt of City of Eugene, Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

City Manager, Sarah Medary, introduced the topic and provided background information.

MOTION: Councilor Keating, seconded by Councilor Groves, moved to approve a resolution acknowledging receipt of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the City of Eugene, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. **VOTE: 8:0 PASSED**

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Stefan Strek – spoke about the recent ice storm and impacts of houselessness on the community.
2. Scott Fife – spoke against the multi-unit property unit tax exemption.

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Semple – noted she has changed her stance on supporting multi-unit property unit tax exemptions to encourage housing development.

Mayor Vinis adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Katie LaSala
City Recorder

(Recorded by Cherish Bradshaw)

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