

## MINUTES

**Eugene City Council  
Harris Hall, 125 East 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Eugene, Oregon 97401**

**October 11, 2017  
12:00 p.m.**

**Councilors Present:** Emily Semple, Betty Taylor, Alan Zelenka, Jennifer Yeh, Mike Clark, Greg Evans, Claire Syrett, Chris Pryor

Mayor Vinis opened the October 11, 2017, Work Session of the Eugene City Council.

### **1. Committee Reports and Items of Interest from Mayor, City Council, and City Manager**

#### Council Discussion

- Support reinstallation of “Flying People” artwork at the airport.
- More police officers are needed to address community issues.
- Pleased to see Police Chief Recruitment outreach.
- Strategies for emergency shelter this winter are needed.
- Councilor Evans was elected as League of Oregon Cities Vice President.
- Climate Recovery Ordinance Ad Hoc Committee completed its work a few weeks ago.
- Climate and Energy Action Plan Update coming soon.
- Distracted driving is a pervasive problem. State has new fine schedule for distracted driving citations; app available to monitor distracted driving.
- In the Lane County Jail, 60 percent of inmates have a mental health issue.
- Passage of the G.O. Bond is critical to the council’s work and goals.
- Hood River limits rental housing to 90 days a year and charges fee for rental housing license.
- Anticipate a work session poll on construction excise tax.
- Drones offer manufacturing opportunity and career path.

### **2. WORK SESSION: Fireworks Proposal**

Fire Chief Joe Zaludek and Assistant Fire Marshal Amy Linder gave a presentation about education and enforcement efforts around fireworks in Eugene since 2014 and potential future solutions.

#### Council Discussion

- Fireworks are dangerous and can easily cause fires; enforcement would be easier and more effective if there was a ban on all fireworks.
- Explore the possibility of allowing only silent fireworks.
- Enforcement is the biggest issue; a ban may not change people’s actions.
- Consider an exception for permitted commercial displays.
- This is a quality-of-life issue; balance health and safety aspect with holiday celebration.
- Interest in *Nail ‘Em* application (photo with time stamp and GPS coordinates of location); easier to “catch them in the act” and eliminates need for eye witnesses.
- The 2015 ban was effective; important to build on that initiative.

- All fireworks make some noise, but some legal fireworks have small bangs and, if not used the way the manufacturer intended, could be louder and more dangerous.
- Having designated areas to shoot off legal fireworks may come with hazards and higher insurance rates.
- Education and outreach will be important if changing fireworks ordinance.
- Period of time fireworks are allowed could be limited even more than the current range of days.
- It is challenging to make rules that will be difficult to enforce.

**MOTION (with friendly):** Councilor Semple, seconded by Councilor Syrett, moved to direct the City Manager to bring back an ordinance for a work session that puts a citywide ban on all personal fireworks except quiet personal fireworks (sparklers and quiet fountains), limits the days quiet personal fireworks can be used to December 31, January 1, July 3 and 4, and limits the days for commercial firework displays to July 3-5, and to provide information to the Council regarding the potential impacts of limiting commercial displays to July 3-5.

**MOTION TO SUBSTITUTE and VOTE:** Councilor Taylor, seconded by Councilor Syrett, moved to substitute a motion to have a complete ban on all fireworks. **FAILED 3:5**, councilors Pryor, Clark, Yeh, Zelenka, and Semple opposed.

**VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION: PASSED 7:1**, Councilor Clark opposed.

**MOTION and VOTE:** Councilor Zelenka, seconded by Councilor Evans, moved to direct the City Manager to pursue an app that allows for citizen submission of unlawful firework usage and possible fines. **PASSED: 8-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 1:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elena Domingo  
Deputy City Recorder