

ROUGHLY EDITED TRANSCRIPT
CITY OF EUGENE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 27, 2026
7:30 P.M.

Captioning Provided by:
LNS Captioning
www.LNSCaptioning.com
Phone: (503) 446-4555

* * *

This text, document, or file is based on live transcription. Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART), captioning, and/or live transcription are provided in order to facilitate communication accessibility and may not be a totally verbatim record of the proceedings. This is NOT the official record of the proceedings.

* * *

>> Mayor Knudson: Good evening everyone and welcome to the April 27, 2026 Eugene City Council and urban renewal agency meeting. Thank you for joining us in this hybrid meeting format. Anyone wishing to access us remotely can watch the livestream on the website or follow the access instructions listed on the public webcast and material materials webpage. If you wish to fill out a request to speak card and we will accept request forms until 7:35 P.M. These forms will be used to generate the order of speakers and accurately enter speaker's names into the public record. Public comment period is limited to 90 minutes or conclude by 10:00 P.M. whichever occurs first. If the number of speakers exceeds the time allotted we will ask people to abbreviate their remarks. Those joining remotely, you are welcome to e-mail your comments to City Council and that's true of anyone speaking in public comment. As a reminder Council meeting rules of conduct apply to all attendees in the chamber and lobby and include no flags, signs, disruptive or loud language, noise or conduct that obstructs the business of the Council. Please keep the room quiet and respectful for all speakers. Are you welcome to wave your hands in silent support. We encourage those that are ill to join us remotely rather in person, we have masks available in the lobby if you need one. In case of a medical emergency an automated external defibrillator is located on the county behind staff. Emergency exits are located through the double doors at the back of the room and double doors near the front, the doors to the patio can be used as needed.

With that I call the April 27, to 26 meeting of the Eugene City Council to order. Begin with a land acknowledgement. Since time immemorial, the Kalapuya people have been the Indigenous stewards to our region building dynamic communities, maintaining balance with wildlife, and enacting sustainable land practices. A land acknowledgement is a way of resisting the erasure of Indigenous histories and to honor Native communities by inviting truth and reconciliation. Following treaties between 1851 and 1855, Kalapuya people were dispossessed of their Indigenous homeland by the United States government and forcibly removed to the Coast Reservation in Western Oregon. As we consider the impacts of colonization, we also acknowledge the strength and resiliency of displaced Indigenous people. The City of Eugene is built within the traditional homelands known as Kalapuya Ilihi. Kalapuya descendants are citizens of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community of Oregon and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon, they continue to make contributions in our communities here and across the lands. We express our respect for the inherent political sovereignty of all federally recognized Tribal Nations and Indigenous people who live in the State of Oregon and across the nation.

Our first item on tonight's agenda, committee reports and items of interest. I will open the floor for community reports and items of interest from the Council in a moment. First I want to share a few brief statements. Over the past 2 weekends, I was with our neighbors and staff at both the Sheldon and Bethel branch libraries 25th birthday parties. Incredibly important parts of our local Eugene public library system. I want to thank the people for showing up with the resources to our community on two consecutive sunny Saturdays, the pore effect day for a birthday party. 10,000 runners joined the 19th Eugene marathon. I want to thank our staff and public safety and EMS teams for their support of this community event that brings people from everybody state in our country and all around the world to the city of Eugene. I got to congratulate a few thousand at the finish line on Sunday, an awesome experience in TrackTown USA. On the heels of community wide inclusive events that celebrate the best of Eugene, we also faced circumstances that are distinctly less inclusive. As you likely saw in the media we've been notified of GSA's intention to install a temporary security fence around the Federal building in downtown Eugene. Today our staff worked to install a temporary pedestrian path along pearl street to ensure that public access and basic accessibility are maintained regardless of the actions of the GSA which we do not control. I walk aid round the site this morning speaking with community members there and I want to emphasize and clarify a few important points.

My position as your Mayor regarding I.C.E. and DHS and actions that terrorize members of our community have of course not changed. My confidence in our community's capacity to hold true to values, to take care of one another, to stick together, to continue to embrace and lift up values of belonging and inclusion have not changed. I believe in our capacity to do that. Every person in our community has the right to due process and personal safety. Pearl street is a critical link through our city center. Our city's efforts unexpected efforts to install a continuous and safe

pedestrian passage along the street in 2026 where the Federal property extends into existing sidewalks is an effort by our city to mitigate the physical imposition of this proposal and this work. It is an effort to buffer our local community from the consequences that are unaddressed by the GSA. In Eugene, we remain committed to public safety and deescalation in any situation where community members may be at risk and over this past year I've spoken repeatedly to the issue of public safety and our concern for it, especially when others are not concerned for people's safety and deescalation. Our government city of Eugene and our staff have no jurisdiction over the Federal government on Federal property. And we do not have the legal grounds to deny the right-of-way permit that they have sought. And now have in their possession. That does not mean that our community supports these actions or this imposition. And my confidence in our community's ability and capacity to affirm and lift up values that contrast significantly with this fence has not changed. Our physical environment is an expression of our community's values, every tree planted, every trail maintained, sidewalk repaired, every bike path installed is an expression of values in the physical world of our desire to strengthen positive connections within the world around us and support people's everyday needs with the way that we invest the spaces that we inhabit.

Physical installations designed with the intention to make people feel unwelcome or unimportant is hostile architecture. That stands in sharp contrast to what was experienced by so many people in our community over this past weekend who told me by literally the hundreds how welcoming we are. How friendly the city feels. How connected people feel to their life and experience and how proud they are to welcome others. The city of Eugene and your elected officials will continue to be a steady point of contrast to any effort to make people in our community feel unimportant, unwelcome or unsafe. We are focused on partnership and capacity building not the waste of resources. We are seeking connection and stronger relationships not hard edges without consideration of context. In our city every block connected we are working towards a more beautiful and inviting experience for the community here. I know that the events of today and the work in downtown are confusing to many people and that's the reason I wanted to offer that statement at the beginning of our items of interest and committee reports today. Thank you Council for the additional time to share that perspective. Thank you to our staff for their work to help our city continue to be in alignment with our values and also fair in the work that we do. I want to recognize as your Mayor the challenge that we face with that work at this particular point in time and appreciate our continued commitment to that work. I'll open the floor for other Councilors' items of interest and committee reports. Councilor Keating.

>> Keating: Thank you, Mayor, I want to thank you for your comments in regards to the proposed fence right around the corner. Thank you for that clear headed commentary. I want to touch on a few things. One national and one statewide and local. We couldn't escape the violence that was thrust on us as a nation Saturday evening. I happened to be at a library foundation dinner when I learned of the interruption to the White House correspondent's dinner. I want to

make it abundantly clear as an elected official and citizen of the United States I abhor violence in all its forms. Want to point folks to actionable ways of airing your grievances, at the ballot box. Whether it is upcoming may 19 election, election in November, make your voice heard. Please refrain from violence if you are within ear shot, I think it is important to denounce armed conflict and violence whenever we get the opportunity. Back to the state and local level I was honored to represent the city of Eugene at the league of city's spring conference in Pendleton. Highlights included attending the symposium on using Artificial Intelligence responsibly. Admittedly I'm still curious. I participated in defensible code making session, thanks to the principal planners who presented a road map for jurisdictions look to implement and even force defensible space standards. Kudos to the communications team from independence, Oregon who presented a make government interesting breakout session. They did a good job. Maybe I'm not the intended audience but I was impressed with the city of independence's City Council in 60 seconds recap of their City Council meetings. Cool concept that captured my attention. And city of Eugene received a resolution, framed resolution and I apologize to the team for leaving it in my home office. It is a beautiful resolution, I'll let the Mayor and manager fight over who gets custody of the framed resolution. This resolution recognizes the city of Eugene and thanked us for being -- for our partnership and for being a founding league of cities member.

>> Mayor Knudson: Councilor Yeh.

>> Yeh: I got to attend my first human rights committee mission meeting. Thanks to the commissioners for being welcoming. I want to share one topic that we discussed that I learned about, more information will be coming to the Council, but about nondiscrimination protections for family and relationship structure. As families in relationship structures continue to involve, gaps remain in existing nondiscrimination protections that leave some individuals, couples and families vulnerable to unequal treatment. So the commission will be providing Council with additional information about this topic. Potential options for us. Thank you.

>> Mayor Knudson: Thank you Council. And that concludes our first agenda item. I will now turn to city manager to introduce our second agenda item which is a priority goal action on the Eugene-Springfield 2026 HUD annual action plan for affordable housing and community development.

>> Haruyama: Council to approve the community development block grant, allocation and the Eugene Springfield 2026 annual action plan. Council takes this action annually allocating Federal funds for affordable housing, human services and job creation investments. The proposed CDBG allocation is a grant amount of approximately \$1.4 million and \$690,000 estimated dash income for 2.1 million. The allocation is aligned with community needs and strategies outlined in the five-year consolidated plan. The draft annual action plan was published, distributed across the community and reviewed at a public meeting. It was also posted for a 30-day written public comment period and comments are included in your AIS.

>> Mayor Knudson: Thank you, city manager Haruyama. If there are no quos from Council I will turn to the Council President to make a motion. Councilor Zelenka?

>> Zelenka: Thanks. From the AIS funding from -- funding from HUD continues to decline. The 2026CDBG grant of approximately 1.4 million is 5% declined from 2025 amount. Compared to five years ago, it is 5% lower and home is 13% lower. Funds are nearly half of what they were received 20 years ago. Wow, that's stunning. This administration cutting it further but it's been going on for a long time. Just when we need more affordable housing, in memory, they're cutting funding for this again? Funding needs to go to social services, housing and economic development. Over half a million dollars going towards economic development. Do you know if that was included when we talked about economic development?

>> Haruyama: I'm have to ask staff to answer that.

>> Hello, good question. I couldn't hear you completely. Was the question if the economic development was part of the previous conversation?

>> Zelenka: Yes, economic development and how much funding we were looking at, was this in that agreement?

>> I'll let the planning director hop in.

>> Hi, Councilor Zelenka, Elisa hunter, planning and development director. Are you talking about the work session where the positions were being proposed or are you talking about a different economic development service? Different conversation? I'm sorry, I can't hear you very well.

>> Zelenka: That was the one I was talking about.

>> What was being requested in that work session was not related to the funding that you were just referring to.

>> Zelenka: Thank you, on top of that.

>> Mayor Knudson: Thank you Council, if there are no additional questions I'll turn to the President to put a motion forward.

>> Leech: Move to approve the CDBG allocation specified in the Eugene Springfield 2026 an annual action plan included as attachment A to the AIS.

>> Kashinsky: Second.

>> Mayor Knudson: Further discussion? Seeing none I'll take a vote -- [Off MIC] thank you Council for this motion, it is locked in at a vote of 8-0. The motion passes. This concludes our second agenda item this evening. The third agenda item tonight is consent calendar 1, approval of City Council minutes and approval of City Council tentative agenda. There are if there are no questions from Council, I turn to the Council President to put a motion forward.

>> Leech: Move to approve the items on consent calendar 1.

>> Kashinsky: Second.

>> Mayor Knudson: Any further discussion? Seeing none lock in your votes on the tablets in front of you. The motion passes with a vote of 8-0. Thank you Council. That: Concludes or third agenda item. I'll now close the City Council meeting and open the April 27, 2026 meeting of the urban renewal agency, and turn to the agency director to introduce our fourth agenda item.

>> Haruyama: Thank you. This action is for the urban renewal agency board to consider expansion of the Riverside, advisory committee for the urban renewal plan. The river guides are tasked with providing input on activities in the Riverfront district and making recommendations to the agency director and the agency board. The current members are the committee expressed a desire to increase the membership to help meet quorum rules and expand representation of the appointed members of the today the agency board is being asked to consider expanding the committee from 7 to 9 seats.

>> Mayor Knudson: Thank you, city manager. If there are no questions from the agency I will now turn to the agency President to put a motion forward.

>> Leech: I move to increase the number of members on the you are Bonn front urban guide to 7 to 9.

>> Second.

>> Mayor Knudson: Any discussion from the agency? Seeing none I will take a vote for this motion. Councilor please lock in your votes on your tablets. And the motion passes with a vote of 8-0. Thank you. Urban renewal agency. I will close the April 27, 2026 urban renewal agency meeting and reconvene the April 27, 2026 City Council meeting. And turn to our city manager to introduce our fifth agenda item tonight.

>> Haruyama: Thank you, the City Council is being asked to initiate a land use adoption process to extend the expiration date of certain land use approvals type 2 land use approvals and type 3. Expedited land divisions and middle housing and land divisions for three years. The extensions are proposed to respond to the housing crisis and remove barriers to housing and job development. The City

Council has approved two similar three-year extensions, one in 2020 as an economic recovery tool in response to the impacts from Covid. And one in 2019 -- 2009 in response to the economic challenges brought by the great recession. Initiation of this land use adoption process does not infer support for the proposed extensions, it simply allows the formal land use adoption process to proceed. If the Council initiates this land use regulation this item will be considered along with a package of code amendments to implement urban growth strategies anticipated for adoption by the end of 2026.

>> Mayor Knudson: Thank you, city manager. If there are no questions from Council, Councilor Zelenka?

>> Zelenka: Yeah, these would make these extensions permanent?

>> March: If they are adopted by code my sense would be yes.

>> Zelenka: How long to three years of land use code amendments?

>> Haruyama: We will have staff clarify that for you.

>> Lauren summers, assistant City Attorney. This is a one-time three-year extension on applications already approved. Once these types of applications are approved the approvals rye main for a specific period of time. After that they expire. So this is a three-year extension of the expression. Gives folks a little bit more time to move development process before the land use approvals expire. Technically not an amendment of the code but it is a kind of stand-alone ordinance. It goes through the land use amendment process. So there will be a hearing at planning commission, and another hearing before City Council, and then ultimately Council would decide whether or not to adopt the ordinance. This is just you initiating that process.

>> Zelenka: We have done that in the past when things are tough. Type 2 and type 3, what is the typical normal timeframe, one year?

>> Lauren: That's a great question, not one I know off the top of my head. I don't know if Heather O'Donnell or Elisa are online to respond to that.

>> The typical timeframe for the application to take is that what you look for?

>> Lauren: What is the expiration time period?

>> It depends on the application, I think it's 36 months.

>> Lauren: That sounds right. About three years.

>> Zelenka: What is it now?

>> Lauren: It's about three years in code. This would give them an additional three years.

>> Zelenka: I get it, thank you.

>> Mayor Knudson: Any other questions from Council? Councilor Keating.

>> Keating: Can staff comment on how this extension affects our urban growth boundaries if at all?

>> Lauren, are you -- I'll pause.

>> Lauren: I'll take a stab then Heather can give you the real detail. Probably not at all. These are applications that are already approved, the development is already approved. All this would do is give the developer a little bit longer to do the development.

>> Keating: Within the UDB.

>> Lauren: Within the city limits, yes. Did I miss anything, Heather?

>> Thank you, staff. Seeing no additional questions from Council, I will now turn to the Council President to put a motion forward.

>> Leech: Move to initiate a land use code amendment to extend unexpired type 2, type 3 expedited land division and middle housing code, middle housing land division land use rules for three years.

>> Kashinsky: Second.

>> Mayor Knudson: Any further discussion? Seeing none I'll take a vote for this motion. Councilors please lock in your vote on the tablets in front of you. Motion passes with a vote of 8-0. Thank you. That concludes our fifth agenda item. I'll turn it back to the city manager to introduce our sixth agenda item, ordinance adopting hazardous substance user fees.

>> Haruyama: Thank you. As you said, this item is about an ordinance for the hazardous substance user fee. You had held a public hearing last week on April 20. Just as a reminder the proposed rate is \$75.22 for full time equivalent employee with a maximum charge of \$2,000 per facility, required under state law.

>> Mayor Knudson: Thank you, city manager. Any questions from Council? Seeing none I'll now turn to the Council President to put a motion forward.

>> Leech: I move to adopt an ordinance adopting hazardous substance user fees as provided in attachment A to the AIS.

>> Kashinsky: Second.

>> Mayor Knudson: Any further questions? Take a vote for the motion, lock in your votes. The motion passes with a vote of 8-0, thank you. That concludes our sixth agenda item this evening. And the last item on tonight's agenda is the public comment period. Public comment period is an opportunity for individuals to speak to the City Council on any city related issues except for those items which have been heard by hearings official. As a reminder public comment period is limited to 90 minutes or conclude by 10:00 P.M. We encourage speakers to consider abbreviating your remarks so the maximum number of speakers can be heard if it seems as though others will not have the opportunity. Staff can you share the list and the number of speakers that are signed up to speak by 7:35 P.M. And announce the first speakers.

>> Thank you, we have 14 speakers lined up today. I will announce two speakers' names at a time. When you are called to speak please state your name and your ward or neighborhood. If known. Before beginning your comments. If you are announced as the next speaker please move to the seat in the front row designated for the next speaker. When it is your turn, you may come to the podium. Please leave any bags you may have with you at your seat. If you have documents to give Council, please place them in the basket near the podium. You will have 2 1/2 minutes to speak. The timer will flash red when you have 15 seconds remaining to speak. Your microphone will be muted at 29.5 minute mark. Note that the use of profanity is not permitted. The first speaker is Lin Woodrich followed by Oliva bell.

>> I'm Lin Woodrich, co-chair of the active Bethel community and resident for over 30 years. I live in ward 8. I've been speaking on behalf of our ABC board for the last 6 years. I'm allowed to speak first as I represent my neighborhood association. The active Bethel community has over 12,000 households. Speaking as is a privilege and made a difference in the Bethel neighborhood. Starting 6 years ago I spoke regularly that Bethel hasn't had a neighborhood plan for 40 years. Last Wednesday there was a plan where it was presented. Highway 99 has been a regular topic in my speeches. At the state of the city address Mayor can Knudson said I think we need to begin thinking differently about highway 99. Its future as a safer, greener, multi modal boulevard. It needs to be reimaged, with so many other examples we can bring a new spirit of collaboration to this work. Sorry about my phone. Working was beyond toxics and many agencies to bring attention to the JH Baxter neighborhood contamination resulted in its closing and becoming a super fund site. There have been many urgent topics related to the Bethel neighborhood it was ignored for far too long. Bringing the neighborhood issues to the City Council, Mayor and city manager regularly, is important and I will continue to advocate for Bethel. I encourage other neighborhood associations to give permission to their

leaders to advocate for their needs. We're inviting everyone to attend our we are Bethel celebration from noon to 4:00 on April 30. We have live performances, games, food carts and raffle prizes. The kinder foundation is sponsoring our event and we will have lots of kindness to spread around. Check out the website active Bethel community.org and sign up for the monthly e-mail newsletters. Apologize for my phone.

>> Next we'll hear from Oliva bell followed by amber Morgan Wigmore.

>> Hello, I'm Olivia bell, ward 4. As I stand here today, I.C.E. continues to terrorize our communities across the country including our community and our city, our friends, our families, our people. We are scared for ourselves and for the people we love especially those of color. Historically the city has not been kind to people of color. My heart breaks to see that sentiment continued as we allow I.C.E. to abduct, brutalize and disappear these same groups of people. You continued to tell us that there is nothing you can do, that you have no jurisdiction over Federal property. Would I like to ask you to stop lying to yourselves. You have power. Be creative. Dig in your heels. Tear things up. Be uncomfortable. Break the unspoken rules that you tell yourselves you aren't supposed to break. Because they don't -- we have to do something. And you all sit here in positions of power and we all stand here as ordinary citizens doing -- people I know here have done vastly more to protect our community than any of you have frankly. And I would like to thank all of them, organizers, people who are out at the Federal building every day protesting, watching I.C.E., making sure they can't not the dark. I have no thanks for anyone in a position of authority here today. I hope that in the future that will change.

>> Thank you. Next we will hear from amber Morgan Wigmore followed by shelly divine.

>> My name is amber, I live in ward 1. I moved to Eugene about a year and a half ago. And I like Eugene enough to stay for now. But as someone who moved from Portland, I have also seen a lot of hesitation from Eugene City Council and from lane county commission to act in these unprecedented times. I think that the recent steps Portland and Multnomah County took to codify their sanctuary status is a really great example of what action could look like in these times. As of April 9, 2026, I.C.E. is barred from operating on city of Portland and Multnomah County property. This is frankly a pretty basic step given the humanitarian crisis we are experiencing. But more importantly, this demonstrates that there are paths forward. That Eugene has so far chosen not to take. Fortunately, not all hope is lost because myself and others have developed three possible ideas for how a pedestrian promenade project on pearl between sixth and seventh as floated by Councilor Keating would be realized. Over the past two weeks we have collected over 150 signatures in support of developing this into a formal proposal. And in all fairness, if I didn't have to spend all of my time fighting fascism I would have more time to collect signatures. To quote the Feds, we appreciate the city's coordination and cooperation on this project and we look forward to your guidance as we move forward. The claim

you have no power over our city while simultaneously giving away property for this fence is to continue to treat the situation as normal. My partner in collecting signatures is not here due to illness. But we will be following up by e-mail and are happy to continue working on this proposal. I look forward to developing real solutions to what is happening. Because to fail to acknowledge the solutions that have been proposed would be to admit that your humanitarian crisis was always empty words. If that's the case we will begin collecting recall signatures. Thank you.

>> Thank you, amber. Next shelly divine followed by Alexander Chamberlain.

>> Hi, good evening. Just a general radio announcement, reminder, that may 1 is international workers day. That we are having an event in Eugene, a rally and march, at Morris free speech plaza starting at noon. Because workers have the power to defeat the agenda of the malignant man child crime regime. That's our intention. It's no work, no school, no shopping. It would be so meaningful, I know, to the entire community and to all of us collectively if any number of you would join us that day and really represent, and like, really, in collaboration with us and be like we are the elected representatives and we want to support the folks in the community doing this. It would be so cool if any of you could come out for that. And along those lines not only the event but we're putting a call out for artists, this is on behalf of PSL, a community art build after the rally in march. That will be from 2:00 to 4:30 in the park blocks. Afternoon of art in the spirit of mayday, works by local artists, sign making and opportunity to participate in a community art project. So the call for artists is encouraging artists to bring works of art with themes that are pro immigrant, pro worker, anti-war, anti-I.C.E. to the community art build. And we're open to all kinds of things like visual art, music, poetry, spoken word. The works will be presented at the community art build in the downtown park blocks from 2:clock to 4:30. If you are interested in participating fill out this form or RSVP -- anyone can ask me for the QR code. I'm reading off a screen shot. That's what I got for tonight, no more pontificating for me even though I think we enjoy it a little bit. Thank you.

>> Thank you, shelly. Next, Alexander Chamberlain followed by David EIGEL.

>> I would like to welcome the new city manager. Thank you guys, thank the staff for putting on a permit explainer. There's two sessions, one on may 14 and one that happened earlier this month. Thank you for that, that was very hopeful.

>> Thank you, next we will hear from David EIGEL followed by Erica Leon.

>> David EIGEL ward 1. I'm here to speak to you about an unfortunate situation that involves a fraud inflicted on the community. A nonnative Oregonian, Alicia brown, has been raising funds for a memorial at Alton Baker park, using a dystopian false narrative describing Eugene as a sun downtown where black people couldn't live. She falsely describes the north bank residents as black community. Eugene has had black residents for over 135 years. The a you then particular

history, some of the future residents of the north bank asked lane county for help in 1945. At that time there was an extremely acute housing shortage locally and across the nation. Help was given to them. They were given permission to temporarily squat rent free on land owned by lane county to be used as the site of the newer iffy street bridge. Because of the housing shortage and not race that racially mixed group became residents of the north bank. When the bridge was to be built, they were ordered to leave the county land they had been squatting on. The county didn't need to use eminent domain of its own land. I asked in person and in writing to Mayor can newt son, a nonnative Oregonian, state what she was going to do. Her response is silent although she participated in a memorial event while Mayor elect. This disgraceful memorial describing events that never happened, should have no place at Alton Baker park or any other Eugene park. I filed criminal charges using false statements to solicit charitable donations is a crime. I am going to begin mass distribution of information about this fraud on Wednesday. Please inform me if you wish to be listed as a supporter or nonsupporter of the monument. Thank you.

>> Staff, also people in the room, please, only the person at the podium should be speaking, thank you.

>> Thank you, David. Next speaker Erica Lyon, is there an Erica Lyon in the room? Followed by Amanda Wallberg.

>> Okay, Erica Lyon, ward 8. I'm just here to check back in about Amazon. I haven't forgotten that they're building a warehouse out in west Eugene close to where I live. So you guys should be doing something about it. You know the reasons already. We have come over here every week to describe the reasons why Amazon is not welcome. At this point just do something. All right.

>> Thank you, Erica. Next speaker is Amanda Wallberg, is there an Amanda Wallberg in the room?

>> hello, ladies and gentlemen. I e-mailed most of you ahead of time, with footage from the garden way church which is a preschool for children. There is blood on the ceiling in there. I have witnessed multiple instances of the pastor groping a girl's leg. There's been cars with license plates that don't match the vehicle they are on and picking up children. Children that match the descriptions of missing persons. The last time I was in there, there was new blood stains and they were hand prints. I sent you footage of this. I have reported this to the police but the fact is something should have been done -- I have, I printed off some links for other videos of stuff that's been happening around town that is serious crimes. I reported this to the police. The fact is this should have been shut down, they should have been investigated the first time. Shouldn't be something I have to keep reporting over and over again. I mean, I don't think any sane person wants this stuff happening in our community. I don't know if the problem is with, like, the police, if it's with the state's attorney, if it's just with, like, lack of transparency and ability of

citizens to participate in making sure that laws are enforced. But I really feel like we need like volunteer committee of citizens that will basically -- I have filed formal requests, appeals with the police Auditor, they get dismissed. We need people involved that aren't getting paid that won't be corrupted that will make sure that this gets investigated so we can be safe here. We need people that will do it because they care. Not be corrupted by a paycheck. I printed off like I said links to more videos of stuff like this. A lot of information about systemic corruption if you are interested after this meeting. Thank you.

>> Thank you, Amanda. Our next speaker is Wynn MANCELL followed by Ben.

>> Council, staff, Wynn MANCELL ward 7. I'll open by asking if we have gotten a response back on the flock data deletion. If we have, I think it would be great to get information out there. I know it'll generate a lot of questions, debate, but I think would put a lot of people's minds at rest. If we haven't, what do we do about that? I think it is a larger community question, what do we do with an organization, vendor, that is refusing to follow quite frankly very police and put together well articulated ask, delete our data. Le beyond that, Councilor Keating I hear you on the ballot box expression of our power. I remind Council that we are equal citizens under the law. We have the first amendment. You have thousands -- hundreds, thousands of your fellow citizens have been setting an extent example over the last year of how to exercise that first amendment power to be heard. You have many lovely local news organizations I'm sure would love to platform you, as you unequivocally denounce with strong level-headed language that I.C.E. is not welcome here. But also, Councilor Keating, I have heard especially the last couple of meetings you exercising a great deal of creativity. To that especially in the question of Amazon, I'd like to share with you my copy of, and I unfortunately can't say the main title of Corey DOCTOROW's book, how everything got so bad and what we can do about it. I was going to say go to the library and grab a copy but the wait list is 9 people deep. You can have mine. Read it, be inspired, take the creative thinking and ideas back to the rest of Council. I'm giving you DIBS but share it with Council. Yeah keep thinking, being creative, use your voices please. Thank you.

>> Thank you, next we will hear from Ben followed by Pete.

>> Hi, I'm Ben from Springfield. I want to say that the protesters at the Federal building are expressing their first amendment rights and the building of a fence inhibits that right to free speech and protest. So please, Councilors, do everything you can to resist the building of this fence. As other commenters said, think creatively. Use the power that you have, think outside the box. Because these are unprecedented times. We need more action. Thank you.

>> Thank you, next we will hear from Pete followed by Stan Taylor.

>> Hello, I'm Pete, I sit on the city public art committee and live in ward 1. I'd like to address some comments made by Council at the end. Last meeting. To start with the basics when a hostile invading paramilitary force of masked racist goons, many past or present Nazis, proud boys and white supremacists take up residence in your municipality to illegally kidnap your constituents it should be blindingly obvious that your main job, all our jobs, is to obstruct them by any means we have available. When asked for anything, the job is not too even handedly to respond as any that are mall request. The job is not to consider whether though ask for something we can provide, the job is to say no, no, no, a thousand times no, you racist goons, you have to do it without local cooperation. That is the job. Mr. Zelenka, your petulant dismissal of the dozens of constituents who urged noncooperation with the Feds on this fence project was disappointing. You displayed a failure to hear anything they said. We all are aware that it's not explicitly in your job description to approve every right-of-way permit but if you think anyone believes that as a Councilmember you have no possible mechanisms at your disposal to block, delay, obstruct or prevent this particular project, then you have made it clear that you think the voters of this city are idiots. Folks who spoke at the last meeting and this one generally understand very well that there's little the city can do to regulate what the Feds do on Federal property. And, yes, I've always been most likely to put most of the fence on their property. But it is entirely within the city's ability to stop them from using one single square inch of city property whether for permanent siting of the fence or temporary staging and construction. We've all dealt with any government. We know you are able to slow walk an application request when it suits you.

>> Mayor Knudson: Crowd, please, only the person at the microphone should be speaking.

>> Can I claim my time? All our public officials need to step up and stand up for community and stop relying on bureaucratic excuses to justify cowardice and fence sitting.

>> Thank you, next Stan Taylor followed by Josh easterland.

>> Stan Taylor, ward 1, represent indivisible Eugene build. I want to continue what I was talking about last time. That is an earlier my life I was a chapter 11 bankruptcy lawyer. I helped businesses deal with their debt structure. What I learned in that process is that not all solutions are equal. Some solutions have heavier cost than others. Some solutions fit the problem in a more effective way. The same is true for dealing with the budget crisis. Some solutions are better than others. The solution that the Council seems to have adopted is this idea that growth of any type will help to solve the problem. But the type of growth you are talking about with Amazon will not solve the problem. Amazon at best will give a very small donation, or tax bill, property taxes, to the city less than half of a percent of the budget for the city itself. It will come to the community and it will have low paying jobs that supplant jobs in the community. You may have heard from the Oregonian

that Oregon is losing retail jobs, one of the fastest -- five times faster than the rest of the country. When Amazon comes here, local retail jobs will be lost. When you begin to look at what you are doing and who you are supporting, not a solution to the problem, in fact it is adding to the problem. Amazon itself is not a good neighbor. It will not provide good paying jobs. It will not provide safe jobs. It will not provide a solution to your budget problem. As we all know, if we're talking about so-called corporate citizens, Amazon will be at the very bottom of the list of the type of corporate citizen that we would like in this community.

>> Thank you, Stan, next Josh Easterland followed by Jacob Griffin.

>> City Councilors, Josh Easterland, equitable access Eugene ward 8. I want to acknowledge something important, seeing real progress at the Federal level on psychedelic assisted therapies. This month Trump signed an executive order directing the FDA to accelerate research and review PTSD, depression, addiction. This pathway prioritizes breakthrough pathways, speeds up timelines for certain clinical trials. Significant advancement that reflects the growing bipartisan recognition that the substances have clear medical value. What does this mean. Even with expedited pathways they have to go through phase 3 trials, demonstrate safety and efficacy, navigate approval, rescheduling and implementation. That takes years and after approval access isn't guaranteed. We have our own local example of this when Oregonians passed psilocybin services. While that system is legal it is expensive, thousands of dollars per session and not covered by insurance. What we are seeing is a pattern. Legal access exists but financially out of reach for those who need it most especially those dealing with trauma, mental illness and addiction. At the Federal level this new push is largely focused on clinical, medicalized models often involving pharmaceutical companies and highly controlled environments. That's one pathway but not the only one. Doesn't address the reality that people are using these substances today. Why local decriminalization matters. It doesn't bypass science, clinical care but reduces harm. Allows people to grow their own plants and FUNGI, instead of the black market where they may be mislabeled or contaminated, builds peer support system outside of the expensive clinical settings and seek help without fear of arrest or criminalization. We can support Federal research and local harm reduction at the same time. These approaches are not in conflict, they're complimentary. While this executive order is progress it's not a solution. It highlights the gap between medical access and present day need. Local decriminalization is how we responsibly bridge that gap. Thank you for your time.

>> Thank you, Josh. Next we will hear from our final speaker, Jacob Griffin.

>> Good evening, I'm Jacob Griffin. It was nice to hear about the library tonight, first time I spoke to you was 25 years ago when I came to the city of Eugene as a principle librarian and acting librarian while Carol Hildebrand raised money for the library. I left in 2001 just before 9/11, in August, 9/11 happened. My friends will tell you that it is no surprise I had a contentious relationship with the City Council in Berkeley. But when the Patriot act was introduced and librarians were

under threat no one was stronger in their support than the city of Berkeley City Council. There's an interview with me and a City Council member talking about the German public radio, what the city would do were I arrested by the FBI for violating the Patriot act. That's the kind of thing I come to think of cities like Eugene and Berkeley under these regimes. That you stand up against them, that you make it harder. I am also the founder of the resisters book club that meets every Wednesday at the fed building at noon. We're reading on tyranny, Timothy Snyder, the great authoritarian researcher. His first chapter says do not obey in advance. It feels to me as if you are obeying in advance. Right now we need our local governments to fight at every single step of the way. To not tell us that they can't do anything. And we're hearing tonight a multiple levels, you can't do anything about the fence, you can't do anything about Amazon, you're helpless. And my answer is let's find some people who aren't helpless. I once had a City Attorney tell me that the thing to do is not to tell him, ask him what the law was but tell him what I wanted then let him tell me how to do it. I don't think you're asking those questions. That fence is a violation of everything. Your citizens are being kidnapped and they want a hiding place to do that. Your residents, apologize, your residents are being kidnapped. They want a hiding place so we can't see it. And you should be doing everything you can to slow that down, to stop it, to tell us --

>> Thank you, Jacob, your time has concluded. Mayor, that was our final speaker.

>> Mayor Knudson: Thank you staff. I now close the public comment period. Are there any comments from City Council? Councilor Yeh.

>> Yeh: I had a couple of things. The notion that a native Oregonian glosses over the reality that Oregon's history and identity have always been shaped by movement and migration. There's no residency test that determines when someone becomes entitled to engage in their community or have their perspective respected. Someone born in Eugene has -- someone who moved here today has as much right as someone born in Eugene to have an opinion on how their community is governed and what happens here in their community. Second, I want to thank those who come here to want to be able to support the peaceful protest downtown. I appreciate you coming with your ideas. Councilor Keating's idea, if this fence is -- if the idea of this fence is to stop our ability to have folks exercising their rights then finding a way to support exercising those rights is an avenue that I also would support. I appreciate people come hearing with the ideas of how we can do that.

>> Mayor Knudson: Councilor Keating.

>> Keating: Thank you, thank you Councilor Yeh, thank you to folks who come meeting after meeting providing testimony. I want to start with the lone neighborhood association voice. Those who may not know, keeping score at home, this Council has adopted policy that allows for boards, commissions and neighborhood associations to be at the front of public comment. Yet time and time

again Lin Woodrich to her credit, active Bethel community, is the only voice at the top of these meetings. I would encourage you all to be more connected to your neighborhood associations. Be involved in your boards and commissions. Invite those who are to come provide testimony and inform Council about what the respective boards, commissions, and neighborhood associations work on. Wynn look forward to diving in. I appreciate the loan of the kernel of knowledge and look forward to sharing that as well. Thank you. And finally, last Tuesday, I believe it was, I stopped by the corner of sixth and pearl and was welcomed with open arms. It was an honor to stand side by side fellow residents who were saying hell no, not on our watch, not in our community. Thank you.

>> Mayor Knudson: Thank you Council for those comments. Thank you everyone who joined us this evening. Our work continues W that I close the April 27, 2026 City Council meeting. We are adjourned.