

# MINUTES

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

**November 18, 2019  
7:30 p.m.**

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

Mayor Vinis opened the November 18, 2019, public hearing of the Eugene City Council.

**1. PUBLIC HEARING: An Ordinance Concerning Restrictions on the Use of Polystyrene Containers and Adding Sections 6.874, 6.876, and 6.878 to the Eugene Code, 1971.**

1. Art Farley – shared support for the ordinance on behalf of the Sustainability Commission.
2. Jim Neu – asked council to pass a ban on single-use plastic foodware.
3. Susan Macomson – voiced concern about the impacts of plastic on the land and children.
4. Cynthia Matherly – highlighted the safety concerns of Styrofoam throughout its lifecycle.
5. Karyn Kaplan – urged council to adopt the ban as alternative products exist.
6. Kaelin Kane – supported the ban and spoke to the impact of big business on people’s lives.
7. Charmain Rehg – asked council to ban plastic straws and utensils as well as polystyrene.
8. Abigail Keep – spoke about her experiences picking up trash at a local park; supported the ban.
9. Ralph McDonald – said he thought the ban was an important “baby step” council should take.
10. Gregory Hill – noted the health effects of chemicals used to make plastic; supported the ban.
11. Hailey Coleman – said she was fearful for the future and urged council to pass the ban.
12. John Desmarteau Jr. – spoke about the technology for recycling polystyrene.
13. Pete Frost – said polystyrene was toxic; supported a prohibition.
14. Zack Mulholland – urged council to consider banning all single-use food plastics.
15. Stefan Strek – supported the creation of a Styrofoam buy-back program.

Discussion

- Councilor Taylor – thanked the speakers for their comments.

**2. PUBLIC HEARING: An Ordinance Concerning Single-Use Checkout Bags, Amending Sections 6.850 and 6.855 of the Eugene Code, 1971, and Repealing Sections 6.860 and 6.865 of that Code.**

1. Stefan Strek – said he did not think plastic bags needed to be banned.
2. Andre Royal – wondered whether ban would apply to delivery services.

Discussion

- Councilor Semple – said she was happy to see the OSPIRG students participating.
- Councilor Zelenka - asked when the ordinances would take effect and what exemptions there may be.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Beth Forrest  
City Recorder

*(Recorded by Cas Casados)*

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