



Eugene City Council

500 E 4th Ave., Suite 302
Eugene, OR 97401
541-682-5010 • 541-682-5414 Fax
www.eugene-or.gov

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

May 14, 2025

12:00 p.m. CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

City Council Wednesday work sessions are held using virtual meeting technology. Information about online or other options for access and participation will be available at <https://www.eugene-or.gov/3360/Webcasts-and-Meeting-Materials>

Meeting of May 14, 2025; Her Honor Mayor Kaarin Knudson Presiding

Councilors

Greg Evans, President
Alan Zelenka
Randy Groves
Matt Keating

Lyndsie Leech, Vice President
Jennifer Yeh
Mike Clark
Eliza Kashinsky

12:00 p.m. CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

1. WORK SESSION: Council Discussion of Revenue Options

The Eugene City Council welcomes your interest in these agenda items. This meeting location is wheelchair-accessible. For the hearing impaired, an interpreter can be provided with 48 hours' notice prior to the meeting. Spanish-language interpretation will also be provided with 48 hours' notice. To arrange for these services, contact the receptionist at 541-682-5010. City Council meetings are telecast live on Metro Television, Comcast channel 21, and rebroadcast later in the week.

El consejo de la Ciudad de Eugene agradece su interés en estos asuntos de la agenda. El lugar de la reunión tiene acceso para sillas de ruedas. Se puede proveer a un intérprete para las personas con discapacidad auditiva si avisa con 48 horas de anticipación. También se puede proveer interpretación para español si avisa con 48 horas de anticipación. Para reservar estos servicios llame al 541-682-5010. Las reuniones del consejo de la ciudad se transmiten en vivo por Metro Television, Canal 21 de Comcast y son retransmitidas durante la semana.

For more information, contact the Council Coordinator at 541-682-5010,
or visit us online at www.eugene-or.gov.

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Work Session: Council Discussion of Revenue Options

Meeting Date: May 14, 2025
Department: Central Services
www.eugene-or.gov

Agenda Item Number: 1
Staff Contact: Sarah Medary
Contact Telephone Number: 541-682-5010

ISSUE STATEMENT

The purpose of this item is for Council to continue its discussion and provide staff with direction regarding potential revenue options.

BACKGROUND

On February 10th, Eugene City Council adopted Ordinance 20717, An Ordinance Establishing A Fire Service Fee And Adding New Sections 6.760, 6.765, 6.770, 6.775, 6.780, 6.785, And 6.790 To The Eugene Code, 1971 (**Attachment B**). A prospective referendum petition was filed with the City Recorder's Office on February 20, 2025.

On March 13, 2025, the Chief Petitioners submitted the petition signature sheets to the City Recorder's Office to be validated, meeting the initial deadline for a referendum filing as defined by E.C. 2.974(d) (requiring that a completed referendum petition be submitted to the City Recorder by the effective date of the legislation sought to be referred). The effective date of the ordinance was March 14, 2025. On March 17, 2025, the City Recorder's Office received certification from Lane County Elections, stating that the results of the statistical sample of signatures showed that the petition contained the required 5,817 valid signatures to refer the measure to the ballot. On March 24, 2025 the City Recorder finished reviewing Lane County's results and certified the completed referendum petition. Due to the timing of certification the next available regular election date is November 4, 2025. Ordinance 20717 is stayed until the results of the election are certified, or Council takes further action. Unless Council repeals the ordinance or calls an emergency election in accordance with ORS 221.230(3)-(5), the City Recorder will submit the referendum measure to Lane County Elections for the November 4, 2025, election. The last date for Council to repeal the ordinance for the November election is September 3, 2025.

Per E.C. 2.980, the City Manager presented the petition to the Council on April 9, 2025. During that work session, Council was presented with the following options for discussion:

- Repeal the ordinance referred by referendum petition;
- Vote to urge adoption or defeat of the referred measure; or
- Order submission of an alternative measure or measures to be voted upon at the same election as the referred measure.

These options and corresponding motions (provided to the Council on April 9 and April 21) are

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set forth in **Attachment C** to this AIS.

At their April 9 work session, Council passed a motion to continue their discussion at a work session on April 21. At the April 21 work session, Council passed a motion to hold two more work sessions on this topic on April 28 and May 14.

At the April 28 work session the Council discussed potential provisions for an alternative fee, including the amount of revenue a fee should generate, the length of time the fee should be in place, citizen input regarding City expenditures, and the name of the new fee. **Attachment A** to this AIS is a bulleted outline of a potential fee reflecting Council's discussion at the April 28 work session. While the attached outline attempts to capture the general desires of the Council majority, because no motions were passed at that time, the attached outline also includes alternatives that were discussed on April 28 and provides motions directing the ordinance be prepared to reflect one of the alternatives.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

[April 9, 2025 Work Session](#)

Councilor Evans, seconded by Councilor Leech, moved to direct the City Manager to schedule a work session on April 21, 2025 for further discussion of Council's options. VOTE: 8:0 PASSED. IN FAVOR: Kashinsky, Keating, Zelenka, Yeh, Clark, Evans, Leech, Groves. OPPOSED: None

[April 21, 2025 Work Session](#)

Councilor Leech, seconded by Councilor Zelenka, moved to direct the City Manager to schedule a work session on April 28 and May 14 for further discussion of Council's options. VOTE: 8:0 PASSED. IN FAVOR: Kashinsky, Keating, Zelenka, Yeh, Clark, Evans, Leech, and Groves. OPPOSED: None

[April 28, 2025 Work Session](#)

Council provided the City Manager with general feedback regarding alternative revenue options to inform the discussion on May 14, 2025.

POSSIBLE COUNCIL MOTIONS (alternatives)

1. If no ordinance provision alternative is moved by a Council majority:

Move to direct the City Manager to prepare an ordinance consistent with the outline set forth in Attachment A to this AIS and [schedule a public hearing] or [return to Council on May 21st for further discussion].

or

2. If one or more ordinance provision alternatives are moved by a Council majority:

Move to direct the City Manager to prepare an ordinance consistent with the outline set forth in Attachment A to this AIS and the motions adopted at today's meeting and [schedule a public hearing] or [return to Council on May 21st for further discussion].

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or

3. If Council desires further discussion prior to reviewing a proposed ordinance:

Move to direct the City Manager to schedule a work session on May 21st to provide Council additional time to discuss potential ordinance provisions.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Potential Ordinance Provisions and Decision Points
- B. Ordinance 20717 - An Ordinance Establishing A Fire Service Fee And Adding New Sections 6.760, 6.765, 6.770, 6.775, 6.780, 6.785, And 6.790 To The Eugene Code, 1971.
- C. Council Options Under EC 2.980 with Corresponding Motions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Staff Contact: Sarah Medary, City Manager
Telephone: 541-682-5010
Staff E-Mail: smedary@eugene-or.gov

Temporary City Operations Fee Potential Ordinance Provisions and Decision Points

Bulleted provisions (●) are based on Council's discussion and feedback provided at the April 23, 2025, Council work session.

1. Purpose/Use

- Provide general funding for city operations; revenue generated from the fee will be used to fund general city operations, administer the fee, and to support an income-based assistance program.
 - Additional info: Flexibility in the use of the fee's revenue reflects council feedback provided on 4/23/25, Council's motion adopted on 2/10/2025 directing the City Manager to prepare a Council retreat on long term budget stabilization strategies, and the Budget Committee's motion adopted on 2/12/2025 recommending that the Council hold a work session on the long-term funding needs for expanded firefighting services in Eugene.

2. Duration of Fee/Sunset Date

- 6 years
 - Alternatives
 - 4 years
 - 8 years
 - 10 years
 - Motion for Alternative: Move for the proposed ordinance to establish the temporary fee for ____ years.

3. Approximate Annual Amount to be Generated by Fee

- \$8 million
 - Alternatives
 - \$10 million
 - \$6 million
 - Motion for Alternative: Move for the proposed ordinance to annually generated approximately ____ in fee revenue.

4. Fee Methodology

- Fee structure that is equitable, transparent, simple, implementable in the most expeditious manner, and that provides some income-based fee-paying assistance.
 - Additional info: Multiple options are currently being explored, including the potential for using water customer accounts (water-meter size) or stormwater customer accounts (impervious surface area).

5. Fee Increases

- Annual increase based on Consumer Price Index, Urban Consumers, all US (CPI-U).
 - Additional info: The CPI-U is the inflation measure the state economist uses and is the measure the City uses for CPI increases for materials & services and for bargaining groups in the out-years of the forecast when there isn't a contract in place.
- Any increase above CPI-U within a 12-month period made by Council Resolution.
 - Alternatives
 - Require an ordinance to increase the fee above CPI-U.
 - Proactively state that there will not be any fee increases above CPI-U.
 - Motion for Alternative: Move for the proposed ordinance to reflect that a fee increase above CPI-U

6. Citizen Fiscal Stability Advisory Group [Potential uncoded ordinance section.]

- Convene a group of citizens to review the City's expenditures, services and potential revenues.
- The advisory group's purpose is to:
 - Help ensure that public funds are being spent efficiently and effectively, aligning with the needs and priorities of the community.
 - Help promote transparency in government spending by reviewing and assessing expenditures.
 - Provide both business and non-business leaders in the community an opportunity to review and discuss the City's fiscal decisions.
 - Promote accountability for how taxpayer money is spent.

COUNCIL ORDINANCE NO. 20717

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A FIRE SERVICE FEE AND ADDING NEW SECTIONS 6.760, 6.765, 6.770, 6.775, 6.780, 6.785, AND 6.790 TO THE EUGENE CODE, 1971.

ADOPTED: February 10, 2025

SIGNED: February 11, 2025

PASSED: 5:3

REJECTED:

OPPOSED: Clark, Evans, Groves

ABSENT:

EFFECTIVE: March 14, 2025



ORDINANCE NO. 20717

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A FIRE SERVICE FEE AND ADDING NEW SECTIONS 6.760, 6.765, 6.770, 6.775, 6.780, 6.785, AND 6.790 TO THE EUGENE CODE, 1971.

Section 1. Sections 6.760, 6.765, 6.770, 6.775, 6.780, 6.785, and 6.790 of the Eugene

Code, 1971, are added to provide as follows:

6.760 Fire Service Fee – Purpose and Use.

(1) The provisions contained in sections 6.760 to 6.790 of this code are for the purpose of providing dedicated funding for fire and emergency medical services through the adoption of a Fire Service Fee.

(2) Fire Service Fee revenue shall only be used to fund existing and new fire and emergency medical services, to administer the Fire Service Fee, and to support the income-based assistance program authorized by section 6.785 of this code.

6.765 Fire Service Fee – Definitions.

For purposes of sections 6.760 to 6.790 of this code, the following words and phrases shall have the following meanings, unless the context requires otherwise:

Building. Improvements erected upon the land including but not limited to the following: single family homes, condominiums, accessory dwelling units, multi-unit apartment buildings, manufactured dwelling units, dormitories, attached or detached garages, barns, warehouse buildings, fraternity houses, motels/hotels, manufacturing facilities, office facilities, commercial buildings, industrial buildings, shopping centers, senior care facilities, medical facilities, educational buildings, government buildings, sports facilities, and churches.

Developed property. Real property that is located within the corporate limits of the City of Eugene, on which one or more buildings exist, and that has at least one associated stormwater service customer account.

Person responsible. The owner, agent, occupant, lessee, tenant, contract purchaser or other person having possession or control of the developed property.

Stormwater Service. The use of the city's stormwater system including, but not limited to, collection of stormwater discharged from property on which development exists and its deposit directly or indirectly into the city stormwater system. The terms "city stormwater system," "development," and "stormwater" have the meanings set forth in section 6.406 of this code.

Stormwater Service Customer. Any person who has a stormwater service account and is responsible for the payment of the charge for city stormwater service.

Total Square Footage. The cumulative total of square footage of the building (s), or portion(s) of the building(s), for which a stormwater service customer pays a stormwater service charge.

6.770 Fire Service Fee – Establishment and Obligation to Pay.

(1) A Fire Service Fee is hereby established. The obligation to pay the Fire Service Fee arises when the person responsible receives fire service benefits. It is presumed that all developed property receives fire service benefits.

(2) Unless another person responsible has agreed in writing to pay the Fire Service Fee and a copy of that written agreement is filed with the city, the person(s) paying stormwater service charges for the building(s), or portion(s) of building(s), associated with the stormwater service customer's account shall pay the Fire Service Fee.

(3) The Fire Service Fee shall be based on the total square footage of the building(s), or portion(s) of building(s), associated with the stormwater service customer's account and shall be set by the city manager using the procedures, criteria and limitations set out in section 2.020 of this code. The city manager shall review and may amend the Fire Service Fee on at least a biennial basis.

6.775 Fire Service Fee - Billing.

(1) Receipt of stormwater service will automatically initiate billing for the Fire Service Fee established by section 6.770 of this code.

(2) If the person responsible can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the city that the amount of the Fire Service Fee billed to the person responsible has been calculated based on an incorrect total square footage of the building(s), or portion(s) of building(s), associated with the stormwater service customer's account and the incorrect total square footage calculation has resulted in an overpayment by the person responsible, the Fire Service Fee billed to the person responsible shall be reduced, and the appropriate credit given (not to exceed 12 months of overpayment credit).

6.780 Fire Service Fee – Delinquencies.

Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the city, the Fire Service Fee shall be billed monthly and if not paid within 10 days of the due date stated on the bill, the fee owed shall be deemed to be a delinquent fee. Delinquent fees may be recovered by the city using actions allowed by law, including city use of a private collection agency. Costs incurred by the city collecting delinquent fees can be recouped from the person responsible in accordance with the administrative fee order adopted by the city manager pursuant to section 2.020 of this code.

6.785 Fire Service Fee - Income-Based Bill Assistance.

A portion of the Fire Service Fee revenues shall be used to support an income-based Fire Service Fee bill assistance program. The qualifications and process for receiving Fire Service Fee bill-paying assistance shall be set by the city manager.

6.790 Fire Service Fee – Administrative Rules.

The city manager may adopt administrative rules pursuant to section 2.019 of this code in order to implement the provisions of sections 6.760 to 6.785.

Section 2. Fire Service Fee revenue shall be budgeted and accounted for in a separate fund.

Section 3. Notwithstanding Section 1 of this ordinance (providing that the Fire Service Fee shall be set by the city manager in accordance with section 2.020 of this code), the Fire Service Fee is initially established as follows:

Rate Categories Total Square Footage	Monthly Fire Service Fee Charge Per Stormwater Service Customer Account
50 –750	\$3
751 – 1,500	\$6
1,501 – 2,500	\$10
2,501 – 3,500	\$15
3,501 – 5,000	\$21
5,001 – 10,000	\$38
10,001 – 15,000	\$63
15,001 – 30,000	\$113
30,001 – 50,000	\$200
50,001 – 75,000	\$313
75,001 – 100,000	\$438
100,001 – 150,000	\$626
150,001 – 200,000	\$876
200,001 – 300,000	\$1,252
>300,000	\$1,752

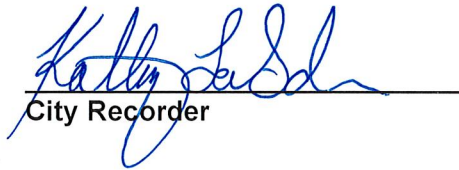
Amendments to this initially established Fire Service Fee may be made by the city manager in accordance with Section 1 of this ordinance. Notwithstanding Section 1 of this ordinance, an amendment to the Fire Service Fee that would increase the fee more than 5% within a 12-month period must be established by resolution of the council.

Section 4. The obligation to pay the Fire Service Fee established by Section 1 of this ordinance shall not arise before July 1, 2025.

Section 5. The City Recorder, at the request of, or with the consent of the City Attorney, is authorized to administratively correct any reference errors contained herein, or in other provisions of the Eugene Code, 1971, to the provisions added, amended, or repealed herein.

Passed by the City Council this

10th day of February, 2025



City Recorder

Approved by the Mayor this

11th day of February, 2025



Mayor

COUNCIL OPTIONS UNDER EC 2.980 WITH CORRESPONDING MOTIONS

Take no action at this time:

- Council can take no action at this time but request a future work session to further discuss the available options.
 - **Motion:** Move to direct the City Manager to schedule a work session on [specific date or “in the future”] for further discussion of Council’s options.

OR

Repeal the ordinance:

- Council may repeal the ordinance referred by referendum petition 2025-1.
 - **Motion:** Move to repeal Ordinance 20717, An Ordinance Establishing A Fire Service Fee And Adding New Sections 6.760, 6.765, 6.770, 6.775, 6.780, 6.785, And 6.790 To The Eugene Code, 1971.
- Council could direct additional work either in advance of or following the repeal of the ordinance.
 - **Motion:** Move to direct the City Manager to schedule a work session to discuss [topic] as an alternative to the fire service fee ordinance.

OR

Move forward with an election on the measure (several options):

- Council may take no additional action, in which case the referred measure will appear on the ballot in November 2025.
 - **No motion.**
- Council may call an emergency election, in accordance with ORS 221.230(3)-(5).
 - **Motion:** Move to direct the City Manager to schedule a public hearing in accordance with ORS 221.230(4), to determine if an emergency exists that requires an election sooner than the next available election date to avoid extraordinary hardship to the community.
- Council may vote to urge adoption or defeat of the referred measure.
 - **Motion:** Move to urge [adoption OR defeat] of the referred measure.
- Council may order submission of an alternative measure or measures to be voted upon at the same election as the referred measure.
 - **Motion:** Move to direct City Manager to schedule an additional work session to develop an alternative measure for referral to the ballot.