

## MINUTES

### Eugene City Council Work Session Eugene, Oregon 97401

February 23, 2026  
5:30 p.m.

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

Council President Leech opened the February 23, 2026, work session of the Eugene City Council in a hybrid format at 500 E 4th Avenue, North Building, Eugene OR 97401.

#### **1. WORK SESSION: Annual Human Rights Commission Work Plan Report**

City Manager Pro Tem Matt Rodrigues introduced Fabio Andrade, Equity and Community Engagement Manager, and Human Rights Commission (HRC) members Dr. Silky Booker and Jamie Bowman, who shared updates from the HRC Work Plan Report.

##### Councilor Discussion:

- Councilor Yeh – asked how the City could obtain timely input from the Commission on issues that arise with short notice; suggested forming an on-call subcommittee so the Commission can provide timely advice while increasing its public presence and engagement.
- Councilor Groves – asked for the Commission’s top priorities for the coming year; noted the importance of leaving flexibility in the work plan to respond to changing conditions such as immigration-related needs.
- Councilor Zelenka – stated the current HRC work plan is too broad; recommended narrowing the focus to several priority areas, such as homelessness and immigrant rights; noted the importance of clear, achievable tasks to increase impact and recognition.
- Councilor Kashinsky – stated appreciation for the Commission’s volunteer work; asked for clarification on the upcoming recommendation about family composition policies; asked what methods the Commission uses to track Council agenda items so advice can be prepared in advance.
- Councilor Leech – stated appreciation for the dedication of the Commission’s volunteers; noted support for deepening the collaboration between Council and the Commission; thanked them for taking on the grant project work supporting those affected by federal immigration enforcement.

#### **2. WORK SESSION: Home Energy Score Engagement and Research Findings**

City Manager Pro Tem Matt Rodrigues introduced Danielle Klinkebiel, Climate Policy Analyst, and Ian Penn, Sustainability Manager, to discuss the proposed home energy score disclosure policy and associated public engagement.

##### Councilor Discussion:

- Councilor Clark – asked how many community members were engaged for this research and how their engagement informed staff’s approach; noted the work may not affect the climate but rather provide an information base; stated concerns that requiring a Home Energy Score increases already high transaction costs, potentially burdening buyers and tenants.
- Councilor Groves – noted prospective buyers can already access utility cost information and land-use allowances; asked whether the research shows no pricing impacts or if there is simply an absence of data; asked for analysis of impacts on residents over 65 years and on households with fixed or lower incomes across different neighborhoods; noted it will be harder to increase energy efficiency in older homes.
- Councilor Kashinsky – stated the Home Energy Score would be useful for anyone buying a home, particularly for first-time buyers; noted the value of distinguishing occupant behavior from a home’s energy characteristics to better estimate operating costs and prioritize upgrades.
- Councilor Zelenka – asked which Oregon cities have implemented Home Energy Score policies; asked how many scores have been completed statewide; stated the fee is comparatively minimal in the context of home purchases; stated the policy’s value lies in closing the information gap and prompting upgrades that reduce operating costs and emissions; asked about stipends for low-income sellers, including options tied to Area Median Income (AMI) thresholds.
- Councilor Evans – asked where the program would reside administratively; asked how workforce capacity, including assessors, would be developed; asked what level of City staffing would be required to administer the program and evaluate effectiveness over time.
- Councilor Yeh – asked how long other Oregon cities have operated such programs; stated strong appreciation for the breadth of citations and research; noted from personal experience that home buyers benefit from more information when making significant financial decisions.
- Councilor Leech – stated more information for buyers is beneficial; noted personal experience with different heating systems and the limitations of relying solely on utility bills; noted the tool’s value for assessing energy performance and upgrade needs.
- Councilor Clark – asked about enforcement for noncompliance; asked where program enforcement would be housed administratively; asked about engagement with local realtors; noted skepticism around adding mandated costs in a constrained housing market.
- Councilor Keating – stated comparing rental application screening fees to the Home Energy Score cost is not equivalent; asked how the policy will prevent outdated energy data from persisting and what best practices exist for score validity periods and rescores over time.
- Councilor Kashinsky – asked who would typically pay for the score; asked for context on how mandated transaction costs are distributed between parties.
- Councilor Zelenka – asked what data was used to conclude that impacts on sale prices are minimal; stated expert conclusions should be grounded in evidence rather than opinion.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Katie LaSala". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Katie LaSala  
City Recorder

*(Recorded by Cherish Bradshaw)*

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