

MINUTES

Eugene City Council Meeting Eugene, Oregon 97401

March 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 March 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 introduced proclamations for Kathmandu-Eugene Sister City Day, Women's History Month, Women in Construction Week, Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Awareness Week, Transgender Day of Visibility, and an International Human Rights Leadership Award presented to the His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso.

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

- Councilor Groves – noted the conclusion of the Oregon legislative short session; noted the Intergovernmental Relations Manager had emailed a summary report; thanked local state representatives for their support and leadership; noted the passage of priority bills for the City.
- Councilor Keating – noted a recent meeting with Eugene Emergency Physicians (EEP) regarding emergency department staffing changes at PeaceHealth Riverbend Hospital; spoke in favor of Council action to support EEP; spoke in favor of the Eugene library levy that will be on the May ballot.
- Councilor Clark – stated his support for EEP; noted while he is in support of EEP, he urges caution in actions and words without a fuller understanding of what has transpired.
- Councilor Groves – noted the strengths of EEP as a physician's group; noted his attendance at a recent meeting with EEP and Lane Professional Firefighters as well as a meeting with Oregon Nurses Association; noted concerns about corporate medicine taking over primary care.
- Mayor Knudson – stated the importance of both the local partner PeaceHealth and invested emergency room physicians; noted she spoke with Governor Kotek about the potential emergency room staffing changes; encouraged those looking to learn more to connect with Oregon Nurses Association.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR 1

- A. Interim Appointment to Human Rights Commission**
- B. Adoption of a Resolution Amending Eugene City Council Operating Agreements and Repealing Resolution No. 5387**
- C. Approval of City Council Minutes**
- D. Approval of City Council Tentative Agenda**

MOTION: Councilor Kashinsky, seconded by Zelenka, moved to approve the items on Consent Calendar 1.

VOTE: 8:0 PASSED

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

OPPOSED: None.

4. Action: An Ordinance Amending the Willakenzie Area Plan Text; Rezoning the Property Identified as Assessor's Map 17-03-16-23, Tax Lots 04000, 04100, and 04200 from C-1 Neighborhood Commercial to C-2 Community Commercial; and Providing an Effective Date.

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

MOTION: Councilor Kashinsky, seconded by Councilor Zelenka, moved to approve the Refinement Plan Amendment and Zone Change applications and adopt the proposed amendment to the Refinement Plan as shown in the Ordinance included in Attachment A to this Agenda Item Summary.

VOTE: 8:0 PASSED

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

OPPOSED: None.

5. Action: An Ordinance Amending the Fairmount/University of Oregon Special Area Study Text and Diagram; Amending Sections 9.4205, 9.4215, 9.4220, And 9.9570 of the Eugene Code, 1971; Rezoning the Property Identified as Assessor's Map 17-03-33-32, Tax Lots 07000, 07100, 07200, 07300, 07400, 07500, 07600, 07700, and 07800 to Remove the /EC East Campus Overlay Zone; and Providing an Effective Date.

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

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Zelenka – noted the applicant had substantially revised the proposal; asked why the Council could not return the application and ask the parties to renegotiate; stated this process is unprecedented; asked if the application would go back to the applicant if Council found it inconsistent with the criteria.

MOTION: Councilor Kashinsky, seconded by Councilor Zelenka, moved to immediately reopen the record for this matter to accept evidence and argument from all parties, and to direct the City manager to provide notice of a public hearing for April 20, 2026, on an ordinance incorporating the applicant's proposed modifications.

VOTE: 8:0 PASSED

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

OPPOSED: None.

6. Action: An Ordinance Concerning Increased Public Health Standards Coordination; Amending Sections 9.2460, 9.2461, and 9.4165 of the Eugene Code, 1971; and Providing an Effective Date.

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

MOTION: Councilor Kashinsky, seconded by Councilor Zelenka, moved to adopt an Ordinance Concerning Increased Public Health Standards Coordination; Amending Sections 9.2460, 9.2461, and 9.4165 of the Eugene Code, 1971; and Providing an Effective Date, included as Attachment A to this Agenda Item Summary.

MOTION TO SUBSTITUTE: Councilor Kashinsky, seconded by Councilor Zelenka, moved to substitute the following: Move to direct the City Manager to draft an ordinance and schedule a public hearing on Version 3 of the Public Health Standards Code Amendments included in the December 16, 2025, Planning Commission agenda packet. The ordinance drafted by the City Manager shall modify Section 3 of Version 3 to replace the phrase “scope of the proposed work” with the phrase “a description of the proposed work.”

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Kashinsky – stated Version 3 better meets the goal of strengthening coordination among the City, regulatory agencies, and applicants; noted Version 3 adds a simple applicant form identifying possible environmental permits, which should not be burdensome; stated Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) found Version 3 to be more useful.
- Councilor Zelenka – noted concerns about Version 3 being burdensome are unfounded because applicants should already know their required permits; stated failure to identify needed permits reflects negligent preparation by the applicant or their consultant; stated Version 3 only asks for a list of potential permits, not that they be obtained; asked for clarification of the exact language in Version 3 to ensure clear legislative intent.
- Councilor Groves – asked if city plan reviewers should help applicants understand what is needed for permit approval; noted the City should work to make the process easier while upholding standards; asked why the city cannot help applicants navigate requirements across agencies; stated staff should be able to provide at least general guidance even if other agencies enforce the rules.
- Councilor Clark – thanked the Planning Commission for their work on the proposed amendments; asked what happens when agencies do not respond to applications for a permit; asked about the difference between Version 3 and Version 4; asked about the staff response if a federal or state permitting agency does not respond to the applicant in a timely manner; asked if staff will verify the accuracy of the completed form; asked if there is a waiting period to fill out the form; stated appreciation for the discussion and noted the importance of protecting the residents of West Eugene, especially given the past failures with

JH Baxter; stated the belief that the Baxter situation was a regulatory failure, not a land-use planning failure; expressed hesitation to change land-use code in ways that may hinder economic growth; stated a preference for fixing regulatory shortcomings rather than increasing land-use requirements; asked that, if the amendment passes, the planning commission be invited to provide testimony so council can better understand their reasoning.

- Councilor Zelenka – noted the planning commission was split four to three and took the unusual step of sending a memo explaining their vote; stated it is not the City’s job to tell businesses every requirement for development beyond city code; noted the attestation in Version 3 is simple and will take minimal time; stated if a developer cannot answer these questions, the process will force them to learn and prevent problems later.
- Councilor Kashinsky – noted while the situation at JH Baxter prompted the discussion, the deeper issue stems from a 1959 land-use map that placed heavy industrial next to low-density residential; stated this historic siting decision has created long-standing conflicts between residents and industrial businesses; noted that addressing a land-use problem requires land-use solutions and viewed the proposal as a modest measure to help navigate the inherited situation.

VOTE ON MOTION TO SUBSTITUTE: 8:0 PASSED

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

OPPOSED: None.

VOTE ON SUBSTITUTED MOTION: 8:0 PASSED

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

OPPOSED: None.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Lin Woodrich – spoke in favor of a police substation in Bethel.
2. Charmane Landing – spoke against the Amazon e-commerce center.
3. Stan Taylor – spoke against the Amazon e-commerce center.
4. Francis Starr OLeary – asked Council to do more to stop federal immigration enforcement.
5. Jane – spoke against permitting a fence around the federal building.
6. Wyn Manselle – asked if Flock has deleted City data, spoke about privacy.
7. Glenn O. – spoke against permitting a fence around the federal building.
8. Shelly Devine – spoke against law enforcement wearing face masks.
9. Faye Rachford – spoke against the Amazon e-commerce center.
10. Athena Aguiar – spoke in favor of decriminalizing psychedelics.
11. Chloe Longworth – spoke against permitting a fence around the federal building.
12. Erica Lyon – spoke against the Amazon e-commerce center.
13. Misty Strawberry Bowman – spoke in favor of dark skies.
14. David Igl – spoke about local history.

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Clark – stated he loves the stars and supports dark sky advocacy work.
- Councilor Keating – stated his support for dark skies; noted a large majority of Americans, including community members, subscribe to Amazon Prime; noted he would attend the March 14th Active Bethel Community meeting on the Amazon proposal.
- Councilor Groves – noted he is a night sky enthusiast; asked if the federal government is required to follow city codes; noted he has not seen Eugene Police officers wearing masks.
- Mayor Knudson – noted protecting dark skies also protects migrating birds; noted city progress on installing shielded fixtures, automatic-off lighting, and retrofits that direct illumination downward; stated older fixtures, parking lots, and rights-of-way remain challenging to retrofit but emphasized ongoing efforts.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR 2

A. A Resolution Annexing Land to the City of Eugene (Assessor’s Map 17-04-14-41, Tax Lot 07809 and Located at 1773 Parnell Drive) (City File: 1773 Parnell Drive; A 25-13)

B. A Resolution Annexing Land to the City of Eugene (Assessor’s Map 18-03-09-30, Portion of Tax Lot 10501 and Located at 1810 Firland Boulevard) (City File: 1810 Firland Blvd; A 25-14)

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

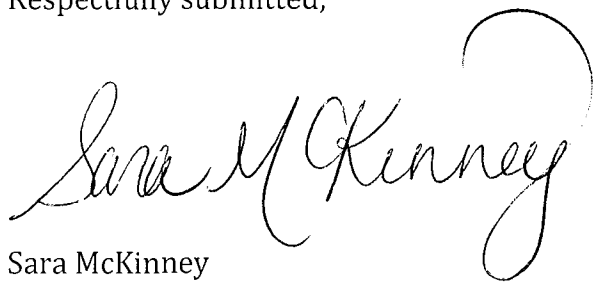
VOTE: 8:0 PASSED

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

OPPOSED: None.

Mayor Knudson adjourned the meeting at 9:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sara McKinney
Deputy City Recorder

(Recorded by Cherish Bradshaw)

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