

MINUTES

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

**May 15, 2019
12:00 p.m.**

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

Mayor Vinis opened the May 15, 2019, Work Session of the Eugene City Council.

1. ACTION: An Ordinance Concerning Restrictions on the Distribution of Single-Use Serviceware, Adding Sections 6.870 and 6.872 to the Eugene Code, 1971, and Amending Section 6.990 of that Code.

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Taylor, seconded by Councilor Semple, moved to adopt an ordinance concerning restrictions on the distribution of single-use serviceware, adding sections 6.870 and 6.872 to the Eugene Code, 1971, and amending section 6.990 of that code. **PASSED 8:0**

2. WORK SESSION: Town Square Project Update

Urban Development Manager Will Dowdy, Julie Fischer of Cogito Partners, and Francesca Gambetti of Shiels Oblatz Johnsen, provided a progress check-in on Eugene's Town Square Project, which combines the Park Blocks improvements, permanent Farmers Market space, and City Hall building.

Council Discussion

- Councilor Syrett – asked staff how city hall is being considered within the town square public engagement conversations.
- Councilor Clark – asked about the project's budget structure; inquired how much money is available for city hall fund; discussed historical conversations about budget considerations; inquired if staff is developing a budget based on values or based on community desires; expressed concern about council perspectives around budget considerations and how they will be resolved before voting to move forward; inquired about the timeline for city hall construction and discussed process for public budget requests.
- Councilor Semple – expressed enthusiasm for project and discussed upcoming meetings and pace of project; inquired about the status of design work and public engagement process; discussed pace of design development and inquired about staff capacity for design work during that time period; inquired if there is enough time to do public outreach similar to that for Riverfront Park; expressed concern about vendors at Saturday and Farmers' Markets and asked how disruptions would be mitigated; discussed effects of potential impacts to market vendors, especially for those vending at the Free Speech Plaza.
- Councilor Pryor – Discussed historical experiences with town square and city hall conversations and the need to weigh speed, cost and quality considerations; discussed compromises among creating something quickly, cheaply, or well; expressed desire that a city hall building be built with a legacy goal, keeping in mind a balance between what is affordable and what is valued.
- Councilor Zelenka – shared similar concerns as other councilors; discussed historical conversations regarding town square and city hall development; discussed potential

process moving forward including process for town square and budget separately; inquired about money made from Butterfly Lot; expressed desire to vote on motion to get project started.

- Councilor Taylor - expressed concerns about budget constraints; asked staff if park blocks and Butterfly lots would be disrupted at the same time and offered idea about how to mitigate effects of development on Saturday and Farmers' Markets.
- Mayor Vinis – explained challenges of long public engagement processes and affirmation to staff for continued work; expressed desire for consistent updates for sake of public; reiterated Councilor Semple's comments about the markets and that vendors would need to be key stakeholders to town square conversations; expressed desire to make process fun and creative.
- Councilor Clark – discussed historical next-steps raised during prior conversations and inquired as to status of those steps; offered perspective on challenges of budgeting for project and public considerations of budget constraints; expressed desire to discuss as council the balance of values needed to meet budget needs before voting to move forward with design work; mentioned concerns about use of "heart of the city" when describing town square development and expressed belief that the river would be the "heart of the city,"

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Taylor, seconded by Councilor Semple, moved to direct the City Manager to take the necessary next steps to design city hall on the Butterfly lot in planning for the town square. **PASSED 7:1**, Councilor Clark opposed.

3. **WORK SESSION: River Road-Santa Clara Neighborhood Plan Project Update**

Metro Community Planning Manager Terri Harding, Associate Planner Eric Brown, and community stakeholders Kate Perle, Louisa de Heer, and Jon Belcher presented the results from the *Policy Development* phase of the River Road-Santa Clara Neighborhood Plan Project.

Council Discussion

- Councilor Clark – expressed gratitude for public engagement process for this planning; asked presenters about future actions and when work plans would be completed; inquired how TAC report and Clear and Objective Standards will affect work, including code planning; inquired the area's comprehensive plan and this plan would intersect and conflict, as well as what would happen if there were conflicts; asked which goals were most popular; asked staff about public energy towards maintaining current neighborhood characteristics versus changing; discussed cost and asset allocation and if neighbors would accept taking on cost of developments.

MOTION TO VOTE: Councilor Syrett, seconded by Councilor Pryor, moved to extend the meeting by 10 minutes. **PASSED 7:1**, Semple opposed.

- Councilor Semple – expressed gratitude for the project and need for more to be involved; inquired about money dedicated for the project, current money used, and estimates for requested monies in the future; reiterated Councilor Clark's comments about controversy and asked about barriers for goals/subjects seen as most controversial; asked why there is a lot of planning being done without knowing what can be planned; asked what presenters plan to do if motion to move forward fails.
- Councilor Syrett - reiterated Councilor Clark's comments about presenters and public long term engagement with this area and long history of public engagement; discussed policy areas she has witnessed come up throughout the planning process; expressed desire for unanimous vote moving forward.
- Councilor Zelenka - expressed excitement and appreciation about public outreach and planning process; expressed appreciation for staff person Eric Brown.

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Taylor, seconded by Councilor Semple, moved to direct staff to begin the Action Planning phase of the project based on the draft goals and policies in Attachment A. **PASSED 7:1**, Councilor Semple opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Beth Forrest
City Recorder

(Recorded by Samantha Roberts)

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