

MINUTES

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

**September 26, 2018
12:00 p.m.**

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

Councilors Absent: Alan Zelenka, Greg Evans

Mayor Vinis opened the September 26, 2018, Work Session of the Eugene City Council.

1. WORK SESSION: Community Safety System Update

Assistant City Manager Kristie Hammitt, Police Chief Chris Skinner, Fire Chief Joe Zaludek, and Community Safety Project Manager Kevin Alltucker provided an overview and update of progress made since the last update, desired outcomes, and next steps. Chief Skinner and Chief Zaludek reported back about the 26 community events they attended over the summer.

Council Discussion

- Happy and excited about this initiative and the progress being made; so much work has gone into the process.
- The bridge funding will give council an idea of how this is all going to work; council can then move forward to find more permanent funding.
- The complicated information in the presentation was provided in a very accessible way.
- Support the idea of using a dedicated bank account which will help make it an open, transparent, and accountable process to see where the dollars are actually going.
- After the school lock-down, North Eugene residents expressed their appreciation for the police response and knowing that their kids and the community were safe, that the situation was under control in short order, and that communication was timely and effective.
- With a new chief and a new plan in place, the community can look forward to new results.
- This plan is a reflection of the work that has been done to take in feedback from the community, synthesize it, and think creatively about the daunting challenges.
- Something has significantly changed in the approach the City is taking towards these matters. There has been much more collaboration between City departments and that is the only way progress can be made.
- Continue reaching out to Lane County as the provider of mental health services. They need to be engaged with the City on these issues.
- The community would greatly benefit from a centrally located day center.
- The report appropriately corrects the myth that if more shelters or services are offered, it will attract more people from other communities.
- Happy to see thoughtful, deliberate, and accountable action lined up to address potential barriers.
- Support for the bridge funding approach should be built on the expectation that the City has started a running clock running to find the ongoing money. There has to be follow-through.
- The city urgently needs a downtown homeless shelter if it's going to enforce existing camping and sleeping laws.
- Need to start looking for new sources of revenue, such as a hotel tax.

- Appreciate Chief Skinner for bringing specifics about how additional officers will be deployed. Having that tactical information helps council explain to constituents what direction the police department is going.
- Very supportive of additional 9-1-1 call takers; the plan recognizes that with inadequate staffing levels, employees get burned out which creates vacancies and then more burnout.
- In situations where there may not be a need or capacity for a sworn officer to respond to reports of burglaries or crimes not in-progress, there should be a customer service oriented response at a minimum.
- Appreciate the participation from police union leadership in being a part of this solution.
- Reminder that there will also be expenses associated with the upcoming shelter asks
- Hopeful that there will be robust attention given to the communication center because they need help.

MOTION: Councilor Clark, seconded by Councilor Taylor, moved to direct the City Manager to include in proposed Supplemental Budget #1 the \$8.6 million bridge strategy and to immediately begin work on long-term funding strategies to be completed prior to February 1, 2019.

Council Discussion

- Thank you to the City Manager for hiring the new police chief; have heard many accolades from the community.
- This is exciting work and gives us hope for change.
- Questions asked about the process and timeline for the community safety process team.

VOTE: PASSED 6:0

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elena Domingo
Deputy City Recorder

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