

MINUTES

**Eugene City Council
Meeting
Eugene, Oregon 97401**

**September 9, 2024
7:30 p.m.**

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

Councilors Absent: Greg Evans

Mayor Vinis opened the September 9, 2024, meeting of the Eugene City Council in hybrid in-person and virtual format at 500 E. 4th Avenue, Eugene, OR 97401, North Building.

1. CEREMONIAL MATTERS

Mayor Vinis read a proclamation for National Hispanic Heritage Month.

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

- Councilor Keating – noted it was National Voter Registration month and explained how to check and update one’s voter registration.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR 1

A. Approval of City Council Minutes

- June 10, 2024 Meeting
- June 12, 2024 Work Session
- June 24, 2024 Work Session
- June 24, 2024 Meeting
- June 26, 2024 Work Session
- July 8, 2024 Meeting

B. Approval of City Council Tentative Agenda

MOTION: Councilor Keating, seconded by Councilor Groves, moved to approve the items on Consent Calendar 1. **VOTE: 7:0 PASSED**

4. CONSENT CALENDAR 2

A. Real Property Disposal: Inadvertent Gap of Right of Way

B. Approval of a Resolution Annexing Land to the City of Eugene (Assessor’s Map 17-04-14-41, Tax Lot 00201, Located at 255 Maxwell Road) (City File: A 24-9)

C. Approval of a Resolution Annexing Portions of the Right-of-Way of Howard Avenue and North Park Avenue to the City of Eugene (Areas Identified as a Portion of the Howard Avenue Right-of-Way Between River Road and North Park Avenue and a Portion of the North Park Avenue Right-of-Way Between Maxwell Road and Howard Avenue (Assessor’s Map Nos. 17-04-13 And 17-04-14)) (City File: Howard and North Park; A 24-11)

MOTION: Councilor Keating, seconded by Councilor Groves, moved to approve the items on Consent Calendar 2.

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Leech – pulled item 4C, Approval of a Resolution Annexing Portions of the Right-of-Way of Howard Avenue and North Park Avenue to the City of Eugene, from Consent Calendar 2 and requested that it be discussed after Public Comment.

VOTE: 7:0 PASSED

5. ACTION: An Ordinance Concerning the Central Commercial Sign Code Standards and the Downtown Riverfront Special Area Zone, Amending Section 9.6670(3) of the Eugene Code, 1971.

MOTION: Councilor Keating, seconded by Councilor Groves, moved to adopt an Ordinance Concerning Central Commercial Sign Standards, Amending Section 9.6670 of the Eugene Code, 1971, and Providing an Effective Date.

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Groves – asked staff to speak to the topic.

VOTE: 6:1 (opposed by Councilor Keating)

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Keating – asked staff about the new voting system technology in Council Chambers, and if it was possible to make Councilors' votes visible before the final count.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Mark Bond – spoke in favor of lowering speed limits and increasing bus accessibility in the Bethel area.
2. Lin Woodrich – spoke about the need for a public health overlay zone in Bethel.
3. Rob Yost – spoke about his homelessness experience in Eugene and the importance of the Breakfast Brigade.
4. Zach Mullholand – spoke in favor of adopting public health development standards.
5. Iezak Bell – spoke about the importance of the Breakfast Brigade.
6. Kamryn Stringfield – spoke about the importance of socially responsible investing.
7. Jessica Kirk – spoke about being a ward of the state with her brother.
8. David Igl – spoke about Oregon history and the Ferry Street Bridge community.
9. Mike McFarlane – asked for the removal of the dangerous Millrace Low Head Dam.
10. David Ivan Piccioni – spoke about past relationships.
11. Rev. Wayne Martin – spoke about the importance of the Breakfast Brigade.
12. Frank Harper – asked for the removal of the dangerous Millrace Low Head Dam.
13. John Monroe – spoke about the local treatment of unhoused individuals.
14. Peter Simmeth – spoke about the importance of safe sidewalks.
15. Curtis Blankinship – spoke about the concept of “zombie” properties and ways to increase housing.
16. Thomas Hiura – spoke against the genocide in Gaza.

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Groves – noted it is complicated to change speed limits; asked for an update on the public health overlay zone; noted the danger presented by the Millrace Low Head Dam; noted other dangers in the Willamette River.
- Councilor Yeh – noted she would be at the Springfield History Museum’s booth at the upcoming commemorative celebration for the 75th anniversary of the Ferry Steet Bridge community; asked for an update on the City’s efforts to work with the Breakfast Brigade to resolve their permit compliance issues.
- Councilor Keating – noted his appreciation for those who came to speak on behalf of the Breakfast Brigade; noted his appreciation for Active Bethel Community speaking about traffic calming; stated he would like to see additional speed trailers deployed throughout the community; thanked those who spoke about sidewalk safety; noted his interest in the concept of “zombie” properties; stated his interest in establishing a vacancy tax; stated Rob Yost is welcome to join the community anytime and wished him well.
- Councilor Zelenka – noted he has respect for the power of rivers and always wears his life vest; stated it is a good idea to remove the Millrace Low Head Dam; suggested warning signs be added upstream until the dam is removed; noted interest in sidewalks being fixed at the time of sale; asked about the current process for sidewalk repair; noted the current system for repair is haphazard and relies on the homeowner.
- Councilor Semple – noted her appreciation for the evening’s speakers; stated her hope that the City can find a good solution for the Breakfast Brigade; noted there are many broken sidewalks in her neighborhood which have caused her to trip; stated she has worked with staff in the past about the sidewalk issue.
- Mayor Vinis – noted she doesn’t have an update on the issue of ethical investing.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR 2 – Item pulled for discussion.

C. Approval of a Resolution Annexing Portions of the Right-of-Way of Howard Avenue and North Park Avenue to the City of Eugene (Areas Identified as a Portion of the Howard Avenue Right-of-Way Between River Road and North Park Avenue and a Portion of the North Park Avenue Right-of-Way Between Maxwell Road and Howard Avenue (Assessor’s Map Nos. 17-04-13 And 17-04-14)) (City File: Howard and North Park; A 24-11)

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Leech – asked staff to speak to the topic.

MOTION: Councilor Keating, seconded by Councilor Groves, moved approval of item 4C as previously described under Consent Calendar 2. **VOTE: 7:0 PASSED**

Mayor Vinis adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Katie LaSala
City Recorder

(Recorded by Cherish Bradshaw)

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