

MINUTES

**Joint Meeting of the
Eugene City Council and Lane County Board of Commissioners
Harris Hall, 125 East 8th Avenue
Eugene, Oregon 97401**

**January 22, 2019
5:30 p.m.**

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

Commissioners Present: Jay Bozievich, Pat Farr, Pete Sorenson, Joe Berney, Heather Buch

Mayor Vinis and Commissioner Sorenson opened the January 22, 2019, Joint Meeting of the Eugene City Council and Lane County Board of Commissioners.

1. WORK SESSION: Homeless Services Systems Analysis Report

City Manager Jon Ruiz and County Administrator Steve Mokrohisky provided introductory remarks and turned the presentation over to Gina Schaak, Elizabeth Stewart, and Douglas Tetrault, staff from the Technical Assistance Collaborative to provide the final report.

Discussion

- Councilor Clark – said the TAC recommendation won't solve the issues Eugene is facing; single people living alone is a significant population not addressed in the strategies; consider requiring single people to live in shared housing.
- Councilor Syrett – expressed appreciation for the level of detail in the final report; these are reasonable recommendations that will point the community towards its goal; supported proposed motions, noting they will require changes to systems currently in place.
- Commissioner Bozievich – said the recommendation to add 40 new Full Time Equivalent positions is a huge commitment; asked if a data model is available to test the input assumptions and conclusions.
- Councilor Zelenka – said the report offers a new approach and ideas and an opportunity to get on a glide path to success; requested additional information about operating costs for the navigation center, the tenancy support concept, and budget gaps.
- Councilor Pryor – noted that most of the items on the list of recommendation have been considered before but the report compiled and integrated them into a system; encouraged moving from coordination to cooperation.
- Commissioner Berney – said it is hard to contain the passion, knowing the pain and uncertainty of this crisis situation; raised the issue of homeless children and asked how the community can reconcile those statistics against a proposal that targets a completely different population; if the issues facing homeless families with children aren't addressed, the community will see increases in addictions, criminal behavior and poor health.
- Councilor Semple – encouraged by proposed process which should help other, sub-populations of homeless; asked whether pursuing recommendations was realistic and economically feasible; asked if implementation would result in a decrease in the percentage of homelessness or in the actual number of homeless people.
- Councilor Taylor – asked about the availability of publicly supported facilities for people other than the proposed low-barrier shelter; important to consider those who experience sudden homelessness due to inability to pay medical or utility bills.

- Commissioner Farr – commended the program outlined in the report, noting how daunting implementation will be.
- Commissioner Buch – cautioned the group about the price tag of implementation.
- Councilor Clark – asked if there will be any rules at a low-barrier shelter; asked about the percentage of homeless who are unwilling to follow rules and whether a goal of functional zero is possible if this group is included in the shelter strategies.
- Commissioner Sorenson – said the next step in the process must be to engage in conversation about where the money for implementation will come from.
- Councilor Syrett – noted that public dollars are currently underutilized because opportunities for collaboration and cooperation aren't being maximized; suggested that not following the recommendations will cost the community more money in the long term.
- Commissioner Farr – stated that not having all of the resources and plans needed at present shouldn't stop efforts to pursue the steps that are immediately within reach.
- Councilor Zelenka – said that it will take an estimated \$3-4 million annually for ongoing program costs, but the results will be dramatic, with huge benefits to the whole community.
- Councilor Pryor – urged the group to directly confront cost issues through coordination and cooperation.
- Commissioner Berney – supported exploring a systemic way to collect more resources; while the proposal is an institution-based model, look at community-based models as well.

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Taylor, seconded by Councilor Semple, moved to approve the Technical Assistance Collaborative Report. **PASSED 7:0**

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Taylor, seconded by Councilor Semple, moved to direct the City Manager to work with the County Administrator to establish by May 1, 2019, a framework and plan for implementing the recommendations in the TAC report. **PASSED 7:0**

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Taylor, seconded by Councilor Semple, moved to establish a steering committee to provide feedback during development of the implementation plan, with the steering committee comprised of: two elected officials from each jurisdiction; the Lane County Administrator and the Eugene City Manager; and, two representatives from the Poverty and Homelessness Board. **PASSED 7:0**

- Councilor Clark – asked about Springfield's involvement in efforts to address homelessness.
- Commissioner Berney – explained that Springfield's focus is on children and families experiencing homelessness; their perspective would bring a lot to the conversation.
- Councilor Syrett – noted that Springfield is represented on the Poverty and Homeless Board; they are fully engaged in the discussion.
- Councilor Taylor – asked if it would be possible to redirect marijuana tax money toward efforts to implement the TAC recommendations.

The meeting adjourned at 1:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Forrest

Beth Forrest
City Recorder

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