

MINUTES

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

**July 8, 2019
5:30 p.m.**

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

Councilor Taylor opened the July 8, 2019, work session of the Eugene City Council in Mayor Vinis' absence.

1. Committee Reports and Items of Interest

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Evans - shared information about his recent experience at the National League of Cities' summer meeting and the group's upcoming report on affordable housing.
- Councilor Semple: announced that there are two new bathrooms coming soon thanks to the recent budget allocation, noting the Overpark garage bathrooms have new signage and will be monitored hourly.
- Councilor Taylor - shared complaints she's received about the speed bumps in the Overpark garage; attended the National League of Cities' summer meeting and learned about a food recycling program in Indianapolis; attended the recent Livable Cities Conference where she learned about a day center for homeless residents in Madison, Wisconsin; wanted to know what could be done to fight implementation of House Bill 2001.
- Councilor Clark - requested a work session to talk about HB 2001 in detail.

Councilor Zelenka joined the meeting at 5:46 p.m.

2. WORK SESSION: Parks and Recreation System Development Charge Methodology Update

Parks Natural Resource Planner Carolyn Burke and Consultant Deb Galardi of the Galardi Rothstein Group gave background on the topic including the overall vision for how funding would be used, how transportation and parks SDCs are currently calculated, a possible new rate structure that would be more progressive for housing; a new possible rate structure for commercial SDCs, and a timeline for continuing the conversation on the topic with council.

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Clark – expressed concern about the corresponding increase in housing costs; suggested that demand management strategies may be needed; asked what percent of '07 projects were on the list distributed at the meeting.
- Councilor Pryor – appreciated the work to make less expensive, smaller housing types more affordable.
- Councilor Zelenka – asked for clarification of the SDC project list; appreciated that the progressive scale accounted for affordability based on square footage.
- Councilor Evans – expressed concern that the City wouldn't be able to afford the parks development residents were asking for; asked about circumstances under which fees could

be waived; pointed out that some of the cities used for comparison in the presentation slides were cities with much higher average incomes than Eugene.

- Councilor Syrett – appreciated the progressive approach, which resulted in a reduction for accessory dwelling units and smaller homes; preferred not to drop any of the projects on the list distributed; asked staff to follow up with her on what percentage increases were used in 2007.
- Councilor Clark – preferred not to increase the cost of housing through SDCs while also increasing the capacity of the parks by \$58 million; felt it was not the time—given the housing crisis—to do more projects; requested list of projects that were still on the list from 2007.
- Councilor Zelenka – requested data on Springfield, Albany and Portland; noted that it had been 12 years since council had last increased the SDCs; said that the city’s parks increase livability; noted another option in which the smallest homes had a zero or negative increase in rate and larger increases for homes with more square footage.
- Councilor Pryor – said that even if the current rate didn’t change, the scale should be adjusted so that it is progressive and, therefore, more affordable for smaller homes.
- Councilor Evans – asked how many developers were working on smaller homes (under 1600 square feet) within the city.
- Councilor Semple – said it was important to encourage development; increasing fees may discourage housing development.

3. **WORK SESSION: Municipal Court Presiding Judge**

City Manager’s Office Interim Division Manager Becky DeWitt introduced the item Judge Gill spoke about his professional background, his involvement in the local Community Court; the key values he thinks the municipal court should uphold; and his vision for the future of the municipal court.

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

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Clark – asked Judge Gill how effective the court was in reducing recidivism; stated preference for a municipal court that is firmer in holding people accountable than the previous Presiding Judge’s court.
- Councilor Zelenka – asked Judge Gill how he knows the Community Court works and when the evaluation by National Center for State Courts will be available; asked how the Judge would handle his role as a partner in his current firm if he were to be hired by the City as the presiding judge.

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Beth Forrest
City Recorder

(Recorded by Cas Casados)

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