

MINUTES
Eugene City Council
Work Session
Eugene, Oregon 97401

July 13, 2026
5:30 p.m.

Councilors Present: Eliza Kashinsky, Matt Keating, Alan Zelenka, Jennifer Yeh, Mike Clark, Greg Evans, Lyndsie Leech, and Randy Groves

Mayor Kaarin Knudson opened the July 13, 2026, work session of the Eugene City Council in a hybrid format at 500 E 4th Avenue, North Building, Eugene OR 97401.

1. WORK SESSION: Long Range Financial Planning & Strategic Plan

City Manager Jenny Haruyama introduced Chief Financial Officer, Twylla Miller, and consultant Nancy Hetrick with Raftelis to discuss the budget principles, service framework, and strategic focus areas drafted at the Council Workshop on Long Range Financial Planning.

Councilor Discussion:

- Councilor Keating – asked if Council would be included in the Budget Committee meetings in August; asked if there has been any outreach to the former members of the Revenue Committee.

MOTION: Councilor Leech, seconded by Councilor Kashinsky, moved to adopt Attachment A with a change to Number 3, replacing sustainability with stability.

Councilor Discussion:

- Councilor Zelenka – noted number six had been added as a result of Council discussion.
- Councilor Clark – noted while he would vote in favor of the motion, he is not sure how the list will affect future decisions.
- Mayor Knudson – noted the principles are an example of supporting transparency and will improve clarity with the public.
- Councilor Keating – asked if the principles were listed in order of importance.

VOTE: 8:0 PASSED

IN FAVOR: Kashinsky, Keating, Zelenka, Yeh, Clark, Evans, Leech, and Groves.

OPPOSED: None.

MOTION: Councilor Leech, seconded by Councilor Kashinsky, moved to approve the Service Framework as set forth in Attachment B to this AIS.

Councilor Discussion:

- Councilor Zelenka – noted he likes the structure of the service focus areas; stated that actions to implement the strategies are still to come and this document is the framework those actions will hang on; asked if the Service Framework was a categorization tool or a prioritization tool; asked if the next step is for staff to categorize services.
- Councilor Kashinsky – stated important questions will emerge through this budget decision lens; asked if staff will show which programs have full cost recovery versus those that do not.
- Councilor Groves – noted he is looking for a way to prioritize programs.
- Councilor Zelenka – asked how the budget decisions considerations will be used within each category.
- Councilor Yeh – asked why the budget decision lenses are focused on reducing or eliminating services instead of investing.

VOTE: 8:0 PASSED

IN FAVOR: Kashinsky, Keating, Zelenka, Yeh, Clark, Evans, Leech, and Groves.

OPPOSED: None.

Councilor Discussion:

- Mayor Knudson – noted the value of this work in terms of how it will organize other efforts and clarify potential partnerships; stated she expects the following to be central to the work over the next few years: affordability, belonging, economic development, and climate responsiveness.
- Councilor Kashinsky – noted the strategic focus areas broadly capture the discussion; stated the community safety section lacks clear strategies for prevention and early intervention.
- Councilor Keating – stated strong support for strengthening partnerships and supporting behavioral health and crisis response; noted concern with the housing focus area's clause on removing barriers to housing production; noted he is not interested expanding the urban growth boundary; stated that prior concerns raised about animal services are not clearly represented in the document.
- Councilor Zelenka – stated appreciation for the strategy on advancing community resilience and environmental stewardship; noted the housing and homelessness focus area centers mostly on housing production; stated the focus area should address affordable housing, mental health services, and substance abuse as root causes of homelessness.
- Councilor Yeh – stated support for adding more specific strategies around homelessness; noted the community safety focus area could use clarification.
- Councilor Clark – stated he likes the housing and homelessness section as written; noted limited outward growth has contributed to the current financial constraints; stated he had hoped there would be more specifics around creating long-term financial stability.

- Councilor Evans – stated his primary focus is on public safety and transportation; noted the document provides a good benchmark for determining future direction.
- Councilor Leech – stated no issue with the “remove barriers to housing production” language; noted regional coordination on homelessness response could be expanded to reflect work with Lane County; noted interest in strengthening partnerships around behavioral health.
- Councilor Groves – stated he likes the framework and finds it workable; noted the homelessness and housing sections need more detail; stated concern that community safety does not address how far behind fire services have fallen, with staffing unchanged since 1981 despite rising demand.
- Councilor Zelenka – noted the community safety section does not specifically address the fire department; suggests adding a fourth strategy to the Housing and Homelessness section.
- Councilor Keating – noted agreement with adding a fourth strategy to the Housing and Homelessness section; stated the community safety strategies are strong but acknowledged the clear need for more specificity and resources for first responders, especially firefighters; noted support for the focus on reducing crime and strengthening code compliance; noted appreciation for the general financial stability language, saying its flexibility allows creative approaches to diversifying revenue; stated support for keeping public spaces, parks, and waterways clean, safe, and accessible; stated the strategies are interconnected and complementary.
- Councilor Clark – stated opposition to adding a fourth strategy to housing and homelessness because ultimately the responsibility lies with the county; noted concern that diminishing federal and state dollars would create budget challenges if the city tried to fill the gap in services; stated agreement with concerns about fire services and the need for increased investment regardless of structural changes; noted discomfort with the financial stability language because he wants to strengthen revenue but not necessarily diversify it; asked for a focused conversation on increasing the city's major revenue source, property tax, by determining how to achieve needed increases in assessed value.
- Councilor Kashinsky – stated the broad framing creates space to discuss the “how” without detailing every priority; stated the plan does not yet clearly distinguish proactive versus reactive approaches in homelessness or community safety; stated support for strengthening and diversifying revenue; noted both short-term and long-term revenue solutions are needed for stability.
- Councilor Evans – asked how to deal with the lack of federal funding for affordable housing subsidies; noted rising rents increase the occurrence of homelessness; stated there should be conversations with the state and other municipal partners about additional types of housing subsidies, particularly for those experiencing homelessness.
- Councilor Groves – asked if there needed to be an amendment to the section on community safety; noted he would like to discuss programs helping unhoused community members during the budget process.

- Councilor Zelenka – noted the Council had previously discussed growth as a budget strategy; noted the City would need two to three billion dollars of investment to gain ten million dollars in property tax revenue; stated while growth is beneficial overall, it is not an effective near-term budget solution because the necessary level of investment cannot be achieved quickly.
- Councilor Clark – noted they have not explored whether the investment figures are achievable relative to community capacity; stated the needed discussion is about what policy changes or decisions could make long-term growth possible; agreed that growth is not a short-term budget solution; stated concern they repeatedly avoid long-term solutions because they don't resolve short-term issues, which contributes to current budget challenges; called for an in-depth, long-term policy discussion to address structural fiscal problems.
- Councilor Evans – noted his support for animal services; asked if it is possible to merge the 1st Avenue Shelter into Greenhill Humane Society; stated the need to address the animal service situation due to the number of animals on the street.
- Councilor Kashinsky – noted her support for animal and fire services; noted concern about adding specific programmatic priorities to the strategic plan framework document because it may elevate whatever is mentioned at the table rather than relying on staff's broader analysis; noted long-range financial strategy discussions are still needed, including how to solve long- and short-term revenue concerns and how to prioritize services; stated while the current document reflects collegial consensus, the next phase will be harder due to philosophical differences about solutions.
- Councilor Keating – noted the City has state-mandated responsibilities around animal services; stated support for adding the resource allocation for first responders, especially fire and EMS.
- Mayor Knudson – noted the forthcoming service framework and related documents will clarify requirements from state regulation and legally mandated city services, helping distinguish required services from strategic priorities; noted the plan is meant to clarify overarching strategies; asked whether updates to the strategic plan framework and strategies can be brought back during Wednesday's work session and completed before council break.

MOTION: Councilor Leech, seconded by Councilor Kashinsky, moved to approve the Strategic focus areas as set forth in Attachment C to this AIS.

VOTE: 8:0 PASSED

IN FAVOR: Kashinsky, Keating, Zelenka, Yeh, Clark, Evans, Leech, and Groves.

OPPOSED: None.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Katie LaSala", with a stylized, cursive script.

Katie LaSala
City Recorder

(Recorded by Cherish Bradshaw)

Link to the webcast of this City Council meeting [here](#).