

**MINUTES**  
**Eugene City Council**  
**Work Session**  
**Eugene, Oregon 97401**

**September 11, 2023**  
**5:30 p.m.**

**Councilors Present:** Emily Semple, Matthew Keating, Alan Zelenka, Jennifer Yeh, Mike Clark, Greg Evans, Lyndsie Leech, and Randy Groves

Mayor Vinis opened the September 11, 2023, work session of the Eugene City Council in a hybrid format at 101 W 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Eugene OR 97401.

**1. WORK SESSION: City Manager Updates**

City Manager Medary provided information about emerging topics including the PeaceHealth University District hospital closure and the proposed Eugene Emeralds stadium.

Councilor Discussion:

- Councilor Groves – asked what an emergent situation would mean for Eugene Springfield Fire given the PeaceHealth University District emergency room closure; noted his concern about access to local hospitals during a seismic event; asked if the closure will require Eugene Springfield Fire to handle emergent transports from University District to RiverBend; asked if other hospitals may be interested in locating to Eugene; noted that finding a suitable replacement will take significant time.
- Councilor Leech – expressed disappointment with the planned closure; asked how the behavioral health unit will operate; asked about changes to wait times at RiverBend; asked how the hospital's financial situation factored into the decision.
- Councilor Clark – expressed disappointment with the planned closure; asked if the plan to have some services remain at University District could lengthen the time needed to secure another provider for that hospital; asked if the people of Eugene are better served by the Johnson Behavioral Unit staying with University District or moving to RiverBend; asked how the closure will affect wait time; asked how the City plans to negotiate with PeaceHealth, the county, and other relevant agencies.
- Councilor Zelenka – asked how longer drive times will affect patient outcomes; noted the City has excellent Emergency Medical Technician staff; asked how staff plans to cross the river in the event of a bridge failure; noted difficulties recruiting a new hospital to the area given the presence of two hospitals in Springfield; asked if the Oregon Health Authority can prevent the closure.
- Councilor Evans – asked about the reaction of the University of Oregon; asked if other health providers are interested in moving into the area.
- Councilor Semple – noted the hospital closure will be hard on those who have transportation insecurity; noted that longer drive times may affect patient outcomes.
- Councilor Keating – expressed disappointment with the planned closure; asked if the Oregon Health Authority can stop or delay the closure; asked how the Behavioral Health Unit factors into contingency plans; noted his previous visit to the emergency room for

care; asked how transport is arranged from local urgent care centers to available emergency rooms; asked how to expand the capacity of local urgent care centers.

- Councilor Groves – noted his concern for local firefighters and healthcare workers; stated his preference for increased communications with PeaceHealth.
- Mayor Vinis – asked if there will be support from Oregon Health Authority to help the City during the transition; asked how to expand the capacity and authority of local urgent care centers.
- Councilor Semple – asked about the capacity at McKenzie-Willamette Medical Center.
- Councilor Leech – noted a behavioral health unit is not a replacement for inpatient psychiatric hospitalization.
- Councilor Clark – asked if Lane County will have further discussions about the potential baseball stadium before the end of the month; asked if the County had formally approached the City about partnering with the City.
- Councilor Groves – asked for a list of funding options; asked if the community funding available as part of the University of Oregon land swap could be used for the stadium; noted the value of the Eugene Emeralds to the community.
- Councilor Zelenka – noted general fund dollars would not be available for stadium funding due to budget shortfalls; noted the Eugene Emeralds have an additional 30-million-dollar funding shortfall; noted Council has not received a comprehensive business plan for the stadium; stated he is against the City selling land as a revenue source.
- Councilor Keating – noted he has provided announcing services for the Eugene Emeralds; asked if the Downtown Urban Renewal District can be expanded to include the fairgrounds; asked if the revenue team has considered using concession or ticket fees.
- Mayor Vinis – noted there is not time to pass a bond before the Eugene Emeralds deadline with Major League Baseball; noted an interest in re-investigating the suitability of PK Park.
- Councilor Semple – asked if the Eugene Emeralds have been asked about where to source the funds.
- Councilor Keating – noted the County and City will not be able to meet Major League Baseball's deadlines and will need more time.
- Councilor Groves – asked for a list of potential funding sources.
- Councilor Evans – asks if there is a business plan for the stadium; noted there is a need for concrete numbers before moving forward.
- Councilor Yeh – noted the Eugene Emeralds have not made an official ask for funding; noted the need for funding throughout the community.
- Councilor Semple – stated doubts that the City will be able to find 15 million in extra money given current budget shortfalls.
- Councilor Zelenka – asked about the plan to pay the balance on the new City Hall building.
- Mayor Vinis – clarified that Council is asking for a list of revenue sources; asked whether that can be included in the revenue committee presentation.
- Councilor Evans – asked for the final deadline from Major League Baseball.
- Councilor Leech – asked for the timeline for the presentation on revenue committee findings.
- Councilor Keating – asked if there has been a final decision on the proposed location for the stadium.
- Councilor Zelenka – noted that due to Major League Baseball requirements, the costs for the stadium are not negotiable.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Katie LaSala". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Katie" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "LaSala".

Katie LaSala  
City Recorder

*(Recorded by Cherish Bradshaw)*

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