

ROUGHLY EDITED TRANSCRIPT
EUGENE CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
JANUARY 28, 2026
12:00 P.M.

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>> Mayor Knudson: Good afternoon welcome to the January 28, to 26 City Council work session. thank you for joining news this virtual 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 livestream on our website, the broadcast on Comcast channel 21, or by calling in to one of the phone numbers listed for the meeting on the public webcast and meetings materials page of the city of Eugene website. thank you for joining us. before calling -- I will call our January 28, 2026 work session of the Eugene City Council to order. but before turning over to our city manager pro tem to introduce the first topic, I wanted to make a brief statement given the real concerns we're facing locally. it is a difficult time for us from other communities resulting in people being shot and killed on the streets. also, the continued concern for the persecution of neighbors, our own neighbors, neighbors across the country. due to the trajectory of Federal actions. always as I said at a vigil hosted by our healthcare workers for Alex PRETTI our community stands together in this difficult time and continue to work towards the safety and belonging of everyone in this community. and these circumstances put us under particularly difficult types of pressure. I want to say that as we continue to work towards lasting change, there are efforts at the city level, Federal level, and locally we have to recommit to keeping one another safe. we are dealing with a Federal administration that seems very focused on intimidation and retaliation and retribution in their actions. I will be meeting with our police chief, independent police Auditor, executive leadership at the city to discuss additional steps we can take to address the reckless actions of Federal agencies in our communities. we want for people here to feel and to be safe. I also want to ask our community again to stand together, to recommit to peaceful protest and community engagement, and to remain calm. it is incredibly important that we remember that moments like last night where hundreds and hundreds of people were gathered to honor the life of a community member and ICU nurse in Minneapolis nurse Alex Pretti, it's important to stand together in this work. I also want to ask that while temperatures remain high over these coming

days and we're gathering more information about what has been happening locally, any peaceful protests happening at the Federal building near that site if they can be across the street and distant from that property physically visible to our community. unified in voice and peaceful, I have concern with members of our community and I want people be safe. that is a request I have for the community. everyone has a right to peaceful protest and due process. personal safety. I just want you to know that your community is very aware of what has been happening, your leaders are very aware and we're concerned for everyone's safety and we're trying to deescalate situations where we do not have a partner as focused on that same concern. there will be more in coming days, we will continue working on this, and I want to appreciate our local nurses, healthcare providers who organized a very peaceful vigil last night, very powerful, important touch point for community. everyone in the community who is committed to positive change and taking care of each other and building a community here where everyone feels at home and a part of the future that we have. that said, I'm now going to turn to our city manager pro tem to introduce the first agenda topic for today, a work session on our local library local option levy.

>> Thank you, Mayor. on January 12, we presented three options for a library levy that we had done following on. there was an engaged discussion by Council and a motion was passed that expressed support for a base level of option 2. there were requests for add-on to motion 2. our library director Angela Ocaña and director Josh Bates are here with more information. I want to remind you that it's important how we select an option today so that we can start to draft the resolution to bring back to you for action. Angela?

>> Bates: I'm the library cultural services director, wonderful being back with you. as Matt recapped, at our last meeting on January 14, we shared three concepts for potential library levy. then walked through the results of the November polling. at that January meeting, City Council asked us, asked staff to bring back additional options for the library levy. based on option 2, which is maintain and expand early literacy. which is adding a single -- those additional options include adding a single book kiosk in Churchill or two kiosks, one of which would be located at Churchill. today we will review those modified options. as a reminder we're nearing the conclusion of the process. based on Council's shared process for option 2 and the request to provide additional options that included kiosks, we have brought back overviews of the four options today. also before you, there are four motions related to those options. we are seeking direction today so we can return in February with a resolution for your approval to place on the May ballot. With that I'll turn it over to our library director, Angela Ocaña, who will walk you through the three revised levy options and associated costs.

>> Ocaña: Thank you, to the library and finance teams to develop three modified options for consideration. along with the original three. I just want to take a moment to thank all of our Council for your thoughtful review of the heavy issues and all of our time here. including what I'm calling now option 2-plus. here are the revised

options. option 2A, this build on option 2 by adding one key asking in Churchill area, a staff member to manage, the ongoing rent and upkeep. It maintains everything from options 1 and 2 previously discussed and the total cost is \$4.05 million which equates to \$51 per household per year. option 2B, this option expands option 2 by adding two kiosks, one earmarked for Churchill, two staff positions one being a librarian project manager plus funds for the additional kiosk, collections, and increased maintenance and rent. the cost inform this option is \$4.3 million, or \$54 per household per year. option 2C, this option revises the original option 2. it reduces the original collection budget on in that option books earmarked for children 0 to 5, from \$115,000 down to \$35,000. that is a reduction of \$80,000 per year, or \$400,000 over the five years. this reduction limits the number of book boxes we can place with educators in preschools, daycares and Kindergartens, however it still allows the library to maintain operations outlined there option 1 and the spirit of option 2 while keeping the cost at \$50 per household per year. on this slide, you can see the original option 2 as well as the three revised options. tax rates, and estimated yearly and monthly costs. not pictured here is option 3, which as a reminder is at the \$56 a year level and the 19 cent rate.

>> Bates: Before we move to questions I'd like to summer rise the four options. the first is move to direct the city manager to return to Council on February 9 with a resolution referring to the May 19, 2026 ballot, library levy measure consistent with option 2 as described in the AIS. the second is move to direct the city manager to return to Council on February 9 with a resolution referring to the May 19, 2026 ballot library levy measure consistent with option 2-A as described in the AIS. the third is move to direct the city manager to return to Council on February 9 with a resolution referring to the May 19, 2026 ballot a library levy measure consistent with option 2-B as described in the AIS. and finally, four, move to direct the city manager to return to Council on February 9, with a resolution referring to the May 19, 2026 ballot, a library levy measure consistent with option 2-C as described in the AIS. thank you for your time today. and with that, I'm happy to take any questions as is Angela.

>> Mayor Knudson: Thank you for that presentation and update. I will open the floor to Council discussion. I see Councilor Zelenka in the queue, not much beyond that in this presentation view. then Councilor Yeh, thank you.

>> Zelenka: Thank you for bringing back the options, that is helpful. I have a question about the difference between 2A and 2B so going from 2 to 2A, makes it go up \$3, right? Adding one more kiosk goes up \$4. that math doesn't quite -- shouldn't it be the same amount? That is the question I have.

>> Ocaña: It's \$54 -- \$56 for three kiosks, \$54 for two, and a slight difference from the 51 to the 54. we add more than a driver, the staffing difference between a driver and staffing manager is different. when you look at the per month cost you look at the \$425 versus \$450 a month cost.

>> Zelenka: You have to add in the staff --

>> Ocaña: Yes.

>> Zelenka: Which we can do with existing staff.

>> Ocaña: We do it with the one kiosk model. When you get to two we run into this not adding more and more to somebody's plate that's already full and we need a project manager for the work.

>> Zelenka: I think this is great. do we have any estimate of what we think a kiosk use will be extrapolating from what other people have seen? Every incremental kiosk we get how many more people participate by getting books, that you know?

>> Ocaña: We don't have that data. talking to folks with kiosks, Hillsborough has a kiosk, they related the amount of usage to where the original placement was. taking that first year and looking at data where people are going in their community and making the correct placement choice has a huge impact on how many books are circulated. we don't have data how many people use them. we ever informal data about placement being important to utilization. we won't be placing the kiosk if we go with this option in the first year. we want to have an intentional impact with data, so it can drive the collection increase.

>> Zelenka: I understand that, why you want to take your time figuring out where the second one goes. what is your best guess of how many people use the kiosk?

>> Ocaña: San Bernardino had 8% of the circulation at 2% of the cost. That could be anywhere from 5,000 items in a year to 10,000. depends on a lot of factors. That is a significant amount of checkout for us, for the kiosk, at a price point that is fairly reasonable.

>> Zelenka in the way to say it, cost effective.

>> Ocaña: Right, correct.

>> Zelenka: Thanks.

>> Mayor Knudson: Councilor Yeh?

>> Yeh: Thank you, Mayor. thank you for coming back with this. I appreciate you taking our feedback and coming back with new options answers I appreciated Councilor Zelenka's clarification of understanding these different options. I haven't heard from my colleagues on their preferences, that really matters to me, I like to weigh other people's opinions. I'm currently thinking that the option 2-A that adds one keys on that can we can collect data on and see how it goes. thin have the opportunity to look for opportunities in -- to add more should they be something we

want to pursue makes a lot of sense at this time. I'd like to see what my colleagues have to say. thank you.

>> Mayor Knudson: Councilor Keating?

>> Keating: Thanks, Mayor, and Angela and shall Jo. and Councilor Yeh and Zelenka for your feedback. I think 2-C is a nonstarter, 2-B might be reaching for a bit much because I have concerns that these kiosks and added costs weren't exactly polled. they were referred to in the poll, and correct me if I'm wrong but referred to in the poll as increasing accessibility. is that accurate? What was the phrase that was pretty generic phrase that is encouraging us to move down the road of having these kiosks in our community, or a kiosk?

>> Bates: I believe the exact trace was expanded library service. but I'm also will pull up the exact language for the DHM presentation.

>> Keating: Expanded library service sounds familiar. and I think that's really too broad or generic to justify increasing this from the 49 to the 54 level. I could live with the \$51 and the pilot project but I'm concerned that the kiosk conversation could derail the best argument that we can make to pass this library levy, which is Paramount, a must-pass. the best argument revolves around early childhood literacy in my opinion. seemingly that was the piece that polled the best. is that an accurate assessment of the polling data that was shared with us several weeks ago -- two weeks ago?

>> Ocaña maintain was the most popular overall, not seeing service reductions. when they broke that down to the options, early literacy did poll specifically children zero to 5, polled very well. to answer your original question, Josh, option 3 did talk about expansion and it was more vague in terms of saying book pickup and dropoff locations and didn't dive into kiosks or locations.

>> Keating: Okay. I'm sorry, go ahead.

>> Ocaña: That is it, early literacy polled very well out of the options, option 1 to maintain polled the best. but services for youth were very impactful during that will.

>> That gives me more heartburn, the expansion piece was only polled in option 3, polled the least -- polled the worst. I would be really comfortable going with just an option 2 that keeps the average household contribution at the \$49 level. But I could live with option 2-A as it's close enough. but I think option 2-B and 2-C are nonstarters at this point. thank you.

>> Bates: You're welcome. I'm going to read the exact language to your question, Councilor Keating. it says the new five-year levy would allow Eugene to expand library services that voters passed in a FIVE-YEAR LEVY IN 2020 besides -- would maintain services, enhance security, and expand book pickup and dropoff locations.

>> Keating: That was option 3?

>> Bates: Option 3.

>> Keating: And that polled the worst.

>> Bates: Correct.

>> Mayor Knudson: Councilor Kashinsky?

>> Kashinsky: Thank you, and thank you to the library staff who I'm sure worked very hard to put these options together on a short timeline. I am very interested in the idea of the kiosk. strong support for that. the items in option 2 I don't want to see reduced, that option 2-C I'm not interested in. I think that the kiosks are very strong idea. I think doing a pilot of a kiosk and adds one cent to the average tax rate is a good way to sort of start moving in that direction, get a sense of how they work, help the community understand what they are and what the benefits are. so I would be in support of option 2-A. thank you.

>> Mayor Knudson: Councilor Zelenka.

>> Zelenka: What was the vote on the levy last time?

>> Ocaña: 77% it passed by.

>> Zelenka: That's really high. I will point out this is a five-year levy. given our future budgets, I mean there's a potential -- you can't add to the five-year levy for five years. the way the budget is going there's not going to be any room for any expansion here. potentially could get a grant but I'm not hopeful about that. the reality for me is that if we don't do it now we have to wait a long time, maybe never get this, to get to more services in this regard. I think whatever we put out is going to be the campaign, it's going to rally around that. I think that that will -- the difference between \$51 and \$54 is what, a quarter a month per the average person. I don't think that's going to make or break this. I don't think the polling reflects that. I think that given this would be a lost opportunity if we don't go for 2-B, I'm fully supportive of option 2-B. in moving forward. I think it is a reasonable ask and will garner a lot of support.

>> Mayor Knudson: Councilor leech?

>> Leech: Thank you and thank you for putting together the different options. I also agree with some of my colleagues about the option of taking out some of the early childhood education and literacy pieces. I do not want to see us do that. so no option 2-C for me. programmatically, I work with a lot of programming at my organization, I think it is really important when you are doing a pilot to be able to

know that you are staffing it correctly, that it is at the scale to which you can actually see success, and that you have a functional kind of team around something that is an addition. I think programmatically 2-B would work better. not only would we have data for additional site, Churchill versus another location, you can use that data to know what is working better for expansion in the future to have a programmatic manager to understand the data, to be able to report on that, to be able to manage the employees and staffing and all of the different pieces. I think that works better. so I would lean towards that. I think it might be pushing too close to the edge at \$54, so I'm very happy to support 2-A because I think that that is where the rest of our colleagues are leaning towards. but programmatically I think it would work better going with the 2-B.

>> Mayor Knudson: Councilor Clark.

>> Clark: 2-B or not 2-B. you know somebody had to do that, right? I mean, you know. sorry. I lean towards 2-A for some of the reasons already articulated by my colleagues. I still want to just chime in, doublecheck, that we're not going to see if for any reason in any of the out years next year or three years hence that we have library general fund cuts, or decreases of some nature. we're not promising something here that we will then have to take away with that action in the future. that seems to be what I heard the last time I asked this question the last round. I want to make sure.

>> Bates: Thank you for that question Councilor Clark. in structuring the different options we were really intentional about figuring how we have incremental changes if there were future changes in the fund allocation that we would still be able to maintain these services. however I will also say, too, I think that with option 2-A we would -- Angela please correct me if I'm wrong, with option 2-A the expansion is minimal. so we would hire I think an outside driver, correct?

>> Ocaña: We would hire an in-house person. but I think what you are getting at, Councilor Clark, we have tried to be very intentional how we built these to weather the storms that may come in the general fund. we're all being fiscally conscious of that. the levy as a whole and concept, as it existed, for over the last 25 years does rely on an amount of general fund to keep the lights on just in general. so the hours that are included in the first option do mean that we have to be thoughtful. but I also think we're doing the work to be really mindful of that, and efficient. staff have been creative and thoughtful about when we face these reductions how we can be the biggest impact to the community so they don't always see the impact of the general fund fluctuations. something like the kiosks would not prevent us from maintaining the core level of services that we do. so I would give you that definitely would not impact it. but as a whole, the levy does require some level of general fund keeping the lights on.

>> Clark: Totally understand, thank you.

>> Mayor Knudson: Council, thank you for this thoughtful discussion. I believe, I can't see -- there you are, thank you. I can see you all now. I think we have some energy around a direction and important decision ahead of us. Councilor Kashinsky, sorry, please.

>> Kashinsky: Sorry, I put up my hand after you started talking. as we're kind of looking at where folks are weighing in on it, and I know we have to decide which motion we wish to put forward, I'm in support of option A or option B. and so Councilor leech I think made some good points about programmatic viability. so I think -- and I ultimately think that one cent is not going to be what makes or breaks this ballot measure. when people are looking at it compared to, oh, compared to the other ones people will lean towards the middle one. when people are looking at it independently on a ballot they're saying are these things worth a 19 cent rate. I think I can be -- I can be in support of option B, too. 2-B, thank you.

>> Mayor Knudson: Thank you Councilor. with that I will turn to the Council President to put a motion forward.

>> Leech: Thank you, Mayor. move to direct the city manager to return to Council with a draft resolution referring to the May 19, 2026 ballot library levy measure consistent with option 2-B as described in this AIS.

>> Kashinsky: Second.

>> Mayor Knudson: Thank you Councilor Kashinsky, Vice President. Councilor Keating?

>> Keating: Move to substitute 2-A for 2-B.

>> Second.

>> Mayor Knudson: Any discussion from Council? Then we'll take a vote for this substitution. Councilors please raise your hands all in favor. I see two. and Council opposed? Four, and the substitution fails by a vote of 2-4. returning to the motion on the floor for option 2-B, any further discussion from Council? Seeing none I will now take a vote --

>> Keating: Wait, I just want to offer my two cents before I cast my vote. I will vote in the negative to pass this motion but it doesn't mean should it pass that I'm not going to do everything can I to pass the library levy. I'm just cautious about reaching for the top shelf when there's some concerns around polling, around expansion, that were in that option 3 that did not poll well at all. and I wish that we would be more cautious in what we're asking Eugene voters to do. gut my enthusiasm for the library is unwavering. but I ask Ulf my colleagues to be all in for the library.

>> Mayor Knudson: Thank you, Councilor.

>> Mayor Knudson: I will take a vote for this motion. all in favor 1, 2, 3, 4 votes in favor. all opposed? Two, the motion passes by a vote of 4-2. local library option levy coming back soon for more information. and thank you for that decision today, Council. that concludes our first agenda item. we'll turn to the city manager pro tem to introduce our second topic, a work session on updates to the metropolitan wastewater management commission, MWMC intergovernmental agreements, IGAs.

>> Rodrigues: Thank you, Mayor. Michelle Miranda is here today, our wastewater treatment plant division manager to talk about two updates to foundational agreements of the MWMC. one is the intergovernmental agreement and the second is the operation maintenance and administrative services agreement. MWMC requests approval of the updated agreements and Michelle will give you some information about what those are.

>> Miranda: Thank you, I'll share my screen. thank you city manager and Mayor and Councilors. I'm Michelle Miranda, and I'm the director of the regional wastewater utility. I'm here to discuss updates to two foundational agreements regarding the metropolitan wastewater management commission. also known as MWMC or "the board." One is the intergovernmental agreement or the IGA, and the second is the operation maintenance and administrative services agreement or the OM&A. these agreements outline out two cities and the county function to manage and operate the regional wastewater utility and provide services to the community. MWMC with parties to the OM&A. both are in need of updates. The IGA was comprehensively updated in 2005. and the OM&A in 2001. ts tree agencies and their legal Councils worked closely together on these updates along with myself and Executive Director Matt stouter. so some information about our wastewater utility, over 40 years this partnership has served our community. we currently serve about 280,000 people throughout the Eugene, Springfield, and lane county areas. we clean on average 14 billion gallons of water each year and utility is a state of the art award winning facility. our mission and vision focuses strongly on sustainable practices, service, and regional partnerships. and our utility is a partnership between the cities of Eugene, Springfield, and lane county. we have a 7-member board, members include elected officials and appointees and Councilor Yeh serves as our Eugene elected representative. we have Commissioner Don Leslie and Commissioner Christopher HASEN which serve as Eugene citizen representatives. these proposed updates are mostly housekeeping in nature, and very high level they include removing historical references that are no longer needed or used. updating the recite always and definitions. using terms consistently throughout the agreements. and adding a section for the board to make recommendations. I'll make a couple of notes here. language has been added so that if service expansion is going to be considered at a future time, the board can make recommendations to the governing bodies with respect to impact to infrastructure and cost to rate payers. in practical terms, the board is being asked for those recommendations. but I also want to note that these IGA updates have zero to do with the recent conversations. you have all been a part

of related to service expansion, the policy questions you considered last week related to metro plan amendment. they don't change the service area. there is an update to the quorum requirements to simple majority. qualifying language added when we conduct a hearing. updates to the termination language given both cities are parties to the permit. related to the OM&A they're housekeeping, updates to the indemnification language, updates to dispute resolution process, updates to the delegated spending authority. MWMC approved the updates, the Springfield Council approved them on January 8, lane county commission approved the updates January 27, yesterday. I am here before you today requesting action. with that I'll -- thank you.

>> Mayor, you are muted.

>> Mayor Knudson: Thank you again, Michelle. for that presentation. thank you Vice President Kashinsky. thank you for that presentation on that, I'll open the floor to Council discussion. if there is any. very clear overview. Councilor Yeh? Thank you for your service on the MWMC.

>> Yeh: I thought I'd chime in quickly, it's unfortunate our work session we finally get an MWMC work session and it's about something kind of boring. I wanted to say that Michelle is a rock star and I don't know what we'd do without her. she is just incredible to work with. I don't know how many years you've been in this role, it's been a while but not forever.

>> Miranda: I have worked for the wastewater division over 30 years but in this role I started in May of 2022.

>> Yeh: Yes, it's been a pleasure to work with you. our reps on the board are also super engaged and ask the most amazing questions and great advice. we have a really good team on MWMC and I want to share that. because I have the opportunity. I should have brought, had Michelle bring the list of awards we have received but they're so long I don't think we have time for that.

>> Miranda: I have in my back pocket the recent ones, so I could list them off. but just in case the questions came up. we do have a long history of being an award-winning state of the art facility. thank you for the kind words. yeah, our board and you are also a pleasure to work with.

>> Mayor Knudson: Thank you, Councilor. with that I will turn to the Council President to put a motion forward.

>> Leech: Thank you, Mayor and thank you Michelle for the presentation. it is always nice to have quote unquote a boring topic that's easy to present and address. with that I will move to adopt the resolution at attachment A to the AIS to approve the proposed updates to the primary IGA and substantial conformity with

the second restated and amended intergovernmental agreement for the metropolitan wastewater management commission at exhibit 1 to the resolution.

>> Second.

>> Mayor Knudson: Any further discussion from Council? Seeing none I'll take a vote for this motion all in favor? Six, thank you Council. zero opposed. so that motion passes with a vote of 6-0. now I turn to the Council President to put a second motion forward.

>> Leech: Move to adopt the resolution at attachment B to the AIS to approve the proposed updates to the OM&A IGA in substantial conformity with the restated intergovernmental agreement for provision of operation, maintenance and administrative services to the metropolitan wastewater management commission and exhibit 1 to the resolution.

>> Kashinsky: Second.

>> Mayor Knudson: Any further discussion from Council? we'll take a vote for the motion all in favor raise your hands. six with zero opposed and the motion passes with a vote of 6-0. thank you everyone, this concludes our agenda for today. so I now close the January 28, 2026 City Council work session, we are adjourned.