

# MINUTES

**Eugene City Council  
Harris Hall, 125 East 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Eugene, Oregon 97401**

**February 19, 2019  
7:30 p.m.**

**Councilors Present:** Emily Semple, Betty Taylor, Alan Zelenka, Jennifer Yeh, Mike Clark, Claire Syrett, Chris Pryor

**Councilors Absent:** Greg Evans

Mayor Vinis opened the February 19, 2019, meeting of the Eugene City Council.

**1. PUBLIC HEARING: An Ordinance Providing For Withdrawal of Annexed Properties From the Following Special Districts: The Santa Clara Rural Fire Protection District; Santa Clara Water District; Willakenzie Rural Fire Protection District; Lane Fire Authority; River Road Park & Recreation District; And River Road Water District**

City Manager Jon Ruiz introduced the public hearing topic.

Mayor Vinis opened and closed the public hearing. No testimony was given on this ordinance.

**2. PUBLIC HEARING: An Ordinance Concerning Nuisances, Amending Sections 6.005 and 6.010 of the Eugene Code, 1971, and Adding Section 6.116 to that Code**

City Manager Jon Ruiz introduced the public hearing topic.

Mayor Vinis opened the public hearing.

1. Shaun Winter – opposed the nuisance ordinance; it would impose an undue burden on renters.
2. John Thielking – opposed the nuisance ordinance; it is unfair for renters and property owners.
3. Misha Seymour – opposed the nuisance ordinance; noted there are other types of nuisances.

Mayor Vinis closed the public hearing.

**3. PUBLIC HEARING: An Ordinance Concerning Imposition of a Construction Excise Tax on Commercial and Residential Improvements and Adding Sections 3.730, 3.732, 3.734, 3.736, 3.738, 3.740, 3.742, 3.744, 3.746 and 3.748 to the Eugene Code, 1971**

City Manager Jon Ruiz introduced the public hearing topic.

Mayor Vinis opened the public hearing.

1. RS Self – said that the criteria to obtain affordable housing is insurmountable for many.
2. Tiffany Edwards – announced the Chamber of Commerce’s support for the proposed ordinance.
3. Daniel Hill – outlined barriers to developing affordable housing; opposed any tax on housing.
4. Thomas Walter – noted the challenges faced by home builders in the community.
5. Ed McMahon – supported efforts to lower the barriers and costs of building affordable housing.
6. Carolyn Jacobs – opposed the proposed ordinance; said it is fully funded by property taxes.
7. Kaarin Knudson – said Better Housing Together supports the proposed resolution.
8. Bill Aspegren – opposed the proposed ordinance; said it does not raise new revenue.

9. David Monk – supported efforts to find new revenue to address housing crisis; opposed ordinance.
10. Phyllis Hockley – said Churchwomen United supports the CET to fund affordable housing.
11. Seda Collier – said the CET presents an opportunity to give the City’s Green Building Program teeth.
12. Michael Gannon – urged council to look more aggressively at strategies for needed housing.
13. Celine Harris – said the Democratic Party of Lane County supports a one percent CET.
14. Kim Arcscott – supported a CET that makes the construction of missing middle housing affordable.
15. John VanLandingham – encouraged adoption of the CET rate supported by Better Housing Together.
16. Kevin Cronin – spoke as a renter and tenant advocate; supported phased-in CET.
17. Anna Peña – supported a one percent CET to benefit construction of affordable housing.
18. Emily Mooney – supported a one percent CET to benefit construction of affordable housing.
19. Chris Wig – supported immediate passage of a one percent CET to benefit affordable housing.
20. Matthew Katz – supported adoption of a CET to benefit construction of affordable housing.
21. Stephen Carson – asked why the CET would be offset by systems development charge funds.
22. Kevin Orr – supported the CET ordinance; will make affordable student housing accessible.
23. Carmel Perez Snyder – said AARP supports the proposal for a phased CET.
24. Josephine Ruff – supported a one percent CET to benefit construction of affordable housing.
25. Hannah Argento-McCurdy – supported a one percent CET for construction of affordable housing.
26. Sutter Munizich – supported a one percent CET to benefit construction of affordable housing.
27. Tristan Waits – supported a CET to benefit construction of affordable housing.
28. Joshua Caraco – supported a CET as a means to benefit construction of affordable housing.
29. Mary Brorby – urged creativity, giving developers of low-income housing a tax break.
30. Jan Fillinger – supported a CET, but with related changes to the code around lot size, ADUs, etc.
31. Erin Barnhart – supported a CET to benefit construction of affordable housing; social justice issue.
32. Mysti Frost – supported a one percent CET to benefit construction of affordable housing.
33. Steve Coatsworth – spoke about his experience with no-cause evictions; supported CET.
34. John Thielking – opposed current CET proposal, noting effect of 3-D printing technology on housing.

Mayor Vinis closed the public hearing.

#### Council Discussion

- Councilor Taylor – agreed with those who expressed opposition to a CET on the grounds that it does not generate new revenue.
  - Councilor Zelenka – noted that the proposed General Fund offset would be temporary; other Oregon communities adopted CETs with a one percent rate; council is committed to taking other steps to address the lack of affordable housing.
  - Councilor Clark – encouraged everyone to respect the opinions of others; appreciated work done to develop CET proposal; said that larger-scale developers should be included in the conversation about the impacts of a CET.
  - Mayor Vinis – said there has been a significant amount of public input and public outreach throughout the process of developing the CET proposal; announced that the ordinance was scheduled for action in early April.
- 4. PUBLIC HEARING: An Ordinance Concerning Unlawful Transfer on Vehicular Portion of Right-of-Way, Adding Section 5.170 to the Eugene Code, 1971, and Amending Section 5.990 of that Code**

City Manager Jon Ruiz introduced the public hearing topic.

Mayor Vinis opened the public hearing.

1. Janet Sims – spoke in opposition to the proposed ordinance; people rely on money they collect.
2. Cliff Gray – proposed ordinance would violate the Constitution; has unintended consequences.
3. Charmaine Rehg – supported the ordinance, noting that it will improve public safety.
4. Donna Riddle – said there is no evidence to support the need for the proposed ordinance.
5. Gina – supported the ordinance; said it will reduce incidents of distracted driving.
6. Dave Piccioni – opposed the proposed ordinance; related his experience donating to others.
7. Bob Cassidy – said the proposed ordinance won't help the homeless and will be unenforceable.
8. David Strahan – said there is no evidence to support the need for the proposed ordinance.
9. Jennifer Frenzer – opposed restrictions to panhandling; supported efforts to help the homeless.
10. Leslie Robnett – encouraged the council to take action and help the homeless.
11. Michael Carrigan – spoke in opposition to the ordinance; people have legal right to ask for help.
12. Wayne Martin – said it is natural to ask for help; reasonable to allow exchanges.
13. Darcy Martin – supported passage of the ordinance; many other resources are available for help.
14. Lainy Davis – expressed concern about the safety of drivers and panhandlers during exchange.
15. Jerry Glass – said proposed ordinance is one more assault on the homeless.
16. Pamela Krause – said that destitution in Eugene is increasing; opposed ordinance.
17. Michael Gannon – expressed frustration about the obstacles to helping those in need.
18. John Thielking – opposed the ordinance as it violates the Constitution; suggested amendments.
19. Misha Seymour – opposed passage of the ordinance; City has created an unwelcoming atmosphere.
20. Susan Matthews – opposed ordinance; said it is an important means of supporting those in need.
21. Liana Leung – described the unsafe behavior she has witnessed during exchanges.
22. Jack Radey – said there is no evidence that panhandling creates a safety hazard.
23. Ben Clark – appreciated the opportunity for community conversation; opposed ordinance.
24. Sarah George – opposed ordinance for criminalizing acts of kindness.
25. Stephen Carson – said the main intent of the ordinance is to hide the problem of homelessness.
26. Kathy Cooks – recommended that council postpone action on the ordinance; do more to help.
27. Jenny Ulum – said ordinance focuses on the driver, not the person receiving; supported passage.
28. Stefan Strek – spoke about his enlightenment; opposed ordinance as being hypocritical.
29. Joe Williams – said that panhandling creates a safety issue; find common ground for problem.
30. Rose Padgett – opposed proposed ordinance; represents class war between rich and poor.
31. Chavon Wright – supported efforts to stop criminalizing homelessness and start helping homeless.
32. John Abbe – spoke about the hypocrisy of the proposed ordinance versus inundation of marketing.
33. Eric Jackson – supported amending the ordinance; acknowledged those who are homeless by choice.
34. Kris McAlister – encouraged council to consider unintended consequences of ordinance.
35. Leonard Stoehr – said there is no evidence to support the need for the proposed ordinance.
36. Mel Hite – said acts of kindness result in other acts of kindness; opposed ordinance.
37. Tracy Joscelyn – spoke against the ordinance; panhandling is a lifeline for many in the community.

Mayor Vinis closed the public hearing.

#### Council Discussion

- Councilor Clark – asked for information about the cessation of the “Fill the Boot” campaign for safety reasons.
- Councilor Syrett – stated that she will not support the proposed ordinance; it will be challenged in court if enforced only in panhandling situations; proposal is a pretext to achieve an unconstitutional purpose.
- Councilor Semple – noted that while she will oppose the ordinance, she supported providing an open forum for community to air its opinion on this issue; encouraged civil behavior to accomplish goals.
- Councilor Taylor – reported that many of her constituents support this ordinance; there are many other ways to help those in need; supported passage of the ordinance.
- Mayor Vinis – thanked those in attendance for their input and stressed the need for and value in maintaining a respectful meeting environment.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Beth Forrest*

Beth Forrest  
City Recorder

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