

MINUTES
Eugene City Council
Work Session
Eugene, Oregon 97401

September 22, 2025
5:30 p.m.

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

Councilors Absent: Greg Evans

Mayor Knudson opened the September 22, 2025, work session of the Eugene City Council in a hybrid format at 500 E 4th Avenue, North Building, Eugene OR 97401.

1. WORK SESSION: Library Local Option Levy

City Manager Sarah Medary introduced Josh Bates, Executive Director for Library, Recreation, and Cultural Services, and Angela Ocana, Library Services Director, who provided background on the expiring library levy, which will sunset in June 2026.

Councilor Discussion:

- Councilor Clark – requested clarification on whether survey respondents expressing interest in a Santa Clara branch were city or county residents; asked for data on library cardholders in Santa Clara and whether they reside within city limits; emphasized the importance of equitable service delivery and expressed concern about extending services to non-city residents without equivalent financial contribution.
- Councilor Keating – requested information on Wi-Fi hotspot lending; asked about the impact of removing library fines; asked about the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and its potential for statewide expansion; asked whether the 2023 ordinance prohibiting camping near the library improved accessibility and safety; suggested exploring drop-off and pick-up locations similar to Amazon lockers; asked what service reductions might occur if the levy is not renewed.
- Councilor Groves – expressed appreciation for the information within the presentation and acknowledged the importance of the levy renewal; noted the lack of services in Southwest Eugene and suggested exploring low-cost service expansions such as pick-up boxes; noted concerns about service equity in unincorporated areas; noted he would have additional questions at the next work session regarding financing.
- Councilor Zelenka – noted strong community support for the library, referencing the 77 percent approval rate in the last levy vote; stated the decision to lower the levy rate in 2020 led to service cuts; noted the need to consider inflation and rising costs in future levy planning.

- Councilor Kashinsky – asked how future levy language could balance accountability with operational flexibility; asked whether the library still needed to restore services to Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 levels.
- Councilor Yeh – spoke in favor of levy language that allows operational flexibility; noted concern about potential cuts to branch libraries and emphasized the importance of maintaining access across the city; stated that libraries contribute to public safety and democratic engagement; encouraged staff to share council’s appreciation with library employees.
- Mayor Knudson – asked how the library’s work fits into the City’s broader operational efficiency analysis.

2. WORK SESSION: City Manager Recruitment Stakeholder Feedback

Central Services Director, Mia Cariaga, introduced Valerie Phillips and Jeff Mori with recruiting firm Bob Murray and Associates, to discuss the job posting and public engagement process.

Councilor Discussion:

- Councilor Kashinsky – noted concerns that the small number of external stakeholders interviewed may not reflect the full diversity of community perspectives.
- Councilor Zelenka – asked whether union labor representatives were included in the interviews; asked for clarification on the term “activist-driven”; asked if interviewees identified communication as a top concern.
- Councilor Leech – asked about the next steps in the recruitment process and whether her submitted edits had been incorporated into the recruitment materials.
- Councilor Groves – noted concern about the limited number of stakeholders involved in the process; stated the importance of engaging a broader range of community voices, including labor and neighborhood groups; noted alignment between stakeholder feedback and his priorities.
- Mayor Knudson – noted the upcoming October 20 public engagement events; stated the importance of community involvement in the recruitment process.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Katie LaSala
City Recorder

(Recorded by Cherish Bradshaw)

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