

MINUTES
Eugene City Council
Work Session
Eugene, Oregon 97401

May 20, 2026
12:00 p.m.

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

Councilors Absent: Alan Zelenka

Mayor Knudson opened the May 20, 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: Long Range Financial Planning – Financial Policies and Service Frameworks

City Manager Jenny Haruyama introduced Twylla Miller, Chief Financial Officer and Raftelis Team who provided an overview of the long-range financial planning process and an overview of a potential service framework tool that could assist in future budget development discussions.

Councilor Discussion:

- Councilor Evans – stated interest in ensuring that qualitative community perspectives are integrated into financial and service evaluation processes; noted the value of surveys, interviews, and focus groups to gather information about resident and staff priorities; stated the community expectations should complement the quantitative models presented.
- Councilor Kashinsky – stated appreciation for the ongoing review of the City’s financial policies; noted some policies predate Oregon’s current property tax system; stated that implementing complex service frameworks could be resource intensive and noted concern about how programs funded by earmarked revenue complicate prioritization; asked how the City might address public confusion when one program receives guaranteed revenue while others compete for limited resources.
- Councilor Groves – stated preference for a framework that is not overly complicated; noted the Toronto model presented by staff appeared to strike a reasonable balance; stated in support of exploring a “zero-based” approach in which services are built from the ground up rather than by adjusting existing structures; stated that community input is important but should be incorporated in a way that allows Council to work efficiently.

- Councilor Keating – stated concern about service frameworks that rely on only three tiers; stated interest in a five-tier or “letter-grade” approach to better differentiate service levels; asked how environmental and sustainability considerations would be incorporated into any evaluation tool and how information used for scoring would be generated; stated the City’s approach should be robust enough to serve as a model for other communities.
- Councilor Yeh – stated support for beginning with a simpler framework and adding complexity only after initial use; noted that industry benchmarks are useful but do not fully reflect community need; stated understanding whether a service is meeting local demand is essential; suggested staff feedback about service adequacy should accompany any benchmark information.
- Councilor Clark – stated strong interest in establishing clear definitions at the beginning of the process, noting ambiguity can lead to conflict later; stated the importance of tools that help resolve disagreements about service levels or strategies; stated part of the challenge is differentiating shared outcomes from differing views.
- Councilor Kashinsky – stated many jurisdictions in Oregon are experiencing structural and financial challenges from state-level constraints that limit revenue growth; noted expenses continue to rise and these pressures have contributed to a recurring structural imbalance; stated Eugene has managed these challenges better than many other communities; stated service frameworks may support clearer decision-making about how to shape the City’s budget; stated concern that frameworks may not address the core structural imbalance itself; stated property tax revenue increases are capped while major expense drivers, including personnel-related costs, rise at a significantly faster pace; asked how the City can address this underlying structural problem beyond reducing service levels.
- Mayor Knudson – stated interest in understanding how other jurisdictions have phased implementation of service frameworks over time; noted that introducing a basic framework and then adding complexity appears to be common practice; asked whether examples existed of communities that iteratively refined their frameworks after initial use; asked how to contextualize the City’s longstanding informal categorization of essential versus value-added services within a more formal evaluation structure.
- Councilor Keating – stated interest in whether other communities involve broader groups, such as their budget committees or community panels, when evaluating service levels; noted that Eugene may benefit from a wider base of community involvement as part of future framework development.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Katie LaSala
City Recorder

(Recorded by Rosa Roach)

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