

MINUTES

Eugene City Council
Harris Hall, 125 East 8th Avenue
Eugene, Oregon 97401

January 8, 2018
7:30 p.m.

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

Councilors Absent: Alan Zelenka, Greg Evans

Mayor Vinis opened the January 8, 2018, meeting of the Eugene City Council.

1. ELECTION OF 2018 COUNCIL OFFICERS

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Semple, seconded by Councilor Taylor, moved to elect Mike Clark as President of the City Council for 2018. **PASSED 6:0.**

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Semple, seconded by Councilor Clark, moved to elect Betty Taylor as Vice President of the City Council for 2018. **PASSED 6:0.**

2. PUBLIC FORUM

1. Kate Gessert – spoke about priorities in making police chief recruitment decision.
2. Carol Scherer – said immigrant rights are important in police chief recruitment decision.
3. Lucy Lynch – expressed concern about Citizens for Sensible Oversight proposal.
4. Bonny Bettman McCornack – spoke in favor of city auditor ballot measure.
5. Larry Deckman – spoke in support of railroad quiet zone.
6. Robert Pinger – made statements in support of railroad quiet zone.
7. Dennis Meili – spoke in favor of low-income property tax exemption for Birchwood Apartments.
8. Linda Mitchem – spoke in favor of low-income property tax exemption for Birchwood Apartments.
9. Bob Cassidy – spoke in support of elected city auditor initiative.
10. Travis Johnston – spoke in support of tax exemption for Birchwood apartments.
11. Laura Tamkin – encouraged making it easier to build ADUs to help housing crisis.
12. Terry McDonald – asked Council to support moving Dusk to Dawn from the Mission to Amazon.
13. Paul Neville - supported Dusk to Dawn move and announced Youth House opening on February 1.
14. John Thielking – voiced concerns about parts of Section 8 regulations.
15. David Monk – gave thoughts on last Council work session; supported elected city auditor.
16. Ron Bevirt – spoke in support of independent elected city-auditor.
17. Eugene Drix – gave a nod to others; we are all “you.”
18. Carolyn Jacobs – spoke about residential density zones; evaluate R-1 before changing code.
19. Aaron Baker – supported bringing ridesharing to Eugene; change PPV rules.
20. Bill Aspegren – does not want to see code changes regarding SB 1051.
21. Eliza Kashinsky – read WE CAN letter requesting SDU code revisions to simplify building SDUs.
22. David Piccioni – spoke in support of independent elected city auditor.
23. Robin Bloomgarden – questioned efforts against elected city auditor group.
24. Sloan Heermance – spoke in support of railroad quiet zone.
25. Julia O'Reilly – spoke in favor of railroad quiet zone.

26. James Barber – said Our Revolution Lane County endorsed independent city-auditor measure.
27. John Abbe – encouraged support of independent elected city auditor.
28. Rob Zako – spoke in favor of alternative measure to independent elected city auditor initiative.
29. Julie Daniel – spoke in favor of an auditor and supported alternative city auditor measure.
30. John Barofsky – expressed budget concerns with elected city auditor initiative.
31. Mandy Jones – asked Council to consider alternative proposal to elected auditor initiative.
32. Tenille Woodward – voiced concerns about elected city auditor; in favor of alternative measure.
33. Chris Wig – voiced concerns about elected city auditor; in favor of alternative measure.
34. Kitty Piercy – voiced concerns about elected city auditor; in favor of alternative measure.
35. Marty Wilde – voiced concerns about elected city auditor; in favor of alternative measure.
36. Joshua Skov – voiced concerns about elected city auditor; in favor of alternative measure.
37. Janet Bevirt – spoke in support of elected city-auditor initiative.
38. Art Bollman – spoke in support of elected city-auditor initiative.
39. Tracy Cooke – spoke against Uber and Lyft coming to Eugene.
40. George Brown – spoke against alternative auditor proposal, supported elected city-auditor.
41. Norman Erp – spoke in favor of Birchwood Village Apartment propoerty tax exemption.
42. Stefan Strek – defended train horns, critical of “Best of” comments made in Eugene Weekly.
43. Lesa Wheeler – supported Birchwood Apartment property tax exemption; supports veterans.

Council Discussion

- If City Council puts a competing auditor ballot measure on the ballot, both measures would likely be defeated.
- Discussion of divestment from U.S. Bank is scheduled in a few weeks.
- There is confusion about the process and actions that led to a competing auditor measure.
- Not in support of either auditor proposal; having an auditor would not change Council’s actions.
- It is important to listen to every message the speakers bring to the public forum and consider the interesting ideas they propose.
- Robust public discussion around the possibility of an auditor is healthy.

3. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A. Approval of City Council Minutes
 - November 20, 2017, Work Session
 - December 11, 2017, Work Session
- B. Approval of Tentative Working Agenda
- C. Adoption of a Resolution Approving a Low-Income Rental Housing Property Tax Exemption Renewal for the Birchwood Apartments, Located at 1080 Clark Street, Eugene, Oregon (Birchwood Investments LLC/Applicant)

Councilor Syrett pulled Item C from the Consent Calendar.

Councilor Clark pulled Item B from the Consent Calendar.

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Clark, seconded by Councilor Taylor, moved to approve the item on the Consent Calendar. **PASSED 6:0.**

Council Discussion

- Would like to add an item to the list at the end of the tentative agenda for follow-up work session to be scheduled: Workforce housing discussion around MUPTE – what percentage of AMI is qualifying when determining target for workforce housing?

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Clark, seconded by Councilor Taylor, moved to approve Item B on the Consent Calendar. **PASSED 6:0.**

Council Discussion

- Birchwood apartment complex is a well-maintained property for low-income individuals and provides a very important housing resource – in favor of continuing the tax exemption.

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Clark, seconded by Councilor Taylor, moved to approve Item C on the Consent Calendar. **PASSED 6:0**

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elena Domingo
Deputy City Recorder