

MINUTES

Eugene City Council Work Session Eugene, Oregon 97401

September 9, 2024
5:30 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, work session of the Eugene City Council in hybrid in-person and virtual format at 500 E. 4th Avenue, Eugene, OR 97401, North Building.

1. **WORK SESSION and POTENTIAL ACTION: Interim Police Auditor**

Central Services Executive Director, Mia Cariaga and Council President Keating discussed the appointment of an Interim Police Auditor.

MOTION: Councilor Keating, seconded by Councilor Groves moved to appoint Mark Gissiner as the Interim Police Auditor and authorize the Council President and Vice President to negotiate and execute an Interim Police Auditor employment agreement with compensation including a base salary, living allowance, and incidentals not exceeding the maximum annual amount currently budgeted for the position of Police Auditor.

Councilor Discussion:

- Councilor Groves – asked how the current situation compares with similar past interim appointments.
- Councilor Zelenka – noted he had enjoyed working with the previous police auditor, Mark Gissiner; stated he would be glad if Mark Gissiner came out of retirement and served in the interim role; noted there would be no impact to the budget.
- Councilor Clark – asked about the role Mark Gissiner would play in the selection of a permanent police auditor; asked about the cost of consulting with Mark Gissiner to fill the role; suggested adding a friendly amendment to the motion to empower Council officers to negotiate counseling services with Mark Gissiner; noted it may be valuable to clarify if recruiting would be part of his role as interim auditor.
- Councilor Zelenka – stated he expects assistance with the recruitment of a permanent auditor is part of the interim auditor’s duties; noted it may be useful to send Mark Gissiner to the police auditor conference in October as a representative of the City; spoke in favor of hiring additional consulting services to assist in the recruitment process.

VOTE: 7:0 PASSED

2. WORK SESSION: Financial Condition

City Manager, Sarah Medary, introduced Twylla Miller, Chief Financial Officer who presented on the financial condition of the General Fund.

Councilor Discussion:

- Councilor Groves – noted his appreciation for the presentation; asked if inflation is causing the additional budget gap in Fiscal Year (FY) 26; asked if there is a discussion about property tax reform at the state level; stated the importance of good communication with the public as discussions of tax reform develop; noted concerns about implementing a fire fee.
- Councilor Keating – noted concerns about implementing a fire fee; noted he misses the interactive budget feature on the City website; asked if there is a place on the City website that breaks down non-departmental programs and their cost and impact on the city; stated he is looking forward to learning more about the proposed fire service fee.
- Councilor Zelenka – stated the importance of context when discussing the City’s budget; noted 13 of the last 16 budgets have been cut budgets; noted the City has the lowest number of employees per capita in 18 years and is still providing excellent service to the community; stated while the budget deficit is concerning, he is optimistic about the direction of the City.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Katie LaSala
City Recorder

(Recorded by Cherish Bradshaw)

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