

MINUTES

Eugene City Council Meeting Eugene, Oregon 97401

**September 14, 2026
7:30 p.m.**

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

Councilors Absent: Alan Zelenka

Mayor Knudson opened the September 14, 2026, meeting of the Eugene City Council in hybrid in-person and virtual format at 500 E. 4th Avenue, North Building, Eugene, OR 97401.

1. CEREMONIAL ITEMS

Mayor Knudson introduced proclamations for Eugene Opera Month, Fiesta Cultural, Cascade Chorus Barbershop Harmony Day, S.L.U.G. Queen Celebration Week, and Food Waste Prevention Week.

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

- Councilor Kashinsky – noted she serves on the Sustainability Commission; noted the Commission had sent a well-researched memo regarding policies to reduce embedded carbon in Eugene’s buildings and infrastructure.
- Councilor Keating – noted he had attended an inspiring and moving tour of the U.S. Capitol on September 11th organized by Senator Wyden’s office; noted he had attended a conference in Baltimore and had joined a session on data centers; he then played a video demonstrating the sound emitted by a 30 megawatt data center in Michigan.
- Councilor Groves – noted this year was the 25th anniversary of September 11th; noted local firefighters participated in the annual stair climb at Autzen Stadium to remember the lives lost that day; noted he has concerns about data centers.
- Mayor Knudson – noted her appreciation for the clarity of communications from the City about the determination that a data center is not an allowed use on the former Hynix facility site; noted Council and staff are preparing for the December 14th work session on data centers; stated her appreciation for the families, teachers, and staff in Bethel and Eugene 4J school districts who have worked hard to prepare for back to school; noted the community grief felt on the anniversary of September 11th.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR 1

- A. Interim Appointment to the Human Rights Commission**
- B. Approval of City Council Minutes**
- C. Approval of City Council Tentative Agenda**

MOTION: Councilor Leech, seconded by Councilor Kashinsky, moved to approve the items on Consent Calendar 1.

VOTE: 7:0 PASSED

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

OPPOSED: None.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Ralph McDonald – spoke against data centers.
2. Jensina Hawkins – spoke against data centers.
3. Thea Abbatoy – spoke against data centers.
4. Danny Espinosa – spoke against data centers.
5. Andrew Simrin – spoke against data centers.
6. Darwin Denny – spoke against data centers.
7. Nate Rhoads – spoke against data centers.
8. Flora Booker – spoke against data centers.
9. Mary Calhoun – spoke against data centers.
10. Jim Neu – spoke against data centers.
11. John Bridges – spoke against data centers.
12. Soleil Scott – spoke about protecting the land.
13. Lisa Levsen – spoke about the work of Neighbors Feeding Neighbors.
14. Robin Bloomgarden – spoke against data centers.
15. Bella D – spoke against data centers.
16. Sarah Robey – spoke against data centers.
17. Sandra U Bishop – spoke against data centers.
18. Hava Kronen – spoke against data centers.
19. Alejandro Garcia Iboa – spoke against data centers.
20. Jacob Trewe – spoke about the gap in public safety caused by the loss of CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets).
21. James Kimball – spoke against data centers.
22. Theo Milligan – spoke against data centers.
23. Chris Case – spoke against data centers.
24. Dylan Plummer – spoke against data centers.
25. Marlie Annat – spoke against data centers.
26. Jennifer Davis – spoke against data centers.
27. Athena Aguiar – spoke against data centers.
28. Katelyn Owen – spoke against data centers.
29. angelique orman – spoke against data centers.
30. Nancy Ahnert – spoke against data centers.
31. Ellen Bridges – spoke against data centers.
32. Shelly Devine – spoke against data centers.
33. Sue Pileggi – spoke against data centers.
34. Misty Strawberry Bowman – spoke against light pollution.
35. Richard Greene – spoke in favor of compassionate treatment for unhoused community members.
36. Daphnie Metcalf – spoke against data centers.
37. Amy Fairell – spoke against data centers.
38. Trevor Cummings – spoke against data centers.

39. Chris Johnston – spoke against data centers.
40. Emily Sawyer – spoke against data centers.
41. Debra McGee – spoke against data centers.
42. Kamryn Stringfield – spoke against data centers.
43. Joshua Korn – spoke against data centers.

Council Discussion:

- Mayor Knudson – stated the recent zone verification determined data centers are not an allowed use under the City’s current employment zoning and noted this applies citywide; stated concerns raised about nondisclosure agreements (NDAs) are not applicable in Eugene given that data centers are not identified as a permitted use; noted Council will hold a full work session on the issue in December.
- Councilor Yeh – asked for more information about the City’s policy on NDAs.
- Councilor Kashinsky – noted she has not and would not sign an NDA; noted moratoriums as defined under Oregon law are only a temporary pause and not a permanent ban.
- Councilor Keating – noted he has not and would not sign an NDA; asked for more information about the City’s policy on NDAs; noted the Smithsonian has a lights out exhibit showing the effects of light pollution.
- Councilor Clark – noted he has not and would not sign an NDA; recommended listening to podcaster Ed Zitron for his perspective on AI data centers.
- Councilor Groves – noted he has not and would not sign an NDA as an elected official.
- Mayor Knudson – noted there is additional information on the City website about data centers.

Mayor Knudson adjourned the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Katie LaSala
City Recorder

(Recorded by Cherish Bradshaw)

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