

MINUTES

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

April 23, 2018
5:30 p.m.

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

Mayor Vinis opened the April 23, 2018, Work Session of the Eugene City Council.

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

Council Discussion

- Regarding the Construction Excise Tax and revenue streams to support affordable housing, council will come back in May to discuss progress, consider the research and give staff further direction.
- Comments provided about the interpretation and implementation of SB 1051.
- Update provided about Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission, including its public information program, school programs, treatment plant tours, community groups and pollution prevention campaign.
- Lane Regional Air Protection Agency has reversed course on the burn ban within UGB. Now the ability to burn depends on size of the property.
- Many in the community are concerned about redevelopment plans for Hayward Field and proposed elimination of the East Grandstand. Council should explore options for protecting the structure.
- There has been a great amount of interest shown by the community in the reactivation of the Active Bethel Citizens group.
- Bike Share grand opening had a wonderful turnout. Thank you to PeaceHealth for sponsoring the program.
- Regarding the proposed marijuana buffer zone, although the process requires hearings by both the Planning Commission and City Council, hope to make a decision before Council summer break.
- It is distressing to see people sleeping on the sidewalk. Council should consider allowing people to sleep on the old City Hall lot.
- Cal Young Neighborhood meeting is scheduled for Thursday and Northeast Neighbors will meet next Thursday.
- Reminder that new Police Chief, Chris Skinner, will start work on Monday, April 30.

Mayor Vinis adjourned the meeting of the Eugene City Council and convened a meeting of the Eugene Urban Renewal Agency.

2. URA WORK SESSION: Steam Plant Disposition Process

Community Development Director Michael Kinnison, Business Development Analyst Amanda D'Souza, and Urban Development Manager Will Dowdy, provided an update about the proposed process and criteria for disposition of the steam plant, including weighing the public benefit, timeliness and feasibility, and compatibility with other plans.

Council Discussion

- More information needed about why the 2021 steering committee is involved in the disposition process and concerns that criteria for the RFQ include hosting 2021 events.
- Excited and supportive of the RFQ process and timeline.
- Support including 2021 as a criteria to achieve the underlying goals, but may be more appropriate to change the wording to “benefit to” instead of “commitment to work with.”
- Renovation of the steam plant was discussed at the Mayor’s Institute on City Design conference.

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Clark, seconded by Councilor Taylor, moved to approve the use of an RFQ/RFP process for disposition of the Steam Plant using criteria that are consistent with Attachment C. **VOTE: PASSED 8:0.**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting of the Eugene Urban Renewal Agency and reconvened the meeting of the Eugene City Council.

3. WORK SESSION: Homeless Systems Analysis and Public Shelter Study Update

Policy Analyst Jason Dedrick gave an update about funding for a study of the homeless framework, including the complex system of services, and how a shelter best fits into that framework understanding the financial and policy context.

Council Discussion

- Questions raised about options for different homeless populations and how we help each of them differently.
- Specifics about who is the best partner for each particular service would be helpful.
- Important to have the information ahead of pursuing the strategy; will help inform decisions.
- The Public Shelter Study will be about the building, but it’s also about the package of services that need to be provided.
- Grateful to Council and Budget Committee for initiating work and resources towards a shelter and for the community’s dedication.
- City-County collaboration on this issue is critical to its success.
- There is some skepticism about whether the study will tell us what we already know or will propel us to action with limited resources.
- An approach that is on a manageable and achievable scale is needed, as opposed to trying to solve the problem of homelessness in one report.

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elena Domingo
Deputy City Recorder