

Eugene Work Session

7/16/25

>> MAYOR KNUDSON: GOOD AFTERNOON, THANK YOU FOR JOINING US IN THIS VIRTUAL MEETING FORMAT.

FOR WORK SESSIONS LIKE THIS ONE, WHERE THERE IS NO OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.

THOSE WISHING TO ACCESS THE MEETING, CAN DO SO BY WATCHING THE LIVE STREAM AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE.

THE BROADCAST ON COMCAST CHANNEL 21 OR BY CALLING IN TO ONE OF THE PHONE NUMBERS FOR THIS MEETING, ON THE PUBLIC WEB CAST AND MATERIALS WEB PAGE.

I'D LIKE TO CALL THE JULY 16, 2025 WORK SESSION OF THE EUGENE CITY COUNCIL TO ORDER.

THE EUGENE CITY COUNCIL WILL NOW MEET IN EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO ORS 192.660

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REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NEWS MEDIA AND DESIGNATED STAFF SHALL BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND THE EXECUTIVE SESSION.

ALL OTHER MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE ARE ASKED TO LEAVE THE MEETING.

NEWS MEDIA ARE SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED NOT TO RECORD OR REPORT ON ANY SPECIFICS OF THE SESSION.

NO DECISION MAY BE MADE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

AT THE END OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION WE WILL RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AND WELCOME THE PUBLIC BACK TO THE MEETING.

PLEASE LOG OUT AND BACK INTO THE MEETING USING THE ZOOM INVITATION.

[EXECUTIVE SESSION IN PROGRESS]

>> MAYOR KNUDSON: THANK YOU FOR JOINING US FOR THE JULY 16, 2026 WORK SESSION.

I WILL MOVE ON TO THE NEXT ITEM.

>> THIS ITEM IS TO REVIEW THE JUDICIAL EVALUATION COMMITTEE.

ON MAY 12TH, THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE APPOINTED.

A FEW OF WHICH ARE HERE WITH US TODAY.

I'D LIKE TO TAKE A MINUTE TO THANK THOSE COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION TO THIS PROCESSION.

THEY GAVE UP SEVERAL EVENINGS THE PAST FEW MONTHS TO ACCOMPLISH THE REPORT THAT HAS BEEN ACCEPTED.

AND IT'S BEEN GREATLY APPRECIATED BY STAFF.

THIS IS ALSO AN OPTION TO DISCUSS THE COMPENSATION PACKAGE OF THE JUDGE.

DIRECTING STAFF TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT.

OPTIONS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED TO YOU IN THE AIS AS WELL AS IN ATTACHMENT B, AND THEY INCLUDE PROVIDING COMPENSATION ADJUSTMENT TO ONE OR TWO STEP INCREASE ON THE CURRENT SALARY GRADE, PROVIDING AN ALTERNATIVE MERIT INCREASE.

WITH THAT, I WILL TURN IT OVER BACK TO THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT.

>> THANK YOU FOR THAT PRESENTATION, BECKY, I WILL NOW OPEN THE FLOOR FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION.

COUNCILOR GROVES?

>> THANK YOU, VICE PRESIDENT.

I WANT TO START BY THANKING BECKY DEWITT FOR PULLING THIS ALL TOGETHER FOR US, IT'S A LOT OF WORK, I WANT TO REALLY THANK THE PANEL THAT GOT TOGETHER AND HELPED REVIEW THIS, I THINK IT'S VERY USEFUL TO HAVE OTHERS IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION THAT REVIEW THE WORK OF OUR PRESIDING MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE.

AS I THINK IT'S HELPFUL IN OTHER AREAS OF OUR CITY AS WELL.

SPECIFICALLY SPEAKING TO JUDGE GILL, I REALLY APPRECIATE HOW YOU APPROACH PROBLEMS.

YOU DIG IN YOU FIGURE OUT PROBLEMS THAT WE'VE EXPERIENCED FOR SOME TIME, AND YOU APPLY INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS, ESPECIALLY THE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAMS YOU'VE BROUGHT TO THE TABLE.

AND I THINK THAT JUST HELPS WITH THE OVERALL CROWDING OF OUR JUDICIAL LEGAL SYSTEM.

AND I APPRECIATE THAT IMMENSELY.

YOU'VE BEEN GRACIOUS AND TAKEN THE TIME IN PROVIDING THE TOURS AND MEETING.

I KNOW WITH ME, MEETING WITH US ALL PERIODICALLY.

I FIND THAT USEFUL AS WELL.

I THINK YOU PERFORM WELL ABOVE EXPECTATIONS.

I THINK THAT WAS SUPPORTED BY THE EVALUATION PROCESS THAT YOU UNDERWENT.

AND I'LL SAY, I'M CERTAINLY GOING TO SUPPORT OPTION B.

I THINK YOU DESERVE IT, SO WITH THAT, I'LL JUST SHUT DOWN WHAT I HAVE TO SAY HERE, AND I'M REALLY GLAD YOU'RE WITH US, AND I HOPE YOU STAY FOR A LONG TIME.

>> VICE PRESIDENT: THANK YOU COUNCILOR GROVES.

COUNCILOR ZELENKAS?

>> ZELENKA: THANK YOU.

IT'S HELPFUL TO HAVE COMMENTS WITH THOSE WHO INTERACT WITH THE JUDGE AND THE COURT ON A REGULAR BASIS.

HAVING REGULAR INTERACTIONS AND THEIR EXPERIENCES REFLECTED IN THE COMMENTS AND THE EVALUATION, IT'S HELPFUL TO US FOR THOSE WHO DON'T REGULARLY INTERACT WITH THE JUDGE.

AND SO WITH THAT, I READ THROUGH ALL THE MATERIALS, AND GROWING MARKS FROM ALMOST EVERYBODY, AND THE REMARKS ABOUT WHAT A GREAT JOB YOU'RE DOING.

I JUST WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THE GREAT WORK YOU'RE DOING.

ESPECIALLY WITH THE ALTERNATIVE COURTS.

WE HAVE A WELL RUN COURT.

AND I THINK YOU'RE THE RIGHT PERSON FOR THE JOB, SO THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THE WORK THAT YOU'RE DOING.

>> VICE PRESIDENT..

THANK YOU, COUNCILOR ZELENKAS, COUNCILOR YEH

>> YEH: I JUST WANTED TO I DID NOT PREPARE THIS, SO IT'S GOING TO COME OUT WEIRD.

WE OFTEN FOCUS ON LARGE COMPLICATED CRIMES AT HIGHER LEVELS.

OUR LOCAL SYSTEM DEALS WITH PEOPLE'S EVERY DAY LIVES.

EVERY DAY THINGS THAT AFFECT THEIR FUTURES AND THEIR PRESENCE AND THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR FRIENDS.

THEY MAY SEEM SMALL SOMETIMES.

THEY DON'T MAKE THE NEWS NECESSARILY, THEY DON'T MAKE DOCUMENTARIES ABOUT IT, BUT THEY AFFECT PEOPLE SO PROFOUNDLY AND ONE OF THE THINGS I'VE ALWAYS APPRECIATED FROM YOU IS, HOW YOU UNDERSTAND YOUR IMPACT, AND HOW YOU LOOK.

I THINK SOME OF THE OTHER COUNCILORS ALREADY MENTIONED IT, FOR WAYS TO HOLD PEOPLE ACCOUNTABLE, YOUR ULTIMATE GOAL ALWAYS FEELS LIKE, HOW CAN I HELP THIS PERSON, HOW CAN I HELP THEM IN THEIR NEXT STEP IN THEIR LIVES, SO THEY'RE NOT BACK IN FRONT OF ME AGAIN, RIGHT?

AND WE HAVE A GREAT SYSTEM HERE, BECAUSE OF YOU AND THE PEOPLE THAT CAME BEFORE YOU THAT HAD THAT MINDSET.

AND SO I THINK WE'RE SO FORTUNATE TO LIVE IN THIS CITY.

SO THANK YOU.

>> VICE PRESIDENT: THANK YOU, COUNCILOR YEH.

I WANT TO STEP IN MYSELF AND CONCUR WITH MY FELLOW COUNCILORS AND WHAT A GREAT AMAZING JOB YOU'RE DOING IN THIS ROLE, LIKE COUNCILOR YEH MENTIONED.

THESE INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES THAT WE'RE ABLE TO PROVIDE THAT YOU HAVE STARTED HERE.

I JUST I REALLY THINK THAT THEY'RE AMAZING, AND I'M EXCITED TO SEE WHAT YOU HAVE NEXT.

BECAUSE I KNOW YOU ARE ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE THAT'S NEVER QUITE SATISFIED WITH THE STATUS QUO.

YOU'RE ALWAYS GOING TO BE LOOKING AT HOW TO KEEP IMPROVING.

HOW TO KEEP SERVING OUR PEOPLE BETTER, AND PROVIDING A JUST SYSTEM.

SO I VERY MUCH APPRECIATE THAT.

IF THERE'S NO OTHER COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS FROM COUNSEL, I WILL PUT A MOTION ON THE TABLE.

I MOVE TO AWARD JUDGE GILL A MERIT SALARY INCREASE OF TWO STEPS, WHICH IS EQUIVALENT TO STEP 10, GRADE 12, \$191,817.60 ANNUALLY, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO THE SALARY CONTRACT WITH THE AWARD INCREASE.

>> SECOND.

>> VICE PRESIDENT: ANY DISCUSSION FROM COUNCIL?

COUNCILOR KEATING?

>> KEATING: THANK YOU.

I WAS LATE IN THE CUE TO ADD MY VOICE OF KUDOS AND APPRECIATION TO JUDGE GILL.

AND I'M THRILLED THERE'S CONSENSUS AROUND THIS MOTION.

THANK YOU FOR FLOATING IT, AND JUDGE GILL, YOU AND YOUR TEAM AT MUNY ARE A SHINING EXAMPLE OF HOW TO EMBRACE JUSTICE FOR ALL.

THE REST OF THE COUNTRY LOOKS TO EUGENE, IN PARTICULAR, BECAUSE OF THE WORK THAT YOU DO.

I'M AN ENTHUSIASTIC YES.

>> VICE PRESIDENT: THANK YOU.

I WILL NOW TAKE THE VOTE FOR THIS MOTION.

THOSE IN FAVOR, PLEASE RAISE YOUR HAND.

THAT IS 7 OUT OF 7 TODAY.

THAT IS UNANIMOUS.

SO THE MOTION PASSES WITH THE VOTE OF 7 AND SO THAT CONCLUDES OUR TOPIC TODAY.

I WILL NOW TURN TO THE CITY MANAGER TO INTRODUCE OUR FINAL TOPIC.

>> THANK YOU SO MUCH, AND CONGRATULATIONS JUDGE GILL.

I THINK THAT'S THE FASTEST EVALUATION EVER IN THE HISTORY OF TIME, SO GOOD WORK.

>> WELL TAKEN, THANK YOU.

AND THANK YOU ALL FOR STEPPING UP.

>> OUR SECOND TOPIC IS AN OVERVIEW OF OUR LIBRARY LEVEE, I'M JOINED BY OUR LIBRARY DIRECTOR, ANGELA OKANA.

>> I WILL BE SHARING TECHNOLOGY.

I HOPE IT GOES WELL.

THE QUESTION IS, CAN YOU SEE THE REALLY BIG SCREEN AND NOT THE ONE THAT HAS MY NAME ON IT?

>> NO, IT'S SHOWING TWO SLIDES.

>> THIS IS A DELIGHT.

THANK YOU, COUNCIL FOR BEING PRESENT WHILE I STOP SHARING AND RESHARE.

OKAY, DID I GET IT?

>> YEAH, IT LOOKS GREAT, ANGELA.

>> WONDERFUL.

WHEN I TALK ABOUT THE DIGITAL DIVIDE, YOU'LL FIGURE OUT WHY I CAN'T PUSH BUTTONS ON A SCREEN.

THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME HERE TODAY, I'M ANGELA OCANA, I'M YOUR LIBRARY SERVICES DIRECTOR.

I'M HAPPY TO REPORT ON THE YEAR THREE EXPANSION THAT SPANS JULY 2023 TO JULY 2024.

THIS LEVY WAS RENEWED IN 2020 AND APPROVED BY 26% OF VOTERS.

WE WILL HIGHLIGHT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES, MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGY AS PART OF OUR COMMITMENT TO ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY.

I'M GOING TO START TODAY WITH THE LIBRARY'S MISSION, TO PROVIDE EQUITABLE RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERYONE TO CREATE A CONNECTED, CARING AND INSPIRED COMMUNITY.

BY THE NUMBERS, EUGENE TURNS TO HAVE ONE OF THE BUSIEST LIBRARIES IN OREGON.

WE'VE SEEN STEADY GAINS EVERY YEAR SINCE THE PANDEMIC.

AND HAVE BEEN ABLE TO INCREASE CIRCULATION AND PROGRAMMING OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

WE SAW OVER 800,000 VISITORS, WHILE BEING OPEN 160 HOURS EACH WEEK ACROSS THREE LOCATIONS.

I WANT TO TAKE A MOMENT TO TOUCH ON SOME OF THE UNIQUE AREAS AT THE LIBRARY, AND OUR BRANCHES SERVED.

AT OUR SHELDON BRANCH, WE FOCUS ON OLDER ADULTS AND ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

OUR BETHEL BRANCH LOOKS TO EARLY LITERACY.

STRENGTHENING THE BETHEL COMMUNITY THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS, WHILE OUR DOWNTOWN YOUTH SERVICES TEAM LOOKS TO BUILD UPON THOSE ESSENTIAL ASSETS OF ALL YOUTH.

OUR ADULT TEAM FOCUSES ON COMMUNITY RECOVERY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.

NOW, WE'VE SEEN ANECDOTAL INFORMATION SINCE THE PANDEMIC, THAT OUR COMMUNITY IS ASKING FOR PROGRAMS AND COLLECTIONS AND SPACES.

THAT FOSTER CONNECTION WITH EACH OTHER WE'VE ADDED PROGRAMS LIKE OUR PHILOSOPHY CIRCLE, WHICH DISCUSS IDEAS OF WHAT IT REALLY MEANS TO LIVE IN A COMMUNITY.

WE'VE TAPPED INTO INDEPENDENT BUSINESSES AND WORKSHOPS, INCREASED OUR WEEKLY STORY TIMES.

WE KNOW THAT LONELINESS OFTEN AFFECTS NEW PARENTS.

WHILE STORY TIMES ARE GREAT, DEVELOPMENTALLY FOR YOUNG CHILDREN, IT PROVIDES MUCH NEEDED CONNECTION FOR THESE NEW PARENTS.

WE STILL MAINTAIN ONE OF THE LARGEST COLLECTIONS OF PUBLICLY AVAILABLE HOTSPOTS IN OREGON, CONNECTING US DIGITALLY.

AND WE ADDED MAKER MATERIALS TO OUR HOME DELIVERY SERVICE THAT CONNECTS OUR HOMEBOUND PATRONS TO THE LIBRARY.

THE LIBRARY IS ONE OF THE LAST THIRD SPACES AVAILABLE IN OUR COMMUNITY.

IT'S A PLACE THAT'S NOT JUST HOME OR WORK, BUT A PLACE TO BE.

AND THE DOWNTOWN LIBRARY IS THE LARGEST BUILDING FREELY OPEN AND AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC IN EUGENE.

WE'RE ALSO VERY INTENTIONAL IN CARVING OUT SPACES THAT MEET THESE EMERGING NEEDS.

FOR EXAMPLE, THIS IS OUR TWEEN CENTER, IT FOCUSES ON YOUTH 9 TO 12, IT'S A SPACE TO CONNECT CAN WITH THEIR PEERS, AND HAS AGE APPROPRIATE MATERIAL ON PUBERTY, ART AND MENTAL HEALTH.

A REPORT FROM THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, IDENTIFIED GEN Z AND MILLEN YELLS WHO DON'T SELF IDENTIFY AS READERS HAVE BEEN TO THEIR LIBRARY IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

WE'RE ON THE RIGHT PATH FOR DIVERSIFYING OUR SPACES AND OFFERING AS A THIRD SPACE TO OUR COMMUNITY.

THE LIBRARY HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY ZEN PLACE.

THIS QUOTE IS IN A GUEST AT THE MISSION.

AND THE PREVIOUS LEVY WE TOOK THE SHOW ON THE ROAD WITH THEM.

AND HOSTED MISSION CLASSES HERE AT THE LIBRARY.

HAVING ACCESS TO THE LIKERY CARD IS EMPOWERING FOR ALL WALKS OF LIFE.

THE WORK AT OUR SHELDON BRANCH.

WE PARTNER WITH THE TENS NETWORK AND THE SHELDON HIGH SCHOOL, AND THE COMMUNITY LIVING PROGRAM, CLP.

OUR PROGRAMS FOCUS ON INCLUSION AND EMPOWERMENT, AND A SAFE ENVIRONMENT.

THESE ARE SOME OF OUR MOST VULNERABLE POPULATIONS WHO HAVE BUILT A SAFE SPACE AT THE LIBRARY, WHO GO ON TO MEET NEW PEOPLE AT THEIR COMMUNITY AND BUILD NEW RELATIONSHIPS.

THE CITY OF EUGENE'S INFORMATION SERVICES DIVISION AS WELL AS THE OFFICE OF EQUITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, HOSTED A DIGITAL EQUITY PANEL IN 2023 AND 2024, THE PANEL IDENTIFIED A NUMBER OF ISSUES IN OUR COMMUNITY, INCLUDING

LIMITED ACCESS TO OUR DEVICES, THAT USE BROADBAND SERVICE, AND DIGITAL SKILLS NECESSARY TO ACCESS THOSE RESOURCES, LIKE EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND MEDICAL SERVICES.

SO THROUGHOUT THE PANELS MEETINGS, THE GROUP DISCUSSED CHALLENGES THAT COULD BE ADDRESSED BY DIGITAL NAVIGATORS.

HERE AT THE LIBRARY, WE CALL THAT THE DIGITAL DIVIDE.

AND IT AFFECTS PEOPLE OF ALL AGES AND SOCIAL AND HECK LEVELS.

THIS YEAR, THE LIBRARY BROUGHT BACK ITS DROP IN TECH HELP, WHICH HELPS COMMUNITY MEMBERS DO EVERYTHING FROM THE TEXT FIGURE ON YOUR PHONE AND SETTING UP AN ACCOUNT ON LINKED N LINKED NIN.

OUR BOOK BINS INSPIRES PEOPLE TO READ ON THEIR OWN, AND EXPLAINS THE DEWEY DECIMAL SYSTEM.

THIS ISN'T WORK WE DO ON THE LOCAL LEVEL, BUT ON A NATIONAL LEVEL.

OUR BOOK BINS AND TWEEN SPACE WERE PROGRAMS AT THIS YEAR'S LIBRARY CONFERENCE HELD RIGHT HIGHER IN EUGENE.

AND OUR WORK AT SHELDON LED US TO A GUEST LECTURE FOR A CLASS AT THE ALABAMA LIBRARY SCHOOL.

EQUITY AND ACCESS IS A CORE VALUE AT THE LIBRARY.

WE ALWAYS CONSIDER WHO'S NOT AT THE TABLE, AND HOW THESE INEQUITABLE SYSTEMS KEEP THEM FROM BEING THERE.

WE EXPANDED OUR PARTNERSHIP TO OFFER FREE TICKETS TO TEN FOR TEN THEATERS AT THE AMPITHEATER.

IT EXPANDS FREE COST ARTS TO MORE OF OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

WE ADDED A FREE NOTELY SERVICE AT THE DOWNTOWN LIBRARY.

AND WE EXPANDED OUR SPANISH EARLY LITERACY PROGRAM AT BETHEL.

WE ADDED OUTREACH FOR LITTLE WOLVERINES, WHICH IS THE DAY CARE FOR WILLAMETTE STUDENTS.

WE LOOK AT THE GENERATIONAL POWER HELD IN RELATIONSHIP TO FOOD AND FARMS.

LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO THE BIBLIOMATICO.

WE LOVE NAMING THINGS HERE AT THE LIBRARY.

THE BOOK VENDING MACHINE IS NO EXCEPTION.

IT WAS STARTED BY THE LANE COUNTY AFRICAN AMERICAN SUCCESS GROUP.

THE LIBRARY FEATURES AUTHORS FROM TRADITIONALLY MARGINALIZED POPULATIONS AND MAIN CHARACTERS FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS.

THIS ALLOWS PEOPLE TO KEEP THESE INCLUSIVE BOOKS AND BUILDING THEIR HOME CONNECTIONS, NOT HAVING TO RETURN THEM.

PEOPLE CAN SEE A MORE COMPASSIONATE WORKING THROUGH THE POWER OF DIVERSE BOOKS.

THE INTENTION IS FOR THESE TO BE USED AS A RELATIONSHIP BUILDING TOOL, NOT A REWARD OR PRIZE.

BUT RATHER, AS A WAY TO BUILD EXCITEMENT FOR READING AND HOPEFULLY ENCOURAGING THAT LIFELONG LOVE OF READING.

QUIZ TIME, EVERYBODY.

OUR LIBRARY OF THINGS CONTINUES TO ALLOW COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO CHECK OUT UNIQUE MAKER ITEMS.

IT'S REALLY GREAT.

IT REITERATES OUR COMMITMENT TO STAINABILITY AND THE SHARING ECONOMY THAT LIBRARIES ARE BASED ON.

THE QUESTION TO YOU, WHAT DOES OUR LIBRARY OF THINGS NOT HAVE?

AN OUTDOOR PROJECTOR KIT, A WEIRD CHAIR MADE OF STUFFIES, MELODY HARPS, SUING MACHINES, STAR WARS CAKE PANS, DASH ROBOTS, INDOOR AIR QUALITY MONITORS, WING SPAN THE BOARD GAME, CASCADE RAPTOR TICKETS, PAPER SHEDDER OR NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ROBOT THERAPY COMPANION CATS.

OKAY, LOCK IT IN, THINK.

I'LL GET IT IN THE Q&A IF YOU'RE RIGHT.

DON'T CHEAT.

THE ANSWER IS

>> NONE OF THE ABOVE.

>> A WEIRD CHAIR OF STUFFIES.

GIVE US SOME TIME, WE ARE BORROWING IT, YOU MAY BE ENOUGH, COUNCILOR CLARK TO SIT ON IT AT OUR 31ST ANNUAL TEDDY BEAR PICK NET THIS SATURDAY AT 11:00 A.M. AT THE AMAZON COMMUNITY CENTER.

>> I WANT A PICTURE.

>> LAST BUT NOT LEAST, THIS IS A LETTER FROM LUCY AND HER MOM, WHO VISIT OUR BETHEL AND SHELDON LIBRARIES.

JUST LIKE COUNCIL LETTERS, I'M SURE YOU KNOW, I WISH ALL LETTERS CAME ON RAINBOW STATIONERY WITH UNICORNS.

MY FAVORITE LINE FROM THE LETTER, IT'S BEEN A TOUGH TIME FOR US, AND YOU'VE ALL BEEN MORE LIKE A FAMILY TO US.

AND I JUST WANT TO SAY, YOU'VE MADE A GREAT IMPACT ON OUR LIVES.

FOR ME, IT'S PROOF POSITIVE THAT A LIBRARY CARD TRULY MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN FOLKS LIVES.

AND THAT CONCLUDES YOUR LIBRARY LEVY REPORT AND I'M HERE FOR YOUR QUESTIONS.

>> THANK YOU FOR THAT ENGAGING PRESENTATION.

I WILL NOW OPEN THE FLOOR FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION.

COUNCILOR KASHINSKY FOLLOWED BY COUNCILOR ZELENKAS.

>> KASHINSKY: I JUST WANT TO SAY, THE LIBRARY WE HAVE IN EUGENE IS REALLY A SHRINING SPOT IN OUR COMMUNITY.

AND THANK YOU FOR ALL THE WORK THAT YOU DO, AND ALL THE FOLKS AT THE LIBRARY DO, TO HELP ENSURE THAT OUR COMMUNITY HAS THIS AMAZING RESOURCE.

SO THANK YOU.

>> ZELENKA: THANK YOU.

IMPRESSIVE PRESENTATION.

THE LIBRARY'S JUST IMPRESSIVE, 2.8 MILLION CIRCULATION, NO MATTER WE GOT 76% YES VOTE ON THE LEVY.

OVER 1100 PROGRAMS, OVER 800,000 PEOPLE VISIT PER YEAR.

I THOUGHT THAT WAS AN INTERESTING THING, COLLECTION OF 1.8 MILLION ITEMS.

1.4 MILLION OF THEM ARE DIGITAL, COMPARED TO ONLY 446,000 PHYSICAL.

IT'S KIND OF THE TRANSITION TO A MODERN LIBRARY WE'VE BEEN SEEING IN THE LAST DECADE OR SO.

NOT YOUR GRANDFATHER'S LIBRARY.

AND WITH REGARD TO THE LEVY, I THINK YOU SAID IN THE WRITEUP, PROMISES MADE, PROMISES KEPT.

AND I THINK THAT'S VERY TRUE HERE.

I THINK YOU'VE DONE A REALLY GOOD JOB, WELL DONE.

AND I THINK CITIZENS OF EUGENE SHOULD ACTUALLY SEE AND TAKE NOTE THAT YOU'RE GETTING A REALLY GOOD VALUE FOR THESE TAX DOLLARS.

I WAS GOING TO ASK ABOUT BILIOMATICA BUT YOU TALKED ABOUT THAT, KIDS GET TO KEEP THE BOOKS, THAT'S JUST ONE QUESTION I HAVE ABOUT THAT, HOW DO WE DISTRIBUTE THE TOKENS AND WHO GETS TO GIVE THEM OUT, WHAT DO THEY USE TO GIVE THEM OUT?

>> COMMUNITY PARTNERS, SO WE WERE IN EARLY AGREEMENT WHEN LANE GOT THE GRANT.

WE DIDN'T WANT IT TO BE A REWARD BASED SYSTEM, FOR TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS WHO MAY USE THEM TO REWARD KIDS.

WE BELIEVE IN THE IDEA THAT EVEN BAD KIDS GET TO READ GOOD BOOKS.

WE DIDN'T WANT THAT TO BE A TOOL.

WE CREATED AN ONLINE FORUM, THAT ANY OF OUR COMMUNITY PERFORMERS CAN APPLY FOR.

THEY SAY WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO USE THE TOKENS FOR, WHERE IT'S GOING TO BE DISTRIBUTED, AND WE WORK WITH THOSE PARTNERS TO GIVE THEM THE TOKENS.

THEY DISTRIBUTE THEM AS A TARGETED WAY TO WORK WITH THEIR AUDIENCES, NOT JUST THE FOLKS THAT COME INTO THE LIBRARY ALREADY.

>> COOL.

>> AND THE COMMENTS COLLECTION SEEMS LIKE A REALLY COOL, HUGELY WIDELY USED.

I HAVE THIS QUOTE FROM MARK TWAIN ON MY DESK HERE, BECAUSE IT KEEPS COMING UP OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

IT SAYS, WHAT GETS US INTO TROUBLE IS NOT WHAT WE DON'T KNOW.

IT'S WHAT WE KNOW FOR SURE THAT JUST AIN'T SO.

AND THE LIBRARY HELPS US MAKE SURE THAT THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN.

SO GOOD WORK, THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR ALL THE WORK YOU'RE DOING, AND ALL THE PEOPLE THAT WORK ON THE LIBRARY.

IT'S A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF WHAT MAKES EUGENE A SPECIAL CITY.

>> ABSOLUTELY.

>> COUNCILOR KEATING?

>> KEATING: THANK YOU.

I WOULD SAY IMPRESSIVE, MOST IMPRESSIVE, A STAR WARS QUOTE, BECAUSE YOU HARKINED A GALAXY FAR, FAR AWAY.

MY EARS PERKED UP, I DIDN'T QUITE PICK UP IN THE LIBRARY OF THINGS, AND THE GALAXY OF THINGS, WHAT STAR WARS THINGS WERE YOU POINTING OUT?

>> IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GET, I THINK IT'S A DEATH STAR CAKE PAN, YOU CAN.

FUN FACT, MY STOP MOM WHEN I WAS A KID, WANTED TO MAKE A CAKE FOR MY LITTLE SISTER.

SHE BOUGHT A COOKIE MONSTER CAKE PAN.

IT NEVER WAS USED AGAIN.

OUR CAKE PAN COLLECTION IS THIS NOD TO FOLKS WHO WANT TO USE COOL AND INTERESTING THINGS AND DON'T ALWAYS HAVE THE MONEY TO INVEST.

WE CELEBRATE A LOT OF NERDY BUT CUTE THINGS IN OUR CAKE PAN COLLECTION.

EVERYTHING FROM BUMBLE BEES TO THE DEATH STAR AND CASTLES AND FAIRIES.

>> OKAY, THAT'S A CAKE PAN.

ON A MORE SERIOUS NOTE.

TALKING ABOUT LIBRARY ACCESSIBILITY.

IT WAS NOT LONG AGO THAT THIS COUNCIL TOOK ACTION, APPROPRIATELY SO, I'M PLEASED THAT WE DID, TO LIMIT OR BAN UNAUTHORIZED CAMPING IN FRONT OF THE LIBRARY OR WITHIN 1,000 FEET OF THE LIBRARY OR ANY ACCREDITED SCHOOL IN EUGENE CITY LIMITS.

IT'S ABOUT 2 1/2 CITY BLOCKS.

HOW HAS THAT HELPED THE LIBRARY BECOME MORE ACCESSIBLE, IF AT ALL.

ARE YOU SEEING THE RESULTS, ARE THEY A NET POSITIVE?

AND WHAT CAN COUNCIL DO TO DRIVE HOME ACCESSIBILITY FOR A LIBRARY THAT SERVES ALL SAFELY?

>> YEAH, I WOULD SAY THAT THAT ACTION BY COUNCIL WAS ESSENTIAL.

AT THAT TIME, I THINK WE WERE FACING A LOT OF BEHAVIORAL ISSUES.

I THINK THE STATE MANDATED SOMETHING THAT WAS IN FLUX FOR CITIES, AND WITHOUT THAT, I THINK WE WOULD NOT NECESSARILY HAVE THE LIBRARY THAT WE HAVE TODAY.

I WOULD JUST SAY THAT THAT WAS VERY ESSENTIAL FOR HOW THE LIBRARY OPERATES.

ADDING ON TO THAT.

WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT, WHAT DOES THAT LOOK LIKE FOR A LIBRARY, FOR ME, IT'S ALWAYS A THRIVING DOWNTOWN.

THE MORE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT WE DO, AND HOW THE LIBRARY FITS INTO THE ECONOMIC THRIVING OF DOWNTOWN, MORE HOUSING DOWNTOWN, MORE FAMILIES DOWNTOWN.

I THINK THAT'S WHAT BUILDS TO A SAFER, BETTER COMMUNITY.

THE WORK WE'RE DOING OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS IS TO THINK ABOUT HOW LIBRARY PLAYS A VITAL ROLE FOR DEVELOPMENT.

SPECIFICALLY FOR THE DOWNTOWN LIBRARY, AND HOW WE CAN BE A PART OF THAT.

WE ARE A NO BARRIER KIND OF PLACE, ANYBODY CAN COME HERE.

IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT WE DON'T PLAY A PART IN THE VITALITY OF DOWNTOWN.

LOOKING MORE AND MORE AND MORE ABOUT HOW WE CAN FACILITATE THOSE PARTNERSHIPS, WHETHER IT'S THROUGH OUR DOWNTOWN EPD HUD STATION, THROUGH LTD, RELATIONSHIPS, SMALL BUSINESSES.

THAT'S HOW I THINK OF A THRIVING DOWNTOWN, WHICH INCLUDES THE LIBRARY.

>> KEATING: THANK YOU SO MUCH.

AND PLEASE GIVE MY APPRECIATION TO ALL LIBRARY STAFF, PATRONS, AND AS MY COLLEAGUES HAVE MENTIONED EARLIER, TO THE VOTERS WHO HAVE CONTINUOUSLY AND ENTHUSIASTICALLY STOOD ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF HISTORY IN THE LIBRARY'S CORNER.

THANKS SO MUCH FOR ALL YOU DO.

>> THANK YOU.

>> VICE PRESIDENT: COUNCILOR GROVES?

>> GROVES: THANK YOU.

I THINK WE ALL KNOW THAT OUR LIBRARIES ARE ESSENTIAL IN THE SERVICES PROVIDED.

I RECOGNIZE THAT OUR LIBRARY ENJOYS GOOD SUPPORT FROM OUR COMMUNITY.

WHICH I THINK THAT'S IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND.

I ALSO WANT TO MENTION, COUNCILOR KEATING, I APPRECIATE YOU IS ASKING THAT QUESTION ABOUT CHANGES TO OUR ORDINANCES TO PROTECT THE LIBRARY, AND POINT OUT THAT HOW MUCH BETTER THINGS ARE AROUND THE LIBRARY, YET WE'RE STILL HEARING PROBLEMS IN OTHER PARTS OF OUR DOWNTOWN AND RIVER ROAD AREA, AND ALSO OUR HIGHWAY 99 AREA ARE SO MAYBE WE CAN LEARN SOME THINGS THAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED HERE, THAT COULD BE APPLIED TO OTHER PLACES.

I RECOGNIZE THIS IS OFF POINT IN SPEAKING TO THE LIBRARY, BUT IT'S ABOUT MAKING OUR ENTIRE COMMUNITY FEEL SAFE AND BE SAFE.

AND IT JUST CHANGES THE VIBRANCY OF OUR COMMUNITY.

AND RECOGNIZING THE LIBRARY IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR DOWNTOWN, OR IT WOULD BE NICE TO LEARN AND GROW FROM THIS EXPERIENCE THAT WE HAD.

ANGELA, A SPECIFIC QUESTION I HAD, AND I CERTAINLY MAY HAVE WALKED BY IT AND MISSED IT THIS TIME.

A WHILE BACK, I WAS FLYING OUT OF OUR EUGENE AIRPORT, AND I NOTICED A BOOK VENDING MACHINE THERE, I STOPPED.

I GO, WOW!

THAT IS THAT IS SOMETHING I NEVER WOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF, BUT THE LAST TIME I FLEW OUT OF EUGENE, I DIDN'T SEE IT.

BUT I ALSO WASN'T SPECIFICALLY LOOKING FOR IT.

IT USED TO BE AT THE TOP OF THE ESCALATORS.

MY QUESTION IS, IS THAT STILL THERE, AND WHAT WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE, WHAT WAS THE LIBRARY'S EXPERIENCE WITH THAT?

>> STILL THERE, I JUST FLEW OUT A FEW WEEKS AGO TO PHILLY, I ALWAYS PASS BY AND GET A STORY.

THAT WAS A PARTNERSHIP WITH OUR FOUNDATION AS WELL AS THE AIRPORT TO HELP START SOME OF THE FUNDING COSTS FOR IT, BEAUTIFULLY DONE BY LARGE MARKETING.

IT IS THE SECOND BUSIEST STORY MACHINE IN THE NATION OR THE WORLD.

OUR FOUNDATION DIRECTOR WAS JUST AT CONFERENCE.

ALWAYS LOVES TO GO TALK TO THOSE FOLKS, BECAUSE WE'RE SUCH A POPULAR MACHINE.

WHAT I LOVE SPECIFICALLY ABOUT OUR MACHINE IS THAT THERE IS A SECTION FOR LOCAL STORIES.

SO WITHIN THE LANE COUNTY AREA, YOU CAN SUBMIT YOUR STORY THAT GETS VETTED BY STAFF, AND ADDED TO THE DATABASE.

YOU ALSO DON'T NEED TO VISIT THE AIRPORT TO SEE THAT, THERE'S A LINK ON OUR WEBSITE YOU CAN CLICK ON TO SEE THE STORIES.

I FIND IT ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING WAYS KIDS SUBMIT A LOT OF STORIES, IT'S SO EXCITING TO SEE KIDS PUSH THE BUTTON AND GET THEIR STORIES.

>> THANK YOU, I THOUGHT THAT WAS A VERY INNOVATIVE THING.

THIS LAST FLIGHT WAS AN 0500 DEPARTURE.

I DIDN'T HAVE MY COFFEE YET.

I GOT ON THE PLANE, OH, I DON'T REMEMBER SEEING THAT.

BUT IT MADE A MARK ON ME, SO THANK YOU FOR BEING CREATIVE AND TRYING NEW THINGS.

AND THERE'S MORE THAT I COULD SAY, BUT JUST THANK YOU, AND I'LL END THERE.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILOR GROVES.

>> VICE PRESIDENT: THANK YOU, COUNCILOR GROVES, COUNCILOR YEH?

>> YEH: YOU SAID THERE WAS A CONFERENCE IN EUGENE.

>> IT WAS THE OREGON LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE.

EVERY FOUR YEARS OR SO, YOU WILL SEE A TON OF LIBRARIANS WHO COME AND FLOCK TO THE LANE COUNTY EVENT CENTER IN OUR CARDIGANS AND DO A BUNCH OF LIBRARY NETWORKING.

>> THAT'S FANTASTIC.

I HAVE A LIBRARY LADY CARDIGAN AS MY HUSBAND CALLS IT.

>> ABSOLUTELY.

>> APPRECIATE IT, THEY'RE SO USEFUL.

I'M WONDERING, I YOU KNOW, I DON'T THINK THIS IS ANY NEW NEWS TO YOU, BUT IT SEEMS LIKE LIBRARIES ARE PARTICULARLY ADEPT AT ADAPTING TO THE TIMES.

MOST INSTITUTIONS IT TAKES A LOT FOR THEM TO CHANGE COURSE OR TO BRING ON NEW THINGS.

LIBRARIES ARE JUST I'M NOT SURE WHAT THE SECRET SAUCE IS, MAYBE YOU DO KNOW, BUT THEY ARE SO GOOD AT THIS, AND SO I'M WONDERING AND IT MAY BE TOO SOON.

I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG AGO THE CONFERENCE IS.

WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAYS, THE BIG TAKEAWAYS THE LIBRARIANS ARE TALKING ABOUT AND WORKING ON.

AND I'M GLAD THAT WE WERE THERE IN SHARING OUR THINGS, I'M WONDERING IF YOU HAVE PROCESSED IT YET, WHAT WERE YOUR TAKEAWAYS?

>> YOU ALWAYS ASK THE BEST QUESTIONS TO GET ME THINKING.

I THINK LAST YEAR WE WERE TALKING ABOUT DIGITAL LICENSES THROUGH OUR PLATFORMS, WHICH I COULD TALK A LOT ABOUT.

THERE WERE A LOT OF THINGS I THINK, THAT PROLIFERATED THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE THIS YEAR, FIRST AND FOREMOST IS THE FEDERAL CHANGES THAT ARE HAPPENING, AND HOW THAT IMPACTS LIBRARIES.

SO THE FIFTH CIRCUIT APPEAL DECISION CAME DOWN AT THE SAME TIME THE CONFERENCE WAS HAPPENING.

AND THAT ONLY IMPACTS THREE STATES IN THE FIFTH CIRCUIT.

BUT IT DOES TALK ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT LIBRARIES ARE GOVERNMENT SPEECH OR NOT, AND WHETHER THAT INFRINGES ON WHAT MATERIALS ARE INCLUDED IN LIBRARIES.

WE HAVE A HUGE PIECE AROUND CENSORSHIP, WE'VE BEEN PREPARING FOR YEARS, AND LOOKING AT OUR PROCEDURES AND POLICIES, ABOUT HOW WE HANDLE CHALLENGES.

I THINK THAT WAS KIND OF THE TALK OF THE TOWN.

ALSO, LSTA, DR. CARLA HAYDEN WHO WAS THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, WAS AT CONFERENCE.

SHE HAD A LOT OF INSIGHT INTO THE ADMINISTRATION'S CHANGE.

AND LSTA FUNDING, WHICH HELPS FUND SPECIFICALLY TECHNOLOGY, AND SMALL LEVEL GRANTS FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES WAS IMPACTED.

THE FUNDING WAS RETURNED.

BUT I THINK MY BIGGER CONCERN AROUND THE FEDERAL LEVEL IS ALWAYS AS FEDERAL CHANGES HAPPEN, AND CHANGES HAPPEN TO THE STATE, HOW LOCAL LIBRARIES ARE IMPACTED.

CHANGES AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL MAY CHANGE THE STATE FUNDING.

SO FOR US, SPECIFICALLY, WE SAW THE INITIAL CUTTING OF IMAGINATION LIBRARY FUNDING, WHICH PROVIDES FREE BOOKS TO FOLKS ZERO TO 5 IN OUR COMMUNITY.

WHETHER OR NOT YOU LIVE NEAR A LIBRARY, IT'S THE DOLLY PARTON IMAGINATION LIBRARY.

AND SO THE STATE HAD INITIALLY CUT THAT FUNDING, WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN A HALF MATCH, SO WE WOULD HAVE GOTTEN HALF, THROUGH STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING, AND THEN THE OTHER HALF IS RAISED THROUGH FUNDRAISERS.

THAT MONEY WAS RECENTLY RETURNED.

I THINK IT'S AN INITIAL IMPACT OF CHANGES AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL, THE STATE LEVEL, WHICH IMPACTSING US HERE ON THE GROUND.

CERTAINLY A LOT OF TALK ABOUT FEDERAL CHANGES.

I THINK THE SECOND MOST INTERESTING TOPIC WAS THE PROLIFERATION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.

WE'RE ON THE CUTTING OF EDGE OF WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO HAVE ARTIFICIALLY CREATED BOOKS ENTER THEIR WAY INTO LIBRARIES, PUBLISHERS, WHAT DOES THAT LOOK LIKE.

I THINK THERE ARE TWO ENDS.

THERE'S THIS THING OF HOW DO BOOKS AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE WORK FROM A PUBLISHING SIDE.

AND HOW CAN THEY USE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TO INFLUENCE PEOPLE.

THOSE ARE THE TWO BIGGEST THEMES I SAW A LOT.

>> THOSE ARE SUPER INTERESTING.

IN THE ARTIFICIAL, ARE WE SEEING BOOKS THAT ARE WRITTEN BY A.I. COMING, BEING PUBLISHED ALREADY?

>> YES.

>> WOW!

>> IT'S ONE OF THE REASONS, ONE OF THE MORE UNPOPULAR DECISIONS I EVER GET TO MAKE AS A LIBRARY DIRECTOR, WE STEPPED AWAY FROM OUR HOOPLA PLATFORM, YOU'LL SEE AN IMPACT TO OUR DIGITAL COLLECTION, AT A LEV Y REPORT SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE, THEY CAN'T CONTROL ARTIFICIALLY CREATED BOOKS THAT END UP ON OUR PLATFORM.

OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS THINK THEY'RE GETTING LIBRARY VETTED MATERIALS AND IT'S NOT WHAT THEY'RE GETTING.

HOOPLA PREFERRED QUANTITY OVER QUALITY, AND REFUSED TO TAKE A STANCE ON A.I. GENERATED MATERIALS, COUPLED WITH THE COST, IT WAS TIME FOR US TO LEAVE THAT PLATFORM.

INGRAM HAS COME OUT AND STATED THERE HAVE BEEN A.I. BOOKS ON THEIR PLATFORM.

THEY'RE COMING OUT WITH STATEMENTS ABOUT HOW THEY'RE TRYING TO CONTROL THAT AND HOW TO ENSURE LIBRARIANS THAT ARE TRYING TO VET THEIR MATERIALS

THAT END UP ON OUR SHELVES ARE NOT CREATED OR WOULDN'T MEET OUR TEST OF BEING ADDED TO THE LIBRARY COLLECTION.

>> ALL RIGHT.

THANK YOU, THAT'S VERY INTERESTING.

>> YOU ASK THE BEST QUESTIONS.

>> I TRY.

>> VICE PRESIDENT: THANK YOU, COUNCILOR YEH, THANK YOU ANGELA.

I'D LOVE TO TAKE YOU ON A ROAD SHOW.

IT WAS AN INTERESTING PRESENTATION.

AND HAVE YOU GIVE PRESENTATIONS ABOUT ANY NUMBER OF CITY RELATED TOPICS, BECAUSE IT WAS JUST SO INTERESTING, AND YOUR VOICE IS IT'S REALLY ENGAGING, LIKE I SAID.

I LOVE THAT YOU SPOKE TO THE LONELINESS THAT PARENTS OFTEN FEEL, AND THAT STORY TIME, AND THE KIDS AREA, IS SUCH AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR COMMUNITY.

I WORK WITH HUNDREDS AND HUNDREDS OF OUR COMMUNITY'S PARENTS EVERY YEAR, AND ALMOST ALL OF THEM SAY TO US, HOW IMPORTANT THAT SPACE IS.

SO THANK YOU FOR THAT.

I LOVE THE BIBLIOMATICO.

HOW DOES AN ORGANIZATION THERE'S A LINK THEY CAN GO TO TO TO APPLY FOR THAT.

>> IT'S ON OUR WEBSITE, YOU CAN CALL OUR STAFF, OUR YOUTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL HELP WALK YOU THROUGH.

WE ARE EXCITED TO HAVE MORE COMMUNITY PARTNERS JUMP ON BOARD FOR THAT ONE.

>> THANK YOU SO MUCH.

I KNOW WE ALL APPRECIATE YOUR WORK.

AND OUR BEAUTIFUL WONDERFUL LIBRARY.

>> THANK YOU FOR ALL THE KIND COMPLIMENTS, YOU WILL BE SEEING MORE OF ME, WE ARE IN A FUTURE LEV Y YEAR, YOU WILL GET TO SEE ME A BUNCH AFTER THE BREAK, AS WE LOOK AT THE 2026 LEVY RENEWAL.

THANK YOU FOR THE KIND WORDS.

>> IF THERE'S NO OTHER COMMENTS FROM COUNCILORS, WE CAN END OUR MEETING A LITTLE BIT EARLY TODAY.

WELL, THANK YOU EVERYONE.

I NOW CLOSE THE JULY 16, 2025 CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION.

WE ARE ADJOURNED.