

MINUTES

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

October 14, 2024
7:30 p.m.

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

Councilors Absent: Matt Keating

Mayor Vinis opened the October 14, 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 in honor of Indigenous Peoples' Day.

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

- Councilor Evans – shared updates from the Intergovernmental Relations Committee regarding legislative priorities and policies and preparation for the upcoming legislative session.
- Councilor Semple – spoke about the importance of sidewalk safety; encouraged the community to use paint to indicate sidewalk tripping hazards.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR 1

A. Approval of City Council Minutes

- July 24, 2024 Work Session
- September 9, 2024 Work Session
- September 9, 2024 Meeting

B. Approval of City Council Tentative Agenda

C. Approval of Voting Delegate for League of Oregon Cities Business Meeting

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

4. Action: Authorize Additional Urban Renewal Agency Funding for Acquisition of Two Downtown Properties from the City of Eugene

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

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

MOTION: Councilor Groves, seconded by Councilor Zelenka, moved to offer to purchase the North Butterfly Lot for \$1,060,000 and the 8th

and Pearl Lot for \$1,020,000 from the City of Eugene and direct the Agency Director to include \$210,000 from the Downtown Urban Renewal District and \$170,000 from the Riverfront Urban Renewal District for these purchases in the December 2024 Supplemental Budget and take all necessary actions to acquire the properties. **VOTE: 7:0 PASSED**

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

5. Action: Transfer of Two Downtown Properties to Urban Renewal Agency
City Manager, Sarah Medary, introduced the topic and provided background information.

MOTION: Councilor Groves, seconded by Councilor Zelenka, moved to direct the City Manager to facilitate the transfer of the North Butterfly Lot for \$1,060,000 and the 8th and Pearl Lot for \$1,020,000 to the Urban Renewal Agency of the City of Eugene. **VOTE: 7:0 PASSED**

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Lin Woodrich – spoke against the USD Clean Fuels transloading facility.
2. Eva Carlson – spoke about the difficulties of being unhoused.
3. Nancy Buffum – spoke about the importance of sidewalk safety.
4. Curtis Blankinship – spoke about uses for the space under freeway overpasses.
5. Stefan (Ace Dog) Strek – spoke in favor of parks and against urban renewal projects.
6. David Igl – spoke about local historical events.
7. Lisa Levsen – spoke about the issue of hunger in the city.
8. Linda Kelley – spoke in favor of requiring new tax-exempt developments to be fully electric.
9. Bill O'Brien – spoke against the conflict in Israel and Palestine.
10. Ken Jones – spoke against natural gas in residential homes.
11. Carolyn Partridge – spoke in favor of requiring new tax-exempt developments to be fully electric.
12. Sandra Bishop – spoke in favor of requiring new tax-exempt developments to be fully electric.
13. Tayten Torgrimson – spoke about the difficulties of being unhoused in the winter.
14. Jim Neu – spoke in favor of requiring new tax-exempt developments to be fully electric.
15. Michael beavers – spoke about struggles as a local retail business owner.
16. Lisa Arkin – spoke against the USD Clean Fuels transloading facility.
17. Debra McGee – spoke in favor of requiring new tax-exempt developments to be fully electric.
18. Zach Mulholland – spoke in favor of requiring new tax-exempt developments to be fully electric.

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Groves – asked if the Oregon Department of Transportation owns the land under most overpasses in the city.

- Councilor Zelenka – asked if the City has placed any rocks under overpasses; noted how to find information about the City’s response to homelessness on the website.
- Councilor Yeh – noted her appreciation for the data shared by Lisa Levsen with Neighbors Feeding Neighbors; noted her availability after the meeting to meet with a concerned community member.
- Councilor Evans – noted efforts made to reduce rising crime in his ward; noted the effects on local businesses; spoke about the need for more police and human services.
- Mayor Vinis – noted the public benefit criteria are retained with the accelerated Multi-Unit Property Tax Exemption (MUPTE) process; noted the request to make new tax-exempt developments fully electric was a good point.

Mayor Vinis adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Katie LaSala
City Recorder

(Recorded by Cherish Bradshaw)

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