

MINUTES

Eugene City Council Work Session Eugene, Oregon 97401

April 22, 2026
12:00 p.m.

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

Councilors Absent: Greg Evans

Council President Leech opened the April 22, 2026, Eugene City Council Work Session in a hybrid in-person and virtual format at 500 E. 4th Avenue, North Building, Eugene, OR 97401.

1. WORK SESSION: Neighborhood Planning for Bethel and University Areas

City Manager Jenny Haruyama provided background information and introduced Fabio Andrade, the Office of Equity and Community Engagement Manager, and Cindy Koehler, the Neighborhoods and Community Liaison, who summarized the current neighborhood planning approach, the community visioning work completed in Bethel and University, and recurring themes from residents.

Councilor Discussion:

- Councilor Groves – noted appreciation for the extensive community engagement and for residents who participated; stated University area comments centered on quality of life, while Bethel residents were focused on life and safety; asked about next steps for Council and when Council will meet with departments that would carry out the identified actions; stated the quick turnaround for the initial staff analysis was appreciated; indicated the need for a timeline that shows scope, magnitude, and expected timing; stated a timeline will help Council respond to constituent questions and explain where each item sits in the process; reminded the Council that some elements depend on external financing and are not directed by the City; stated the community needs to understand why work takes time and that the City is trying to serve all residents well; expressed interest in future updates.
- Councilor Zelenka – stated the process took too long, over five years, and that longstanding neighborhood issues (traffic, parking, housing, and objections to accessory dwelling units) remained unresolved, leading many long-term residents to disengage; stated this feedback reflects what he is hearing in the University neighborhoods; stated neighborhoods lost trust in the City because they do not see their plans recognized or enforced, and because objectionable changes have been proposed without agreement; noted surprise the East Campus Refinement Plan was

not listed as a policy; asked for clearer public information and enforcement messaging about the noise ordinance and the social host ordinance; noted the City's website is unclear and that better guidance would help significantly.

- Councilor Clark – asked whether the forthcoming three-to-four-week staff product would be a vetted list or “to-do list” derived from neighborhood recommendations for Council consideration; asked that any neighborhood action plan brought forward include a financial impact analysis before commitments are made, emphasizing the need to understand budget constraints.
- Councilor Leech – noted appreciation for the adaptation from prior neighborhood refinement planning to an action-oriented approach, and for strong engagement outcomes; asked how to hone in on what is actionable, distinguishing smaller, implementable items from major corridor changes requiring broader planning and enforcement work; asked how staff's vetting will be structured and prioritized, including whether items can be linked to the City's strategic plan or other priority frameworks; asked how the City will ensure that completing outputs leads to desired outcomes in the neighborhoods; asked for clarification about the Highway 99 corridor study timeline and whether work has begun; noted the mailed flyers were effective and encouraged continued use of this tool to support accessible engagement from home.
- Councilor Groves – stated the importance of showing tangible action to the public, building credibility by following through, and providing timelines the Council and community can reference; emphasized the need for residents to see progress.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Katie LaSala
City Recorder

(Recorded by Rosa Roach)

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