

MINUTES
Eugene City Council
Work Session
Eugene, Oregon 97401

September 10, 2025
12:00 p.m.

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

Mayor Knudson opened the September 10, 2025, Eugene City Council Work Session in a virtual format.

1. WORK SESSION: 2025 Community Survey

City Manager, Sarah Medary, spoke briefly about the history of the community survey and introduced Jason Dedrick, Program Manager for Policy Research, Strategic Planning & Performance, to discuss the 2025 Community Survey Results.

Councilor Discussion:

- Councilor Groves – noted a desire for Council to be more involved in designing the community survey and developing the questions; stated Councilors were not given sufficient time to review or provide input on the 2025 Community Survey; agreed on importance of continuity between surveys for trending purposes; stated interest in having more Council involvement in the structure and question creation process in future years; believes more Council involvement will support better policy creation.
- Councilor Yeh – noted the survey results are not surprising, but still valuable; indicated general support for feedback from staff and Council on survey development; noted the importance of utilizing experts in the survey development process; shared thoughts about adding emphasis on responses from underserved and minority populations in the Belonging Section of the survey.
- Councilor Zelenka – stated he found positive information and trends in survey results; noted responses around living in Eugene, specifically concerns about homelessness, housing and safety were not surprising; stated despite the ongoing concerns, progress has been made in these areas; noted that these areas of concern are impacted by perceptions and external influences, as well as the fact that there are no easy solutions for these difficult problems; noted that progress on these issues happen over time and may not immediately change perceptions; believes Eugene is making good progress on these issues.
- Councilor Clark – noted the survey results were not surprising; stated interest in more Council involvement on developing future surveys; specifically, interested in asking more follow-up questions or open-ended explanations on the answers provided; noted interest in learning about the public's expectations of Council in addressing the areas of concern.
- Councilor Keating – asked for clarification on results from survey about perceptions of public safety, specifically the differences between how people feel in their own

neighborhoods and downtown; asked if these perceptions have improved since the last survey; noted interest in this topic in relation to recent actions taken by Council to improve safety downtown, around the library, and near educational centers; asked if survey respondents made suggestions on how to improve or make the downtown core safer.

- Mayor Knudson – asked staff if the Community Survey is the only way the City gathers information and feedback from the community.
- Councilor Groves – noted input was requested from Councilors after the survey questions were drafted; clarified he would have liked to share input before the questions were drafted; stated Councilors regularly receive feedback from community members that could be valuable to drafting survey questions.
- Councilor Keating – indicated he was invited to respond to the survey and did so; asked a clarifying question around the difference in responses by city council ward; asked if it was possible to send a thank you to participants.
- Mayor Knudson – agreed about value of the information and responses received from the survey.

2. WORK SESSION: 2023-2026 Strategic Plan Annual Report

City Manager, Sarah Medary, introduced Jason Dedrick, Program Manager for Policy Research Strategic Planning & Performance, to discuss the 2023-2026 Strategic Annual Report.

Councilor Discussion:

- Councilor Kashinsky – clarified whether the key performance indicators or metrics presented may not fully represent the goal; noted areas of progress and accomplishment, such as climate and the climate action plan, where the progress being made may not result in achieving the goal; noted similar concerns for current housing progress and new state-level housing goals; stated concern about not being able to achieve set goals based on current action plans; stated appreciation for the outlined progress toward stated goals.
- Councilor Leech – thanked staff for their work on survey and report, and the opportunity to walk through the results of each; noted an interest in Council having a better tool for communication to the community; asked if the projected increase in jobs means a higher projection on the need of housing, noting specifically the development of the Clear Lake area.
- Councilor Zelenka – noted key performance indicators and measurement of progress are a critical part of strategic plan work; stated appreciation for the work that went into tracking and developing these measurements; noted quantifiable progress outlined for community members exiting to stabilized housing; highlighted median rent price increases and downtown visit increases; stated interest in the increase in responses related to feeling a sense of community; noted the importance of telling the City's story better, and the ongoing work the City and Council is doing in this area.
- Councilor Evans – asked for clarification about the results specific to a sense of belonging and how it is measured; asked if the questions were around a sense of belonging in the city or community, and how the responses received are assessed; stated community members and business owners continue express concerns around

the safety of visitors and workers in the downtown area; believes there is still a gap between community perceptions of safety and the statistics provided by the police department.

- Councilor Zelenka – stated the importance of doing work effectively and efficiently; stated it is difficult to develop key performance indicators around effectiveness and efficiency; noted perception plays a large part in the results and how to get those results reflected in data.
- Councilor Yeh – thanked the City Manager for her leadership and contributions on the Strategic Plan; inquired when the data analysis from the report will be provided to Council; noted some of the topics covered may not routinely come back to Council for discussion; asked if the right mechanism for bringing some of these important topics back for discussion would be through Council Leadership; expressed the value of the information and appreciation to have access.
- Mayor Knudson – noted the value of the report and the information collected; stated the work done impacts transparency and helps to close the gap on shared understanding in the community.

Mayor Knudson adjourned the meeting at 1:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Katie LaSala
City Recorder

(Recorded by Rosa Roach)

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