

**MINUTES**  
**Eugene City Council**  
**Work Session**  
**Eugene, Oregon 97401**

**January 29, 2025**  
**12:00 p.m.**

**Councilors Present:** Eliza Kashinsky, Matt Keating, Alan Zelenka, Jennifer Yeh, Mike Clark, Greg Evans, and Lyndsie Leech

**Councilors Absent:** Randy Groves

Mayor Knudson opened the January 29, 2025, Eugene City Council Work Session in a virtual format.

**1. WORK SESSION: Eugene City Council position on HB 2967 and Bills Repealing HB 3115**

City Manager, Sarah Medary, introduced Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) Manager, Ethan Nelson, who provided information on House Bill (HB) 2967 and HB 3115 to receive Council direction on the position that Council would like to take on these items.

Councilor Discussion:

- Councilor Keating – ask for the chief sponsors and co-sponsors of HB 2967.
- Councilor Kashinsky – asked for the status of the City's previously enacted \$10 cap on rental application fees; asked about the City's decision not to enforce the cap and whether the passage of the State bill would eliminate the City's responsibilities on the issue.
- Councilor Clark – noted a neutral position for the bill; acknowledged the burden of application fees on renters but noted concern with government intervention in the housing market; stated a preference for a statewide approach over a local-level regulation.
- Councilor Leech – noted support for the bill but raised concerns about third-party platforms charging background check fees; asked how the bill would address such platforms and whether the financial burden would shift to applicants or landlords.
- Councilor Yeh – noted support for the bill; noted the barriers application fees create for low-income individuals and those experiencing homelessness; noted studies show how the fear of losing fees discourages people from applying for housing; noted support for a statewide approach to ensure consistency across jurisdictions.
- Councilor Zelenka – noted application fees are a significant barrier for low-income and homeless individuals; noted support for the bill with reservations; noted he supported the City's previous decision to impose a \$10 cap; noted a statewide law would provide consistency and prevent a patchwork of regulations.

- Councilor Keating – noted support for the bill; noted the need to address unethical practices related to rental application fees; noted the importance of protecting tenants; noted interest in whether the City's advocacy resources should prioritize this issue over securing additional funding for the municipality; noted his stance is either neutral or in favor; asked for the timeline for Council to shift from a neutral stance to full support if more members of the Lane County delegation supported the bill.
- Councilor Yeh – noted it is unlikely for the bill to be a top priority in the IGR Committee given Council's existing priorities; noted the importance of ensuring that the City's stance is clear.
- Councilor Evans – noted it is unlikely for the bill to be a top priority in the IGR Committee given Council's existing priorities; noted, based on Councilor responses, Council appears to support the bill.

**MOTION:** Councilor Evans, seconded by Councilor Leech, moved to as Council has indicated support the legislative effort to adopt House Bill 2967.

**VOTE: 6:1 PASSED**

**IN FAVOR:** Kashinsky, Keating, Zelenka, Yeh, Evans, and Leech

**OPPOSED:** Clark

Councilor Discussion:

- Councilor Clark – asked for clarification on the details of HB 3115; asked for the reasoning behind the effort to repeal HB 3115; asked whether legislators have a specific alternative.
- Councilor Keating – noted the lack of co-chief sponsors or regular sponsors on the Senate side of the bill; asked about the primary sponsors in the House of Representatives; noted support for maintaining a neutral position at a minimum but leaned toward opposing the repeal; noted previous Councils have effectively utilized time, place, and manner regulations; noted backtracking from those regulations would be concerning; encouraged colleagues to oppose the repeal.
- Councilor Zelenka – noted homelessness is a complex issue and acknowledged the City's progress; noted that HB 3115 has been problematic due to enforcement challenges and confusion; asked whether the Supreme Court decision effectively overrides the existing law, making the repeal irrelevant; noted the repeal would not significantly impact local code and noted openness to either opposing the repeal or remaining neutral.
- Councilor Leech – noted opposition to the repeal of HB 3115; noted the importance of local control in shaping City code to community needs; noted maintaining a statewide baseline for regulations provides consistency and helps cities address homelessness effectively.
- Councilor Kashinsky – noted opposition to repealing HB 3115; noted having a consistent base-level policy across the State is beneficial; noted even if the repeal

occurs, local regulations will remain in place, but a statewide standard helps mitigate cross-jurisdictional impacts.

- Councilor Clark – encouraged Council to take a neutral position to preserve local decision-making flexibility; noted future developments are uncertain, and a neutral stance allows for adaptability.
- Councilor Yeh – noted opposition to repealing HB 3115.

**MOTION:** Councilor Evans, seconded by Councilor Leech moved to oppose the legislative effort to repeal House Bill 3115.

**VOTE: 6:1 PASSED**

**IN FAVOR:** Kashinsky, Keating, Zelenka, Yeh, Evans, and Leech

**OPPOSED:** Clark

## 2. **WORK SESSION: City Manager Update**

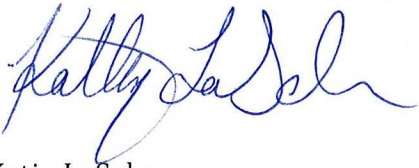
City Manager, Sarah Medary, provided information on the City's policies related to immigration.

### Councilor Discussion:

- Councilor Clark – asked for clarification on whether current City policy contradicts federal law.
- Councilor Evans – noted the importance of maintaining the 2017 ordinance; noted the impact of past immigration enforcement in the community; noted the need to support families and workers.
- Councilor Leech – noted support for the ordinance and interest in strengthening protections for community members.
- Councilor Yeh – inquired about City facility access policies and whether the City receives advance notice of immigration enforcement actions.
- Councilor Kashinsky – noted support for exploring additional protective measures; noted concerns about potential funding and grant impacts.
- Councilor Zelenka – noted the recent federal policy pause was rescinded; supported maintaining the City's current policies; noted the 2017 ordinance remains in compliance with federal law.
- Councilor Keating – noted the historical impact of immigration enforcement on families; noted opposition to racial profiling and family separations.
- Mayor Knudson – noted support for Council to engage with the community and share updates on City policies; noted the City's commitment to inclusivity and protection of community members.

Mayor Knudson adjourned the meeting at 12:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Katie LaSala  
City Recorder

*(Recorded by Natalie Venhuda)*

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