

ROUGHLY EDITED TRANSCRIPT
CITY OF EUGENE
WORK SESSION
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[Live captioner standing by]

>> Mayor Knudson: Good evening, everyone. And welcome to the January 26, 2026, City Council work session.

Thank you for joining us in this hybrid meeting format.

For work sessions like this one, there is no opportunity for public comment and those wishing

to access the meeting can do so by watching the live stream available on your website, the broadcast on Comcast channel 21, or call into one of the phone numbers listed for this meeting on the public webcast and meetings material webpage.

In case of a medical emergency, there's a defibrillator located on the counter to the left of this room.

And in case of an emergency evacuation, the exit doors are through the double doors at the back of the room and the doors to the patio can also be used as needed.

Thank you all again for joining us this evening.

I now call the January 26, 2026, work session of the Eugene city council to order.

[Gavel pounded]

And I will turn to the assistant city manager to introduce our first topic which is work session on intergovernmental relations and the 2026 legislative session priorities.

>> Thank you, Mayor.

Excited to turn this over to Brooke freed to talk about it and I'll let you get started, Brooke.

>> Freed: Good evening, Mayor and Councilors.

I work here in the city manager's office.

I'll be presenting the 2026 legislative priorities on behalf of Ethan Nelson who is unable to be here today.

I'm joined by Zack who along with Ethan are shares our funding goals at the state level.

Tonight we'll talk through the IGR program goals, IGR process, the 2026 policy framework, our 2026 state priorities, we'll touch briefly on the federal united front efforts, and wrap up with discussion and action.

Specifically, we'll be asking council to take action on two items provided in your packet.

The 2026 legislative policy document attachment "A," and the 2026 state legislative priorities, attachment "B."

To begin, we have several high-level goals for the IGR program.

First, we have focused on building relationships with local, state, and federal partners through greater engagement of agencies and elected officials.

Second, we have been participating in strategic policy discussions at the state and federal level.

Mayor Knudson's introduction to housing

strategies is an example.

Third, we continue to engage the Eugene delegation to engage citizens through their roles. We have senior legislators in Salem that support our funding and policy asks and advocate for our interests.

For the 2026 session, key appointments include representative Fahey, District 14 speaker of the house.

Representative Nathanson, District 13.

The chair of House revenue, co-chair of joint tax expenditures and the joint legislative and information management and technology committee, as well as member of the capital construction and joint committee of ways and means.

Representative Ragala, Vice-Chair for higher education and work force development and the only local member on the housing and homelessness committee.

Representative HARBIK, District 12 on the behavioral health and health care committee.

The Senator Prozanski is the chair of the judiciary committee.

Senator Manning, District 7, is the President pro

tem and chair of Senate veterans emergency management, federal and world affairs committee. And Senator Hayden, District 6, is the vice-chair for the health care committee.

So we're well represented.

As we've shared in previous IGR work sessions, the IGR operating agreements provide direction on how the City of Eugene sets state and federal priorities.

It also districts city resources on priority items to be reviewed and approved by the council's IGR committee.

The 2023 process updates increased communication with council, including regular updates from the IGR Chair during items of interest, sending IGR meeting minutes with council packets.

And weekly email updates from the IGR manager during legislative sessions.

Current IGR members include Councilor Evans, groves, and Yeh.

The mayor serves in an ex officio role as a nonvoting member.

The committee meets regularly, generally monthly, with the ability to hold meetings during

the session.

IGR meetings are posted on the website and open to the public via Zoom.

Testimony on priority bills can also be found on the IGR web page.

The 2026 Eugene state priorities document in your packet outlines the funding items that the city will advocate for in 2026.

The Eugene state and federal legislative policy document serves as a policy framework on bills as well as our agenda.

The IGR approved both documents in September and sent them to council with recommendation to approve for the 2026 session.

We'll discuss these in more details in the next slides.

In preparation for the 2026 Oregon assembly which runs from February 2nd to March 9th, staff from across the organization contributed to the updated Eugene state and federal legislative policy document attachment "A" in your packet.

This serves as the policy framework providing clear direction on the city's policy position on both priority topics.

For example, local control.

And on any pertinent or emerging issues.

This is of critical importance to support our state and federal advocacy efforts in an efficient and timely manner.

The 2026 version of the policy document has changed from the 2025 version in a few ways.

First, was the consolidation and streamlining of language from some sections.

Second was the removal of past policy initiatives that had been accomplished or no longer priorities.

And third there were few additions based on new policy direction from council.

The IGR reviewed and amended version in legislative format.

They walked through each proposed change and provided direction on elements they supported, elements they wished to revise, and items to remove.

Those changes were made and a final version was reviewed and approved by the IGR

December meeting this past year.

While the document does not encompass all adopted city policy, the areas on this slide cover much of what is pertinent at the state and federal

level.

This is sort of a general overview.

When clear policy direction is absent, IGR staff consults with city manager and executive managers as needed and brings the items to IGR committee for deliberation and guidance, where needed.

If required, the IGR committee may direct staff to bring items to the full City Council for deliberation. An example of this are two policy items that were discussed last January.

Those were the positions on the repeal of HB-3115 that full council weighed in on and banning application charges statewide.

The second document in your packet for approval is our State of Oregon priorities which include six different initiatives.

You'll see these here.

You can consider this document as the proactive, what the City of Eugene wants.

While the previous policy document clarifies our position on legislation and bills as they're introduced.

As 2026 is a short legislative session, just 35 days, legislators are restricted on the number of

bills they can introduce and the number of committees.

In addition to the priorities we've identified here, we'll be tracking and lobbying on approximately 20 to 25 priority 1 bills.

Summary of these items will be included to the council.

The six priorities listed on the slide have been approved at the December meeting.

So I'll briefly walk through an overview of what these items address.

The first item we want to maintain and protect full funding for OHCS statewide shelter program.

During the 2025 session, HB-3644 was passed into law creating the statewide shelter program.

And since the end of the session, State financial forecasts are signaling that the legislature may need to cut budgets in the existing biennium.

While there's no proposed funding, we want to make sure that's something that's not pulled from.

So we're going to continue to advocate for that full funding.

Separately, Number 2 on the list, we've got protect the 2025 funding allocation for the clear lake road economic development project.

So last legislative session we got the clear lake road allocated \$6 million, which was great and we're excited about that.

But as these are lottery bond funds, they will not be sold until 2027, so there is the potential that there will be a decrease in lottery revenue which could impact our allocation.

So we've been watching that item closely and continuing to hope that all goes well with that forecast.

We also in this current session, the 2026 session, we're submitting an additional capital construction ask for additional funds to continue to support that project.

It's a big -- it's a big item and so we'll need all the resources we can get for that one.

The third item on the list is to increase protections related to threats to public officials.

The bill did not pass last legislative session, but it's included as key legislation by Senator Manning and Prozanski in the short session.

So we'll be advocating for that item.

The next item on the list there is to seek funding for Eugene airport expansion.

Eugene supports increased federal and state

funding for the development of the Eugene airport terminal and apron facilities.

And for 2026, Eugene has targeted our federal congressionally directed spending requests for airport expansion.

So we're looking at that federal resource as an ideal match for the project that we have ahead of us.

And so we will be advocating for that as part of the 2026 united delegation in April.

The fifth item there, support statewide property tax reform.

So in 2025, HB-2321 established the task force on impacts to ballot measures 5 and 50.

Representative Nathanson leads that effort and will be making recommendations for the 2027 legislative session.

The Eugene staff continue to be involved in the task force and also the league of Oregon City's revenue reform workgroup.

And finally, the last item on the list, continue to support increased state investment in behavioral health systems.

So for the short session, Eugene supporting Lane County's effort for clarity and flexibility with an

O.R. 430 with stabilization center.

Just continuing to advocate with our partners there.

In the upcoming short session, there are a few items that we will be watching closely.

So these concepts are likely to be introduced as standalone bills or incorporated into omnibus style bills.

These are all items that could have major financial or policy impact to the city and many of these items already included within the policy document or there's existing council direction.

So for any items on this list here that don't have clear direction from City Council, once those bills have been released publicly, which will likely be in the next several days here, city staff will review and make a recommendation for consideration by the city manager and executive managers.

And then we would bring those to the IGR committee for deliberation and direction to take a policy position, if we don't already have clarity there.

If there's a split vote or the council required a full view, we will be moving those to the agenda as soon as possible in the council agenda.

All right.

Finally a little bit more about our federal efforts.

So the state and federal legislative policy document which is that attaching the "A," provides the direction on the federal policy.

What the staff and Mayor will advocate for on behalf of the city during the trip to D.C. in April.

The focus of that trip will be to support regional priorities as part of that front and will seek to build support for the FY27 funding request related to airport capital construction and our economic development initiatives.

The Eugene staff will be updating the united front policy book and they'll share a copy with each of you once that's ready and available.

I'll add that we're also looking forward to engaging with our new city manager on our federal strategy when she is on board.

And with that, I'll turn it back to you, Mayor.

As a reminder, there's a motion to approve both the policy documents and priorities document in the A.S.

Thanks.

>> Mayor Knudson: Thank you so much, Brooke, for that presentation.

I will now open up the floor for council discussion.

Councilor Zelenka.

>> Zelenka: A question about the slide you skipped over.

The issues to watch in 2026.

Repeal of HB-3115 from the 2021 session.

>> Freed: Yes.

So there are a number --

>> Zelenka: Could we put that slide back up?

>> Freed: So in the legislative session, there are still a number of folks who have interest in potential repeal of that previous legislation that was passed.

And the last time council met on this item, the position was to oppose any repeal efforts around HB-3115.

So that was last January we I think brought that to you for further discussion knowing there was an effort at that time.

And council voted to oppose the repeal.

That was January 29, 2025.

>> Zelenka: I'll point out where council automatic license plate reader regulations, I know that's in Senator Prozanski's committee working on rules and regulations around that.

I think that would be a very...

Revision of the serial communications policy, serial communications is -- talk to you, you talk to the experts, next person talks to them.

The fact of is (Away from mic) public meetings law.

What's that particular one trying to do or -- weaken it?

Clarify it?

>> Freed: Yeah, I think there are some clarifications expected.

So right now the policies were crafted by the Oregon government ethics commission.

And there have been some legislative concepts that have been introduced into house rules but aren't fully through yet.

So we're waiting to see the bill language and bill draft before we take a position on that.

Right now, just based on what we're seeing, our recommended priority would be neutral at this point.

So priority 2.

And to change that, if -- depending on what the legislative concept looks like.

>> Zelenka: Okay.

Is the Governor's prosperity bill, is that going to be taken up as a bill?

>> Freed: Yeah, so there's two bills that are advancing economic development currently.

So LC-2387 Oregon jobs act.

And then separately COTEX has the OC-109 Oregon prosperity roadmap.

So there's two different -- we are again --

>> Zelenka: Could you say those numbers again.

>> Freed: The economic development package is LC-237 and legislative concept Oregon jobs act.

And COTEX is LC-109, Oregon property roadmap.

So I think we're still waiting for the language, so we're currently neutral.

Those are priority 1, so we're watching closely.

>> Zelenka: And then the last question I had was on -- ban on speculative ticketing.

>> Freed: So right now the bill proposes to ban speculative ticketing protecting consumers and artists from ticketing practices.

So right now we're at level one support.

I can check --

>> Zelenka: What is speculative ticketing?

>> Freed: Let me see if we can have Zack

comment a little bit more on that.

Zack, are you on?

>> Yes, I am.

Sorry.

So that essentially is where a third-party ticket resellers will advertise for sale tickets that are not yet on the market.

So oftentimes folks will buy these tickets through third party and other places and they don't realize that they're not actual tickets.

If you go to an event, venues have had to deal with this.

So it's banning that practice of advertising tickets for sale when they're not actually for sale.

>> Zelenka: Okay, good.

There's a lot of work to be done in that area.

People get ripped off a lot on tickets.

And then finally the prevailing wage.

What's going on with that?

>> Freed: Yeah.

So Senator Anderson has legislative concept 31 right now, and that has to do with development.

That one -- my understanding is that is not likely to have a ton of traction right now.

So we're watching that as a neutral position and

waiting for that to formulate.

But right now what we're seeing is some interest from the league and others on the determination whether a development project is prevailed and the relationship to city resources.

So one of the examples is like a river front development right now.

There's determinations that have been made around whether that project should be prevailed.

And the city did not put direct resource into the development of the project.

It was around the infrastructure prior to the project.

And so that's, I think, some of the interest from other communities we're seeing is that if the city's jurisdictions prepared the infrastructure, but that automatically triggers prevailing wage on that development, will there be an impact in communities.

Whether or not they'll see the development take place if all of those projects are approved to be prevailed in advance.

So that's -- that's the issue right now.

We're, again, that concept -- whether or not it's this one from Senator Anderson and others are

likely to appear here soon.

So we're looking to see what components are involved before we take a position.

>> Zelenka: Does that get triggered by federal funding?

>> Freed: So if we have federal funding, there is -- are triggers for prevailing wage.

The city does engage with projects, the HUD funding or CBEG will trigger prevailing.

But we do have projects that don't involve federal resources, and depending on the funding sources may or may not be prevailing wage.

So affordable housing trust fund, those aren't automatically prevailed.

There's some various triggers that would be involved in that.

>> Mayor Knudson: Councilor Leech.

>> Leech: Thank you both for stepping in and giving this presentation.

I think it's really reasonable right now.

I know a lot of other cities are really taking a measured approach to this current short session and really just kind of defending what we have and really continuing to advocate for what we've been awarded.

Like last year I think that's really reasonable for us to do that as well.

So thank you for that.

Beyond that defensive strategy, as we move into next year's session, I would like to see us be more proactive and really try to be a leader and set more of an agenda and really be able to have a targeted approach.

I would love to see us working year round and communicating more frequently around what our agenda would be and what makes the most sense for us and our priorities.

Specifically I'm thinking about, you know, our alternative response pilot for navigation.

We know we have funding for this pilot project, but we do not have a model for what comes after. That's something we have to figure out.

I'd like us to look creatively at that.

What does it look like for the state to require our care coordinated organizations to have a per-person, you know, per-member, per-month model that requires them to pay for alternative response models, right.

So I think looking at that as one of our primary goals as a national leader in crisis response, right.

I know that there's going to be bills coming up addressing what we're doing about the federal immigration enforcement and strengthening protections.

And I know we're working on resolution here for Eugene, but what are those bills?

How do we -- you know, what is the process for going into this session and how can we be nimble in our support or not of that?

I think it should come back to the full council.

And also with economic development, I think -- you know, our federal and state priority list has economic development.

It doesn't have, you know, what I can see as almost crises and childcare, affordable childcare and housing kind of as core pieces of economic development.

I know the Governor's package is going to come out and address some of that.

But here locally we have this amazing opportunity for the southern Willamette innovation corridor.

And that's going to take a lot of work to prepare for an ask because it's going to take this big, you know, coordination.

So what does that look like?

What do we need from the state?

Can we create a regional district?

Can we put that into state statute?

What does that look like?

I think we can move forward and be a leader and I'd like to see us come back to these conversations.

>> Mayor Knudson: Thank you.

Councilor's online, I want to be sure that I see you.

We have a request for a second round from Councilor Leech and I will go directly to her unless someone would like a first round.

Councilor Keating.

>> Keating: Please do go to Councilor Leech, I'm in the hall and will do my first round in less than three minutes.

>> Mayor Knudson: Councilor Leech.

>> Leech: Are there any climate-related bills coming up in this short session?

>> Freed: So right now just for -- on the priority 2 legislative concept, there is an item with a nexus to our sustainability goals, which is the Oregon battery extended producer responsibility bill. Just flagging that for you.

That's one that we're watching.

And that's with the House climate energy and environment committee.

So that one is one that is immediately identified as a potential impact we're watching.

Are there specific areas that you're thinking of?

I can ask Zack to check.

>> Leech: I was asked by some folks to testify on a bill that's coming up that would require residential homes that are going to build with air-conditioning would require them to put in a heat pump.

And so you know, I said I needed to ask more -- get more information about that and have kind of the council vote, right.

And that leads into my next question, which is what is our process if we want to testify, if you can remind us of how that works in terms of testifying as a Councilor versus as just an individual.

>> Freed: I can definitely speak to that.

So the council operating agreements provide direction on how you'll work with staff.

Our IGR staff can help you to sign up.

It sort of depends on whether council's policy aligns with the testimony you hope to provide.

So depending on the path there, if it's aligned with council policy, there -- there's a process to kind of notify council that you plan to testify.

If your policy is counter to council policy, there's also a process there involved.

So depending on the specific legislation you're looking at, we can just take a look and just have a general understanding to advise you on the best way to do that.

In all cases, the council operating agreements are a great spot and the IGR operating agreements have some information there, but we're happy to advise.

>> Leech: Wonderful.

Thank you so much, Brooke.

>> Mayor Knudson: Councilor Keating and back to Councilor Zelenka.

>> Keating: Thanks, Mayor.

Thank you, Brooke, for pinch-hitting.

Just as a point of information, it's my understanding that the legislative concepts that were filed turn into House bills or Senate bills or concurrent resolutions or joint resolutions.

Those numbers have already been generated but won't be made public until January 28.

So just a heads-up if you're trying to track the LC numbers, those will have a brand-new identifier in just a couple days.

Councilor Leech and I participated in the human services commission monthly meeting today, and housing and homelessness priorities were at the top of the agenda.

Encouraging partners to come back to our respective bodies and our respective IGR committees to ask -- I suspect we won't get pushback from this body, but I want to make a formal ask to prevent any cuts to our emergency shelter program which are our housing and homelessness -- our homelessness and poverty prevention programs.

So that's my request and Councilor Leech, I'd love to hear your take as well.

Really looking forward beyond the short session, we were talking about the 2027 long session.

But it's my understanding that there have been requests made of lawmakers to have 2.5% cut across the board to every agency.

And if that is, indeed, the case in this short session, I would like our IGR team to do everything we can to hold the line in regards to

emergency housing and homelessness and poverty prevention, please.

I'll pause and ask if there is any opportunity for our IGR team to explore in the economic development realm bills that might affect our neighboring communities but whose workforce might be located in our region.

For example, my boss has a bill, Senate Bill 1585, that takes the matching dollars for capital construction, which is right now \$1 million of matching grant monies for communities that are 20,000 or under.

That's our neighbor to the west, Elmira.

It drops the matching dollar amount from a million to 400,000, making it easier for those smaller communities to hobble together the funds for, like a safe routes to school program or sidewalk infrastructure repair.

But I would argue that would have a net benefit to the community here in Eugene, because the workforce by in large might very well be coming from our community.

Is there opportunity for traction and support for a bill like that directly benefits our neighbor but might benefit our workforce?

>> Freed: I'm happy to chat with our staff about -- I know generally when we think about our lobbying efforts we think about the region as part of united front.

There are partners that we work with, because we're thinking about the impacts holistically. And so happy continue to quire how they think about legislation that's impacting neighbors and to what degree that extends in terms of policy direction and/or geography.

Because I know they're certainly thinking about those -- those edge impacts for the city itself.

>> Mayor Knudson: Councilor Zelenka.

>> Zelenka: Yeah.

My understanding about the testifying rules are that -- Councilor can testify to anything they want to, but if they're going to testify on behalf of the council, they have to get permission from the council.

If they want to testify as a city Councilor and say that I'm a city Councilor, it has to be consistent with what we've (Away from mic).

And if those two don't apply, then you can just be a regular citizen and testify.

(Away from mic), right?

>> Freed: Generally it's accurate.

We do allow for folks to always provide comment as individuals.

There are circumstances when if you are providing a comment that is counter to council policy that you declare that it is counter to council policy.

I'm not looking at the section right in front of me, but there are at times expectations within your own operating agreements where you might declare that when you make the comments as well.

So we would want to kind of look at the legislation that you're commenting on, see if there's a nexus with council direction that might enable you to just comment as a Councilor on behalf of the council. So we just look carefully to make sure and advise whichever direction that might be.

>> Zelenka: The air-conditioning bill, the heat pump air-conditioning bill is an interesting one.

It comes on the heels of the failed efforts to try to get everybody to ban gas and put in a heat pump instead.

Which is pretty uniformly not been very effective strategy.

Too much pushback.

Not a bad idea, but too much pushback.

And so this effort is actually to have -- if you're going to cut in air-conditioning, standalone air-conditioning, not associated with meeting, you put in air -- you put in a heat pump that allows you to have the air-conditioning through the heat pump which is very efficient and more efficient usually than a stand alone air-conditioning unit because it provides the heat.

It's kind of a different way at getting at the same thing but from a different angle about natural gas use for heating.

But it's a pretty limited case, but it's -- I think it's a good idea.

But I'll move forward.

I know that looking at that for a code change.

There is another bill on climate which is a superfund bill, climate superfund bill which creates a pull of money for work -- climate change related and energy efficiency projects.

>> Mayor Knudson: Councilor Clark.

>> Clark: There we go.

Thank you, Mayor.

Sorry for -- my voice is a little rough here.

I'm not feeling very well.

So I decided to stay home rather than inflict this on all of you.

My understanding of our ability with regard to legislative testimony is a little bit different than Alan's, and I want to make sure of something.

My understanding is an individual Councilor can say I'm a Eugene city Councilor and this is what I think about this bill to any -- at any point we want to.

We just can't represent ourselves as representing any other Councilor other than ourselves.

And as a result, then it's also incumbent upon us to say that we don't speak for the whole council unless you're telling the legislature I speak for the council on behalf of a vote that was taken by the council.

Am I correct in that?

>> Councilor.

>> Clark: I'm going to read to you what's in the operating agreement to provide some clarity on this.

It's Paragraph 9.02 and it's under state and federal lobbying.

It says the effectiveness of city lobbying in Salem

or Washington, D.C. depends on the clarity of the city's voice.

When Councilors and the Mayor represent the city in a lobbying situation, it's important that you avoid personal dissent in a policy.

It's stated in Resolution 31.49.

>> Clark: Forgive me.

There was a first part of that proviso that I didn't get very clearly.

In other words, if you're speaking as an individual Councilor and going up to give testimony, that does not -- is not represented by the words you just used in that description, am I correct?

>> Correct.

It says when Councilors or mayors represent the city in a lobbying situation.

And then so if you're not, if you're just speaking individually and you're speaking in favor of something, that's fine.

If it's consistent with the policies.

But there is a specific paragraph that speaks to I think Councilor Clark which you're speaking to if somebody's in disagreement, it also provides for that.

>> Clark: Right.

>> And it states a Councilor or the Mayor in disagreement with an adopted policy should not be deprived of right to express such views to the appropriate officials at another time and place.

However, the Councilor or the mayor should feel bound to advise those to whom such a disagreement is expressed that it's an individual view and that the council has taken a different position.

I think that's what you were speaking to.

>> Clark: It is and I thank you.

>> Mayor Knudson: Councilor Keating.

>> Keating: I think what -- sorry, Mayor.

Thank you, Councilor.

I think my concerns were just addressed.

There's been -- there have been times where I've provided testimony on behalf of my boss because he's been in another committee.

And I'm introduced from the dais as a Eugene city Councilor and chief to Senator Manning.

And I make it clear that I'm here representing Senator Manning or speaking as an individual if I'm not dispatched by council.

Is that consistent with our council policies?

>> Certainly.

>> Keating: Great, thank you.

>> Also to speak to your earlier request regarding express for maintenance of the shelter funding, that is one of the State priorities that you will be voting on that's part of that package.

So that will be --

>> Keating: Great.

I look forward to enthusiastically casting my vote in favor.

If I may, Mayor, I have one quick question around environmental recovery and national resources.

Has IGR taken up the Oregon voter priorities which is coming back to the adjust the statewide transient lobbying tax to 1.25% for various wildlife recovery pieces?

I don't mean to get all super wonky, but if not, I would love to encourage IGR to have that conversation as I get that it's not just Lane County TLT specific.

And also get that it's a hot button issue any time you're adjusting the transient lobbying tax whether it's local or statewide.

But I'd love to see a larger conversation, if we haven't had one yet, about how that might impact our community and/or impact tourism and/or help

fill much-needed goal -- or much -- yeah, a much needed hole.

Thank you.

>> Mayor Knudson: Thank you, council.

Councilor Evans, I think I see you raising a hand but it's not quite there.

Thank you.

>> Evans: Yeah, right.

I'm here.

Just responding to Councilor Keating's query about that conversation's not come up to IGR yet. But I'm sure that if you reach out to Ethan, we can add that to our next session that's coming up first week in February.

>> Keating: Thank you.

>> Mayor Knudson: Thank you, Councilor.

I just have a quick note and clarification and I want to ask a question first which is, I guess, Dan's question because it was mentioned over the weekend.

This is a short session, 35 days long.

The last session, our long session, I believe there were 3,400 bills introduced for that long session.

Is that correct?

Am I remembering that correctly?

>> I actually don't have that number on hand, but a lot.

A lot.

>> Mayor Knudson: And there was some discussion recently among different elected leadership about proposals to try to constrain the total number of bills that come forward in sessions.

But the reason I ask that specific question to begin is that I just want to remind that in this short session, and we've discussed this at IGR, there are particular collection of priorities that have to be on the front burner for the State of Oregon. And certainly addressing the budget shortfall, transformation of our Federal Government, deletion of supports, these are issues that the government has to account for at the state level as well as all sorts of other needs related to transportation and education and ongoing services, access to health care, et cetera. And it's only 35 days long, the session.

So I just wanted to offer the reminder and clarification that our 2026 legislative session priorities, these six priorities, maintaining shelter funding, protecting funding for infrastructure at

clear lake road which is how we will build businesses and jobs and opportunities in our community.

Addressing threats to public officials, seeking funding for the airport's capital projects, supporting property tax reform, and supporting continued investment in behavioral health systems specifically the local investments that have been made in the Lane County stabilization center which was one of our top priorities at the last session, this is not the whole world of legislative work happening in Salem this year. But this is a framing of policy priorities through this body that will help our city to advocate effectively when the time comes.

And there are, as Brooke I believe you mentioned, about 20 to 25 priority 1 bills that align with these six goals.

And then there is the rest of the universe of legislative work that will be happening in the session.

And we expect it to be quite intensive.

I will offer an overview from speaker of the house representative Julie Fahey of legislative actions that relate to how our state is trying to work to

protect people from the actions of federal agencies that are running over people's rights and due process and creating a lot of damage in an absence of safety and communities.

But I'm going to wait and offer that summary in our council meeting in just a little bit when there may be more people from the public who will also hear that list.

Because it's an important list, and it could easily be misunderstood that while we are very focused in this community on delivering for people's needs and supporting people's needs in this community, these priorities are not the universe that we see. They're the things that we are working strategically to advance this session.

Yes, so with that said, and not seeing any other hands raised to discuss more, I just want to say thank you again to Brooke for that update.

And also then turn to our council Vice President to put a motion forward.

>> Thank you, Mayor.

I move to adopt the 2026 Eugene state and federal legislative policy document and the 2026 Eugene state legislative priorities document as approved by the IGR committee.

>> Second.

>> Mayor Knudson: Any further discussion from council?

Here or remotely.

I'll now take a vote for this motion.

All in favor, Councilors, please raise your hands.

See five in this room, six, and seven.

And that is all Councilors present with zero opposed and the motion passes with a vote of 7-0.

Thank you all very much.

That concludes our first agenda item.

Thank you, Brooke.

Moving on to our second agenda item, I will now turn to the assistant city manager to introduce a work session on city manager updates and some important news for us to have.

>> Thank you, Mayor.

Really excited to get a chance to share some information tonight, specifically of two areas of focus related to our fire department.

And some other work that's happening.

And again, I'm sitting in tonight for Matt

Rodriguez, our interim city manager who wasn't able to be here.

So the first one is a fire governance update.

You might recall, I know you do, that on

December 12th that you took action to direct the city manager to begin negotiations to form an intergovernmental entity.

And on January 20th, which was not that long ago, the city of Springfield council provided direction to their city manager to negotiate with the City of Eugene on the IGE framework.

Last week, interim city manager Matt Rodriguez and I had a chance to meet with the assistant city manager and the city manager from Springfield to establish a timeline for launching that work.

Our formal meetings will begin in February.

Those have already been scheduled and there's a lot of enthusiasm to kind of get in the room together and start talking about the work that needs to be done.

The initial negotiation focus will be on two of the three areas that were in the former city manager's memo that pertain to governance structure and representation.

And the second one will be the employee and administrative alignment section.

And we feel that those are the right places to start

because they're pretty significant.

And as I said, we'll begin those negotiations in February and then our goal is to provide a joint progress update to both councils.

So not a joint meeting, but individual council sessions in April of this year.

And the city -- interim city manager intends to provide regular progress updates as we have information to share.

And we'll continue to work on meeting the sixth month window that was established and directed by council to get this work moving and get it done.

So anyways, if you have any questions, I don't know, Mayor, if you'd like me to -- if there's any questions on that topic or if you'd like me to go to the second topic.

>> Mayor Knudson: I just have one quick question, clarification.

Speaking to the second point.

The first you mentioned areas of focus, one being all points from the city manager's memo that we covered in had December.

But if you could describe this a little bit more clearly.

First point was around governance structure and

representation.

Second point had to do with employment and could you just describe --

>> It's actually employee and administrative alignment.

So it's really around -- I have the document in front of me.

And so what that section is, it's the creation of a new entity that must be fully responsible for all aspects of the current department and its services.

And that the fire chief, you know, kind of a structure that provides the fire chief to be able to run that entity independent and report to the board.

And so there's a lot there that we'll be digging into.

I also wanted to add that our city attorneys obviously will be helping us.

I'm really excited about that too.

And we also get a chance to work with Katherine, it's always great.

>> Mayor Knudson: I think that's an important clarification.

I'm glad you're starting with those two.

Councilor Zelenka.

>> Zelenka: Is the employee admin alignment, does that also include the issue of (Away from mic).

>> You know, I don't know that that will be one of the first things we take up with that section.

There's another section which is financial participation and cost sharing which may encompass that.

And there's a whole lot of work when you get through these three big topics that relates to what does it look like in terms of that department being supportive and what -- kind of how the aligned benefits and things like that.

This is kind of first three areas are kind of the big topics that we need to get to to kind of establish that framework to move forward from.

Or to get directions to move forward.

>> Zelenka: (Away from mic) representation (Away from mic).

As I recall, work that we got from a consultant (Away from mic) they said that the price tag for getting Springfield up to where Eugene was about 2 million?

>> I don't recall that number off the top of my

head.

But --

>> Zelenka: But a big number.

>> But they're -- yeah.

It is a big number, yes.

And so we're -- we have always been in discussion with the city of Springfield around reconciling some of the costs.

There's a lot of -- it's a really -- a really challenging thing for the fire department to keep track of because there's a lot of back and forth. So we're working really hard to reconcile where there is discrepancy and alignment with what they are trying to identify.

>> Zelenka: Thanks.

>> Mayor Knudson: You just moved right into council discussion, Councilors.

Any other discussion?

Questions related to this item?

Did you have anything to add?

Okay.

With that, I think we're ready to move on.

>> All right, item Number 2 for the fire department.

I have some good news to share.

I know that most of you have been asking about the alternative response RFP process, and the good news is the finance team is in final review and we hope to get the RFP out this Friday, which is January 30th.

The RFP's going to be in alignment with the recommendations that you heard in the fall for peer navigation system.

And the goal of the peer navigation system is to be the minimal capabilities of respondents to the RFP but not to limit it.

It's going to go over just a few of the areas that you might be interested in.

From a minimum service level standpoint.

So one of the goals is to have a peer navigator staffing and training.

So that's to recruit and supervise full-time peer navigators with peer support specialist certification and forensic peer endorsement, and to provide training for those employees that get hired to do this work, trauma-informed care, harm reduction, crisis intervention, et cetera.

The daily outreach and engagement, we want to conduct proactive, in-person outreach seven days a week, ten to 12 hours per day in designated,

high-volume corridors.

And prioritize individuals with repeated contact points with EMS or with, you know, with ambulance system, fire department, and law enforcement or find themselves chronically homeless.

And the goal is to really do our best to build trust one those -- or for the parent advocates to have a chance to build trust within those communities so we can help these folks get to the right services.

A key area is the collaboration and coordination we'd be looking for in the RFP is to have whoever selected hold briefings with Eugene's fire department, EPD, and city staff and participate in regular meetings with community partners such as Lane County mobile crisis and health care providers.

The other couple areas here are service navigation and follow-up.

The goal is to connect with -- to connect individuals to housing, recovery programs, mental health services, and wraparound support systems.

And facilitate referrals as needed to psychiatric

care and assist with insurance enrollment.

We also will be looking for a dispatchable response.

So we want to the successful respondent to the RFP to be able to maintain a dedicated phone line for dispatch process for fire and EPD and ensure timely response to all documented interactions.

And the last is one of the key components is just data collection and reporting.

And you know, submitting monthly reports kind of on the progress that we're making and really just be proactive in making sure that the service structure doesn't need realignment and that we're just continuing to modify as we go and be really nimble and responding to the community needs.

So just wanted to give you that information and if you want more information or you're interested in having the RFP information as it gets ready to go out, I'd be happy to send that to you.

>> Mayor Knudson: Thank you very much for that update.

Opening to council discussion.

Councilor Keating.

>> Keating: Thank you, Mayor.

Thank you, Kristie and team.

I'm enthusiastic to see what comes -- what Phoenix rises from the lack of cahoots ashes, whatever that looks like.

It's my understanding based on the reports we've received that there's a behavioral health transport gap and a youth engagement gap.

Are we enumerating those needs in the RFP?

>> I don't believe we are, but I will follow up and will send you all an email with that information, if that works.

>> Keating: Thanks.

If I could just get clarification.

You said that the peer navigator -- I can't read my own writing.

Facilitating and be training, but the peer navigation you said would be proactive, in person, seven days a week.

Did you say 12 hours a day?

>> Ten to 12 hours per day.

>> Keating: Is the thinking that those are taking over when Lane County mobile crisis aren't on the streets?

Is it -- is the vision that there's always going to be some sort of behavioral health navigation responder on the streets or are they doing to be

working more during the daytime hours when Lane County mobile crisis is engaging with the community as well?

>> I will get back to you with clarity around that information.

I know that this -- there's different layers of services that are going to be -- being provided by the two different entities.

And so what we're really trying to do is have the system be robust.

I'm assuming that we'll continue to work with Lane County and our other service partners to make sure that the hours align with the greatest need and where this particular service model can fit in to serve the most people as needed.

But I can get you more information about that.

>> Keating: Great, thank you.

>> Mayor Knudson: Other questions or discussion from council on this item?

Well seeing none, then I will just say that on both of those fronts incredibly important work in our emergency response system and the development of this new intergovernmental entity beginning that process, trying to see or wade down that path.

And then working to implement program that fills a really significant gap between our public safety and Health and Human Services systems and very much appreciate all of -- especially the chief's work on what's gotten us to this point.

The gap memo issued last fall and then this RFP I think this urgent work, it's important work, and we are looking forward to it being out and then seeing the responses to it.

Thank you, everyone.

That concludes our agenda for today and so I now close the January 26, 2026, City Council work session and we are adjourned.

[Gavel pounded]