

MINUTES

Eugene City Council Meeting Eugene, Oregon 97401

February 9, 2026
7:30 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 February 9, 2026 meeting of the Eugene City Council in hybrid in-person and virtual format at 500 E. 4th Avenue, North Building, Eugene, OR 97401.

1. CEREMONIAL MATTERS

Mayor Knudson acknowledged proclamations for Black History Month, International Childhood Cancer Day, Lunar New Year, and International Mother Language Day.

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

- Councilor Leech – stated Council had previously set aside \$50,000 from its contingency fund and directed staff to assess community needs; noted the Office of Equity and Community Engagement (OECE) recommends distributing the money via a grant program administered by the Human Rights Commission (HRC); stated this approach would distribute funds quickly; noted her confidence in the Commission’s equity and accountability focus.

MOTION: Councilor Leech, seconded by Councilor Kashinsky, moved to direct the City Manager to establish an HRC grant program for local nonprofit agencies that are providing direct services to locally impacted immigrant communities to be funded with \$50,000 of Council contingency.

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Keating – noted he would support the motion.
- Councilor Clark – noted he would oppose the motion; noted many in the community also have significant needs the City cannot afford to address; stated concern about spending given a difficult budget year and potential shortfalls; stated he does not believe the City can afford to allocate these funds.

VOTE: 7:1 PASSED

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

OPPOSED: Clark.

- Councilor Zelenka – congratulated the Seattle Seahawks for their Superbowl win; noted Better Eugene-Springfield Transportation (BEST) would be hosting a workshop on bike and pedestrian safety in the wake of several local cyclist deaths.

- Councilor Keating – noted former Eugene Symphony music director Giancarlo Guerrero was a participant in the Superbowl halftime show; noted the recent death of Erick Munene Njue, a graduate student at the University of Oregon, who was killed while cycling on Patterson Street; noted he would be participating in the upcoming Transportation Safety Forum hosted by BEST.
- Mayor Knudson – noted a recent press conference held with Governor Kotek and other state and federal leaders to address Eugene’s circumstances related to federal actions and to affirm community priorities of safety, rights, and rule of law; noted she and 30 other Oregon mayors issued a letter calling for a halt to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) incidents and accountability for those involved; noted continued focus on community safety despite challenging conditions; noted she had attended the Coquille Tribal Community Fund Reception, where \$28,000 was granted to local nonprofits; noted the legislative short session was underway and that she had provided testimony in support of House Bill 4108 related to housing production.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR 1

- A. Approval of Overseas Travel Request
- B. City Manager Employment Agreement
- C. Approval of City Council Minutes
- D. Approval of City Council Tentative Agenda

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Zelenka – stated he would like to pull Item B.
- Councilor Groves – stated he would like to pull Item A.

MOTION: Councilor Leech, seconded by Councilor Kashinsky, moved to approved Items C and D on Consent Calendar 1.

VOTE: 8:0 PASSED

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

OPPOSED: None.

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Zelenka – noted he pulled the item to highlight and celebrate the decision; stated Jenny Haruyama will be the new City Manager.

MOTION: Councilor Leech, seconded by Councilor Kashinsky moved to approve Item B on Consent Calendar 1.

VOTE: 8:0 PASSED

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

OPPOSED: None.

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Groves – noted he would not support Item A due to budgetary concerns.

- Councilor Clark – noted he would not support Item A due to budgetary concerns; stated his desire to be consistent on this issue and to avoid greater shortfalls that would cut regular City services.
- Councilor Keating – noted his support for the Sister City program; stated his support for the trip as a gesture of unity in friendship during troubled times.
- Councilor Leech – noted the requested funds will not cover the full cost of the trip; stated the value of the work and sharing connections around the world.
- Councilor Zelenka – noted the Sister City program was created to increase peace and understanding through international relations; noted the timeliness of the trip given the larger political context.
- Councilor Kashinsky – noted the City’s partners in Nepal would be covering food, lodging, and local travel; noted it is a trip to build partnership; asked if the travel was part of the Sister City program budget; stated these are already budgeted funds.
- Mayor Knudson – noted the Consent Calendar item relates to required council notice for international travel and will cover airfare; noted Eugene has had a Sister City relationship with Kathmandu, Nepal for over 50 years; noted no delegation or elected official exchange has occurred in recent years; stated Nepal is experiencing significant political and development activity, making this a timely moment to reconnect; noted the visit to India and Nepal strengthens longstanding community connections and reflects community values.

MOTION: Councilor Leech, seconded by Councilor Kashinsky, moved to approve Item A on Consent Calendar 1.

VOTE: 6:2 PASSED

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

OPPOSED: Clark and Groves.

4. Action: An Ordinance Providing for Withdrawal of Annexed Properties from the Following Special Districts: Junction City Water Control District; Lane Fire Authority; River Road Park & Recreation District; River Road Water and Fire Protection District; Santa Clara Rural Fire Protection District; Santa Clara Water District; Willakenzie Rural Fire Protection District; and Zumwalt Rural Fire Protection District.

City Manager Pro Tem Matt Rodrigues introduced the topic and provided background information.

MOTION: Councilor Leech, seconded by Councilor Kashinsky, moved to adopt An Ordinance Providing for Withdrawal of Annexed Properties from the Following Special Districts: Junction City Water Control District; Lane Fire Authority; River Road Park & Recreation District; River Road Water and Fire Protection District; Santa Clara Rural Fire Protection District; Santa Clara Water District; Willakenzie Rural Fire Protection District; and Zumwalt Rural Fire Protection District.

VOTE: 8:0 PASSED

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

OPPOSED: None.

5. Action: A Resolution Calling a City Election on May 19, 2026, For The Purpose Of Referring To The Legal Electors Of The City Of Eugene a Measure Authorizing A Five-Year Local Option Levy for The Funding Of Library Operations.

City Manager Pro Tem Matt Rodrigues introduced the topic and provided background information.

MOTION: Councilor Leech, seconded by Councilor Kashinsky, moved to adopt the Resolution Calling a City Election on May 19, 2026, for the Purpose of Referring to the Legal Electors of the City of Eugene a Measure Authorizing a Five-Year Local Option Levy for the Funding of Library Operations as set forth in Attachment A to this AIS.

VOTE: 8:0 PASSED

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

OPPOSED: None.

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Leech – asked for proponent committee volunteers to write the proponent statement for the voters’ pamphlet.

MOTION: Councilor Leech, seconded by Councilor Kashinsky, moved to appoint Councilors Keating, Leech, and Kashinsky be the voters’ pamphlet proponent committee for the Library Local Option Levy.

VOTE: 8:0 PASSED

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

OPPOSED: None.

MOTION: Councilor Leech, seconded by Councilor Kashinsky, moved to authorize the City Manager to prepare and send a neutral information mailer concerning the Library Local Option Levy.

VOTE: 8:0 PASSED

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

OPPOSED: None.

6. Action: A Resolution Declaring a Humanitarian Crisis Resulting from Federal Immigration Actions

City Manager Pro Tem Matt Rodrigues introduced the topic and provided background information.

MOTION: Councilor Leech, seconded by Councilor Kashinsky, moved to adopt A Resolution Declaring a Humanitarian Crisis Resulting from Federal Immigration Actions as set forth in Attachment A to this AIS.

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Kashinsky – noted current federal actions are not functioning as legitimate law or immigration enforcement; stated federal agents are targeting community members who have followed required processes and are seeking a better life; noted even citizens and individuals with legal work permits are being detained; stated these actions are creating fear intentionally because immigrant contributions are undervalued; noted immigrants are a vital part of America and most families have immigrant roots; stated gratitude to community members working to ensure neighbors feel safe and supported.
- Councilor Leech – expressed appreciation for Rapid Response Lane County who helped draft the resolution; noted the resolution declares federal immigration enforcement impacts as a humanitarian crisis for all Eugene residents and affirms core values of human dignity and access to essential services; noted cities nationwide are taking similar steps to stabilize communities and ensure continuity of services; noted she is committed to continuing to investigate ways to be impactful; stated appreciation to all who submitted testimony and spoke up against harmful actions.
- Councilor Zelenka – stated his support for the motion; stated the policies of the Trump administration are rooted in racism; noted this resolution is in line with previous resolutions and ordinances passed by Council.
- Councilor Clark – stated his support for the motion; noted his disagreement with the language in the first section of the resolution declaring a the situation in Eugene a humanitarian crisis; stated his support for the rest of the document; stated the purpose of government is to protect people’s individual civil rights; noted the resolution supports protecting civil rights.
- Councilor Groves – noted his support for the motion; noted people are feeling fearful and intimidated.
- Councilor Yeh – stated she appreciates being close to the community and being able to act quickly as a municipal official; thanked those involved in creating the resolution; stated her support for the motion.
- Councilor Keating – stated the actions taken by the federal government across the United States are a humanitarian crisis as they break up families and unlawfully detain residents; stated his support for the resolution; stated the need to protest peacefully, and to welcome and advance amnesty for our immigrant neighbors.

VOTE: 8:0 PASSED

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

OPPOSED: None.

7. Possible Action: MUPTE Amendment – Station House

City Manager Pro Tem Matt Rodrigues introduced the topic and provided background information.

MOTION: Councilor Leech, seconded by Councilor Kashinsky, moved to adopt the resolution attached as Attachment A to this AIS, a Resolution Amending Resolution No. 5439, and Approving a Multiple-

Unit Property Tax Exemption for Residential Property located at 131 East 5th Avenue Eugene, Oregon (Applicant Obie Companies, Inc.).

VOTE: 7:1 PASSED

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

OPPOSED: Zelenka.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Steve Gilbert – spoke about the issue of homelessness in Eugene.
2. Kamryn Stringfield – spoke against automatic license plate reader (ALPR) technology.
3. Anna – spoke about recent experiences while protesting at the federal building.
4. Jane Johnson – spoke about efforts to educate people about their rights.
5. Athena Aguiar – spoke about issues with the alternative response request for proposals (RFP).
6. David Sonnichsen – asked for Council to encourage the County to test for chemicals in the Alton Baker Park Day Island landfill.
7. Geoffrey Gordon – spoke against ALPR technology.
8. Stan Taylor – spoke against the Amazon E-Commerce facility.
9. Joshua Caraco – spoke about community and traffic safety.
10. Robert Parrish – spoke about issues with the alternative response RFP.
11. Alexis Yamada – spoke about the effects of federal immigration enforcement.
12. Tai Pruce-Zimmerman – spoke about the work of the Technical Advisors Group and the humanitarian crisis resolution.
13. Dr. Nadia Raza – spoke about issues with the alternative response RFP.
14. John Doe – spoke about the need for direct action and solidarity networks.
15. Stephen Saltekoff – asked Council to take action against ICE.
16. Rhonda Nese – spoke about safety issues with Patterson Street.
17. Jacob Trewe – spoke about issues with the alternative response RFP.
18. Alexander Bort – spoke against ALPR technology.
19. Justin Burns – spoke about experiences while protesting at the federal building.
20. Rebecca McCroskey – spoke against ICE.
21. Scott Lambert – spoke against ALPR technology.
22. Tresa Hackford – spoke against ALPR technology and ICE.
23. Shelly Devine – spoke about connections between ICE and Amazon.
24. Chloe Longworth – spoke about actions taken by the mayor of Minneapolis against ICE.
25. Ellie Urbancic – spoke against ALPR technology.
26. Melissa Graboyes – spoke about the death of Erick Munene Njue and safety issues with Patterson Street.
27. Tyler Hickson – spoke against ALPR technology.
28. David Igl – spoke about local history.
29. Glenn O. – spoke about recent experiences while protesting at the federal building.
30. Wyn Manselle – spoke against ALPR technology.
31. Pete Goldlust – spoke about experiences while protesting at the federal building.
32. Francis Starr OLeary – spoke against ALPR technology.
33. Faye Rachford – spoke against the Amazon E-Commerce facility.

34. Jennifer Scheit – spoke against ALPR technology and about recent experiences while protesting at the federal building.

9. CONSENT CALENDAR 2

A. Approval of a Resolution Annexing Land to the City of Eugene Assessor’s Map 17-04-11-12, Tax Lot 00146 and Located at 3362 Wisteria Street (City File: 3362 Wisteria St; A 25-11)

B. Approval of a Resolution Annexing Land to the City of Eugene (Assessor’s Map 17-03-16-23, Tax Lot 02800 and Located at 3032 Kinney Loop) (City File: A 25-12)

MOTION: Councilor Leech, seconded by Councilor Kashinsky, moved to approve the items on Consent Calendar 2.

VOTE: 8:0 PASSED

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

OPPOSED: None.

Mayor Knudson adjourned the meeting at 9:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Katie LaSala', written in a cursive style.

Katie LaSala
City Recorder

(Recorded by Cherish Bradshaw)

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