

# MINUTES

## Eugene City Council Work Session Eugene, Oregon 97401

January 26, 2026  
5:30 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 26, 2026, work session of the Eugene City Council in a hybrid format at 500 E 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, North Building, Eugene OR 97401.

### 1. **WORK SESSION: Intergovernmental Relations - 2026 Legislative Priorities**

Assistant City Manager Kristie Hammitt introduced City Manager's Office (CMO) Chief of Staff Brooke Freed to discuss the program goals of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee (IGR) and to discuss 2026 legislative session priorities.

#### Councilor Discussion:

- Councilor Zelenka – asked about the potential repeal of House Bill (HB) 3115; asked about the status of automatic license plate reader regulations; asked about revisions to serial communications rules under public meetings law; asked about the Governor's prosperity bill; asked about proposed legislation banning speculative ticketing; asked about prevailing wage applicability and how triggers apply to development projects.
- Councilor Leech – stated support for a defensive short session strategy; stated support for more proactive, year-round legislative planning for the 2027 long session; noted the need for long-term planning for alternative response funding models; noted the state could explore requiring coordinated care organizations to use a per-person, per-member, per-month model; asked about bills addressing federal immigration enforcement protections; spoke in favor of including childcare and housing as core economic development priorities; highlighted opportunities for regional coordination including the Southern Willamette Innovation Corridor; asked if there are any climate-related bills coming up in the short session; noted community members had asked her to testify in support of legislation mandating heat pumps in new construction; asked about the guidance for providing state or federal testimony as a Councilor.
- Councilor Keating – stated the importance of preventing cuts to emergency shelter and poverty prevention programs; noted support for legislation benefiting rural communities when regional workforce benefits would extend to Eugene; asked about opportunities to support capital construction bills benefiting nearby jurisdictions.

- Councilor Zelenka – asked about providing testimony as a councilor; noted heat pump legislation as an alternative approach to reducing natural gas reliance; noted another climate-related bill for superfund legislation.
- Councilor Clark – asked for clarification on testimony rules for Councilors and the distinction between testifying as an individual, as a councilor consistent with council policy, or as a representative of the full Council.
- Councilor Keating – asked whether IGR has considered the statewide proposal to adjust the transient lodging tax for wildlife recovery efforts; noted he would like IGR to discuss the potential impacts on tourism and the community.
- Mayor Knudson – noted the limited 35 day duration of the short session; noted the high volume of bills typically introduced in long sessions and recent discussions among state leaders about limiting bill submissions; emphasized that the City must focus on a defined set of priorities given statewide budget and policy pressures including revenue shortfalls, federal policy shifts, and demands on transportation, education, health care, and other systems; reiterated the six adopted 2026 priorities provide a strategic framework for effective advocacy rather than representing the full scope of the City’s legislative interests; noted approximately 20 to 25 priority bills align with these goals; stated broader updates on state efforts to protect communities from harmful federal actions would be shared during the upcoming council meeting.

**MOTION:** Councilor Leech, seconded by Councilor Zelenka, moved to adopt the 2026 Eugene State and Federal Legislative Policy document and the 2026 Eugene State Legislative Priorities document as approved by the IGR Committee.

**VOTE: 7:0 PASSED**

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

**OPPOSED:** None.

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

Assistant City Manager Kristie Hammitt provided updates about fire governance and the process for the alternative response request for proposals (RFP) to fill the gap following the end of Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets (CAHOOTS) services in Eugene.

### Councilor Discussion:

- Councilor Zelenka – asked about cost reconciliation between Eugene and Springfield related to staffing alignment and operational disparities.
- Councilor Keating – asked whether behavioral health transport gaps and youth engagement gaps identified in previous reports were included in the RFP scope; requested clarification on proposed peer navigation service hours and how they align with Lane County Mobile Crisis operations.
- Mayor Knudson – noted the importance of both the intergovernmental entity work and the development of the alternative response program; stated that the RFP addresses a significant service gap between public safety and Health and Human Services systems; expressed appreciation for the work that has brought the project to this stage, including the gap analysis memo and the preparation of the RFP.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Katie LaSala", with a stylized, cursive script.

Katie LaSala  
City Recorder

*(Recorded by Cherish Bradshaw)*

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