

ROUGHLY EDITED TRANSCRIPT
CITY OF EUGENE
SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 14, 2026
1:45 P.M.

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>> Mayor Knudson: Thank you and welcome to the January 14, 2026 City Council special meeting. Thank you for joining us. Work sessions like this one there is no opportunity for public comments. Those wishing to access the meeting can watch the livestream on the web site, the broadcast on Comcast channel 21 or call in to one of the phone numbers listed on the public webcast meetings materials page at the city of Eugene website. In case of a medical emergency an automated defibrillator is located to the west side of the room. In case of emergency evacuation the double doors to the patio can be used as emergency exits. In the back of the room and the other doors to the patio can be used as needed. Thank you for joining us today. I now call the January 14, 2026 special meeting of the Eugene City Council to order. [Gavel] our first agenda item is executive session. Executive session pursuant to ORS192.6602F, ORS1293551 and ORS192.3552. Eugene City Council will now meet in executive session held pursuant to the executive -- held pursuant to the ORS that I just listed. Representatives from the news media and all designated staff shall be allowed to attend the executive session. All other members of the audience are asked to leave. Representatives of the news media are directed to record or report on the deliberations during the executive session except to state the general subject of the session as previously announced. No decision may be made in executive session and at the end of the executive session we will return to open session and welcome the audience back in to this public meeting. We have no Councilors who are -- [EXECUTIVE session]

>> Mayor Knudson: We are now back in session, after our executive session, to discuss our second topic, special meeting for the city manager recruitment process. I will now turn to our Council President, Greg Evans, to offer brief comment and put a motion forward.

>> Evans: Thank you, Mayor. First I would like to thank our search for Bob Murray and associates, for putting together this tremendous process that we just

went through in terms of developing the selection for our next city manager. I also want to thank the community stakeholders. Who have been involved, given valuable input into the process. And have helped shape the decision we're about to make. I would like to thank city staff who have gone an -- done an outstanding job of managing this process and bringing us to this point. Finally, I'd like to thank our Councilors, my fellow Councilors, and the Mayor for their input and their comments around who we have finally decided, have Concord answer for, for the nomination that I'm about to make. So I move to appoint Jenny -- I have to learn to say her last name. This is embarrassing. I have been practicing this, actually. Jenny HARUYAMA as the city manager and authorize Council President to negotiate an employment agreement with Jenny HARUYAMA with final approval of employment agreement to be approved by counsel through the consent agenda prior to its execution.

>> Second.

>> Mayor Knudson: Any further discussion from Council? Councilor Groves?

>> Groves: I want to thank the candidates themselves, for putting themselves out there and coming and participating in the process and showing interest in our community. I enjoyed every interaction I had with all three candidates and I thought all three were exceptional. I just want to say I don't think it was an easy decision.

>> Mayor Knudson: Councilor Keating?

>> Keating: May I at this point? I echo, yes, everything you all said about how stellar the candidates were, capable, competent, strong candidates. I'm beyond thrilled that all three stepped up and spoke to support Jenny. Mayor and Council President, when Councilor Groves and I were Council leadership we negotiated the contract together as Council President and Council Vice President for our police Auditor. The motion empowers the Council President solely. Is there an opportunity to accept a friendly amendment to allow for the Council Vice President, who would be the incoming Council President, to be part of the negotiation process?

>> Evans: I plan to include Council Vice President in those negotiations since she will be the incoming President anyway. I don't think we need a friendly amendment. I think that Lindsey and I can handle it.

>> Groves: Great, great, appreciate that, happy to support the motion and thrilled we have landed the ship, thank you.

>> Mayor Knudson: Councilor Leech.

>> Leech: Thank you. I want to reiterate how amazing this was, thank you Bob Murray and associates. I said in executive session I couldn't have -- wouldn't have believed anyone if they told me at the beginning of this process that we would

have three really amazing incredible candidates. We spent the last two hours just talking about how close they all were. It was a difficult decision. And I'm really excited for us to come together, to have a new city manager. I know our former city manager, when she told us that she was retiring, I didn't think that we would be here. So happy to be able to offer this position to somebody. So I'm looking forward to our future and looking forward to negotiating this contract with our new leader. Thank you.

>> Mayor Knudson: Councilor Zelenka?

>> Zelenka: I want to thank Bob Murray and associates, putting this together, and then also all the people that participated in the process that weren't on the Councilor staff, all of the community members, stakeholders and agency partners, neighborhood of folks that were all participating in the process. Your input was very well received and very helpful. All of that was -- I've done many of these and this was a good process. I am glad that we have settled on Jenny, she's going to be a great city manager. Look forward to working with her.

>> Mayor Knudson: Thank you, Council. Seeing no more discussion I'll take a vote for the motion. All in favor. With zero opposed, the motion passes with a vote of 8-0. Thank you all so much for this very important work. This concludes our agenda for today. We look forward to continuing this conversation, and notifying folks. I now close the January 14, 2026 City Council special meeting. We are adjourned.