

MINUTES

**Eugene City Council
Harris Hall, 125 East 8th Avenue
Eugene, Oregon 97401**

**February 8, 2017
12:00 p.m.**

Councilors Present: Emily Semple, Betty Taylor, Alan Zelenka, George Poling, Mike Clark, Claire Syrett, Chris Pryor

Councilors Absent: Greg Evans

Mayor Vinis opened the February 8, 2017, meeting of the Eugene City Council.

Councilor Syrett condemned the hate activity that occurred in the Whiteaker neighborhood over the weekend and gave information about the Whiteaker neighborhood meeting at which the incidents would be discussed.

1, ACTION:

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Semple, seconded by Councilor Clark, moved to reschedule the South Willamette work session from February 22 to sometime in March, to allow additional time for community outreach. In addition, a revised staff proposal will be submitted to council by February 28. **PASSED 7:0**

Council discussion:

- Residents of South Willamette area feel they haven't had enough time to review the proposal.

2. WORK SESSION: Downtown and Neighborhood Public Safety

Assistant City Manager Sarah Medary, Planning and Development Executive Director Denny Braud, and Police Chief Pete Kerns gave a PowerPoint presentation on downtown and neighborhood public safety covering what was heard from the community, an EPD overview, project updates, and next steps.

Council discussion:

- Concern expressed that major issues aren't being addressed; current efforts are just "nibbling around the edges."
- Need to identify and address inappropriate behaviors.
- Anything that is done for downtown should also work for the entire city.
- Important to hold people accountable for their actions; take greater advantage of jail beds.
- Key to success will be addressing negative and anti-social behaviors downtown.
- Addressing the issues through law enforcement isn't enough; other programming and cultural strategies are helpful.
- Creating a vibrant downtown for everyone will be a community effort.
- Consider maintain and expanding free parking downtown.
- People have to go somewhere; explore shelter options.
- Opposed to banning of dogs; if dogs don't have a license they should be asked to get one.

- Larger conversation about goals and objectives for downtown needed.
- Community Court is a key strategy to help break the cycle of misbehavior.
- Free parking has been a total failure; lots of little improvements can add up.
- Dog ban in West University has proven to be effective and successful.
- Homeless problem should not be equated with criminal activity downtown.
- Important to have constant police presence downtown; bike patrol effective.
- Proposals provide opportunities to pilot programs and target specific issues; solutions should be in place with warmer weather coming.
- More jail beds and greater police presence needed downtown; this is where resources are lacking.

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Zelenka, seconded by Councilor Clark, moved to direct the City Manager to schedule a public hearing on the proposed ordinance on the dog restrictions. **PASSED 6:1**, Councilor Taylor opposed.

Council discussion:

- Agree with desired outcome; not sure if this is the appropriate mechanism to get there.
- Many laws are created to address the behaviors of a limited population; this is one thing the City can try.

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Zelenka, seconded by Councilor Clark, moved to direct the City Manager to schedule a public hearing on the proposed ordinance related to expansion of smoke free areas downtown. **PASSED 5:2**, Councilors Semple and Clark opposed.

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Zelenka, seconded by Councilor Clark, moved to extend the meeting an additional 10 minutes. **PASSED 7:0**

Council discussion:

- Proposed ban is unfair to bars and established businesses; 10 ft. rule is helping.
- Unfair to employees and residents who would have to walk for blocks to smoke.
- Downtown neighborhood association voted against this proposal.
- Real value of this proposal is as a public health issue.
- Second-hand smoke impacts people who have a right to be protected.
- This issue represents a collision between community and individual rights.

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Chuck Crockett
Deputy City Recorder