

ROUGHLY EDITED TRANSCRIPT
CITY OF EUGENE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 26 2026
TIME 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: Welcome, everyone, to the October 26, 2026 Eugene city council meeting. Thank you for joining us tonight in this hybrid meeting format. Anyone wishing to access the meeting tonight can do so by watching the live stream available on our website. The broadcast on Comcast channel 21. Tonight's meeting will include a public comment period, if you wish to speak, please fill out a request to speak form on our meetings and materials web page. We will accept request forms until 7:35 p.m. They will be used to generate the list of speakers and accurately enter speaker's names into the record. The public comment will be 90 minutes or 10:00, whichever occurs first. As a reminder, city council's meeting resumes of conduct apply to both attendees both in the chambers and lobby. Include no flags, signs, loud or disruptive language that obstructs the business of council. Please keep the room quiet and respectful for all speakers. We encourage those that are ill or who are ill to join our meeting remotely, rather than in person. We have masks available in the lobby, if you need one. In case of a medical emergency, an AED is located behind staff. The emergency exits are located near the back and front of the double doors. The doors to the patio may be used as needed. With that, I call the meeting to order.

We'll begin this evening 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 is committee reports and items of interest. I'll now open the floor for committee reports and items of interest from council. Councilor Groves?

>> Councilor Groves: Thank you, mayor. I want to thank the South town rotary club for the invitation. For them coming on Thursday, being able to be a tour of people from San Diego, who wanted to come up and look at how everyone Village operates. It's one of our larger safe sleep sites that happens to be located in ward 8, my council ward. Sunday I spoke on Patrick steps, spent the rent podcast. And I appreciate those opportunities, and just wanted to mention that. Thank you

>> Mayor Knudson: Councilor Keating?

>> Councilor Keating: Thank you, mayor. I have one brief but very important update, announcement. Seven days, five hours, 23 minutes and 20 seconds until election day, but who's counting. If you haven't gotten your ballot yet, go to lanecounty.OR.Gov. If you have any questions about your ballot, drop boxes, not information on who to vote for, but how to cast your ballot, if there's any complications with your ballot, go to Oregonvotes.Gov. Thank you in advance for being a voter.

>> Mayor Knudson: Councilor Clark.

>> Councilor Clark: I want to remind those people who live in Eugene, there's a meeting of the northeast neighbors tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m. at the harvest community church on Gilham Road. For those who don't know, northeast neighbors is pretty much everyone who lives north of crescent in Eugene. Tomorrow night, 7:00 p.m.

>> Mayor Knudson: Thank you, council. I have a few items I will share as well. One is something that is close to our community's hearts, and many people have reached out and many people feel really closely connected to the tragedy that occurred in bend just over a week ago at silver rail elementary. A shooting that took place at that school, that took the lives of several people, closely held and

loved people in and around the community of Bend. And our friends and partners, community members in Bend know how much the city of Eugene and our families and kids and teachers and our community cares for them, as they're with them, as they're navigating this extraordinary grief, and the trauma of that experience. I want to highlight for our community that the parent/teacher association at Silver Rail elementary has encouraged community members looking to express their support to consider sending letters, drawings, postcards, other expressions of care to that school communities. And that would be addressed to the parent/teacher organization at Silver Rail elementary school at the address of the school. Our hearts go out to that community to every community that has been affected by this type of horrific and damaging gun violence. And if you can, please do express that support to that community. I also want to offer my appreciation and highlight a couple other activities within our community. I've said this to many people over the last few weeks, we're an incredibly busy community in the fall every year. I had the great fortune of attending a meeting at our new downtown youth hub, also just over a week ago. This is a new free low barrier third place in our downtown, right across from the Holt street, serving youth 18 through 24, it was made possible through a partnership with connected Lane County. 15th night, and the Lane ESD, it's a fantastic space for our partners that have come together to make that place possible in our area. I've had time with several rotaries, Delta rotary, I want to thank them for the opportunity to come to speak, and I wanted to share our October Filipino Heritage month at that event.

Just over this past weekend, many events downtown for Halloween, and a lot more going on for kids and families in Eugene over the next several days, I also had the good fortune to join Bushnell University, this is important for those who are wondering about capacity in our health care fields and professions, and exciting as the work they are setting up with that campaign will be training new nurses and new primary care physicians for a community into the future. Very ambitious and exciting work to see happening, just a stone's throw from where we are at Eugene city hall. Lastly, I want to highlight and building on councilor Keating's remarks, we have an election coming up. Tomorrow, October 27th, is the day that it is recommended, if you're planning to drop your ballot into the mail, that you do so tomorrow. For those who are thinking of mailing their ballots later, please make sure that your ballot has the opportunity to be postmarked by election day, not all mail put into the mailbox on election day will receive a postmark on that day in the city of Eugene. Please vote early and take advantage of our safe election system here in Oregon. On that front, also this week, thanks to partnership with our interfaith leaders, we'll be hosting a conversation with secretary of state Tobias Reid about election integrity. I want to thank those members of our community for seeking good education to support our community with. With that, that concludes our first agenda evening this evening. The second item is consent calendar 1. Approval of city council minutes and approval of city council tentative agenda. If there are no questions, I will turn to the President to enter a motion.

>> Councilor Kashinsky: I move to approve consent calendar 1.

>> Second.

>> Mayor Knudson: Five voting in the affirmative. 0 -- motion passes with a vote of 5-0. That concludes our second agenda item. The last item on tonight's agenda is public comment. This is an opportunity for members to speak to the city council except for those items that have already been heard. Speakers should direct their comments to the city council and mayor, not to the audience. The person at the podium is the only person who should be speaking while giving comment. Staff, can you please share a list and the number of speakers that were signed up to speak by 7:35 p.m.

>> Thank you, mayor, we have 7 speakers signed up this evening. I will announce two speakers' names at a time. When 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, place them in the basket near the podium. You will have 2 1/2 minutes to speak. Your microphone will be muted at the 2:30 mark. The use of profanity is not permitted. Our first speaker is Lin Goodrich.

>> I'm the co-chair of the active Bethel community and a Bethel resident for over 30 years. I live in ward 8 and have been speaking on behalf of the ABC board for the past six years. The 270,000 John's Hopkins block grant that we received, is a real gift too Bethel and Trainsong. This grant addresses limited community engagement in our neighborhoods. Participation often diminishes, and without consistent involvement, the plan risks slow or incomplete representation. That is not our story. We held a visioning meeting over zoom, in 2022, we held five park events to gather more ideas from our neighbors. We handed all of our results to the city when it was decided by the council that after 40 years, Bethel needed a plan. The city launched its planning effort in 2023. Bethel and Trainsong board members received a draft of the board plan three years later, nearly 6 years after residents began their visioning work, residents have not been the slow part of this process, we've been engaged for years. Dr. Rojas of the Bloomberg center at John's Hopkins, said residents have the clearest view of what their neighborhoods need. Love your block shows what happens when the local government invites the public in. We agree, we're already in. So tonight I ask the council to do two things, acknowledge that Bethel and Trainsong residents continue to be invested in our neighborhoods. And second, deliver results our neighborhoods could use. We are ready to do the work, we ask the city to meet us with our same pace.

>> Our next speaker is Richard Greene, followed by Wynn Mansell.

>> My name is Richard Green, hello, Your Honor, councilors, I spoke here about a month and a half ago, about the policy of the Eugene police to take everything from homeless people, including their blankets, release them from jail

without anything. Without a blanket. I know the situation has gotten worse now, because it's raining, and among the things taken from the people are their tarps that they use to stay dry. I spoke to people Sunday night in the park, asked how they were going to stay dry. They didn't know what they were going to do. The last time I spoke I quoted a bible verse about this. You don't need a bible verse, you just know it's wrong, you don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind is blowing. You don't need a report about homelessness or police policies to know those tactics are ineffective in alleviating homelessness. But not only are they ineffective, they undermine the public safety by diminishing the integrity of our police force by causing moral injury to our policemen and women who are asked to follow orders that are clearly morally wrong. They may not admit it, they may not think they're completely right. The same way soldiers suffer PTSD. The integrity of our police force, you undermine their compassion and ability to be courageous, when we expect them to be. They treat people worse than you would treat a dog, the next day to risk their lives for strangers in our community. Which they usually rise to the occasion, even if the moral injury is present in the officer's lives. I'm asking you to pursue an independent Eugene policy to take some leadership in this matter. We don't need to follow national norms, from Oregon, the home of Wayne Morris, independent politician from the city that claims free Fontaine, we can set our own path with Eugene policy. I have 15 years experience dealing with the homeless, and I would love to talk to you personally, about this some more, give you some insights and possibilities, how we can approach this --

>> Thank you, Richard. Our next speakers are Wynn Mansell followed by Shellie Divine.

>> Good evening, Wynn Mansell ward 7, I would like to second get out and vote. I really do appreciate Oregon's vote by mail, as much as I loved getting fresh baked chocolate chip cookies the one time I got to vote when I voted in Minnesota. If you're at all concerned about mail-in voting -- not the act, but your ballot getting to people via the mail, take a walk, visit the library, and drop off in a secured drop box, which I'll use as a bridge to a second point on transparency in communications. Once again, just because during the special election, I remember community members reaching out to get help from other community members for concerns of seeing one of EPD's traffic enforcement monitors, and they were unsure if that was an ALPR. Just recently with the current election, I believe a flock shaped camera, that turned out to be a Verkada camera, was seen outside of a ballot dropoff in Marcola, which led to further consternation. And getting communications out there about the security measures and just what the city or the county, not that you have power over that, are doing -- would prevent a cooling effect of people wanting to get out and vote. Recent news -- bad bridge, but makes me think of the NDA policy specifically for data centers, like in general, we should be communicating about what sort of policies like that not just for data centers are reaching the city, and whether or not the city should be entering into anything like that, or disclosing the contracts, disclosing any requests for NDA. On the topic of the data centers, I'm going to encourage you guys to think about that, not just as --

data centers, they're not great, especially hyperscaler ones, especially with Microsoft laying off 20% of their workforce. Not laying off, offering buyouts to 20% of their workforce. But to ask what the city dislikes about that and seeing if land use policy can be used as a blanket. Noise islands, power usage, et cetera. Thank you.

>> Shellie divine, followed by Stephan Streck.

>> Trick or treat. Saturday was really fun. I was in the thriller dance mob, flash mob, and it was a blast, so really cool event on Saturday. Thank you for mention the Tobias Reid talks, I wanted to let everyone know this Wednesday, the 28th at 2:00 p.m., if you want to participate in the conversation with the Oregon secretary of state, Tobias Reid about local elections integrity, it's happening at first congressional church, 1050 east 23rd avenue, in Eugene, so that's an in person, nonpartisan event. And we'll include remarks from Tobias Reid, and an opportunity for community members to ask questions about our election system and voting processes in Oregon. And I came down tonight to -- the last couple meetings I missed, and I've tuned in online remotely, I watched you all live on the channel. And I just notice that when there's only -- there were only six speakers and tonight there was only 7, hey, won't that be cool if we got the longer allotted time back, we got the 3:00 back. So if it was -- pick a reasonable number, if there's only 20 or less, maybe we just automatically get the 3:00 minutes back. I would have liked to have heard Richard for another 30 seconds. Two weeks ago, the gentleman whose name I don't remember, but I think you referred to it afterwards, a man was giving a really amazing testimony about an awesome program initiative, that I would have liked to have heard him for like five more minutes, actually. Something to consider. And yeah, thanks. Have a good night.

>> Thank you, Shellie. Our next speakers are Stephan STRECK followed by Kellan Stanley.

>> Good night, and thank you, city council and everyone who took the time to come down here and speak tonight. I understand everyone has a busy, busy schedule, your time is valuable, and thank you for listening. My name is Stephan STRECK, and I appreciate every single one of you. I think it's important to mention once again that yes, every single person who showed up to speak here on the record tonight, deserves more time to speak. And furthermore, the council's policy of censoring speech is a direct violation of the first amendment. And you are all in violation of the constitution, our sacred bill of rights. That is deplorable. And I find it dastardly to mention integrity, while our so-called elected mayor, takes a full minute more above the extra 30 seconds that she gives herself, truly spitting in the face of the people. Quite sad, really. Really quite sad. Furthermore, speaking of tragedy, it is an absolute shame what happened in Bend, but it's important to understand that this tragedy was stopped by a lawful gun owner and carrier, who chose to break the law, bang entering those school grounds with a gun to defend those children. People died because the democrat laws put in place, forced him to

separate his ammunition from his gun. And truly, if these democrat gun laws were not in place, maybe nobody would have died that day. Again, not just sad, but heart breaking. And this is important to understand. Our bill of rights is not something you get to pick and chose what words are approved, and what are not. Indeed, by your opaque policy of arbitrarily enforcing an offensive speech ban, what is that? What is offensive speech? Is the truth offensive to some? Yes. To those in power? Often. We can do better, and no matter what happens, the vote's rigged, thank you.

>> Our next speakers are Kellan Stanley followed by Jennifer Blazer.

>> My name is Kellan Stanley, I'm not sick, this is just a precaution. I'm in Matt's ward, the last time I spoke with you all it was in favor of star voting. I'm currently the vice president of star voting action. I'm coming to you today to give you a bit of food for thought. Everyone right now is very concerned about AI and job losses, and so I thought I would present a historical concepts that has been used successfully in the past, when unemployment was high. I doubt anyone here has heard of this, so a little bit of education. In between World War I and World War II, Austria was experiencing rampant inflation, and a little town took all the money it had, put it in the bank and borrowed against it to create a stamp currency, which is also known as a Demurrage currency, they lose about 1% of their value every month. And so it provides no incentive to keep the currency, and instead, makes people spend their money as quickly as they receive it. This was hugely successful in eliminating the unemployment 12 to 14 times faster than anywhere else in the state. Because the currency doesn't act as historical value, it circulates very freely. So going back to my notes, the concept of DEMURRAGE is very successful, in making the world the store value. When money doesn't act as the value, in this small town, all the roads were fixed, which is the intention of currency, the proceed upon ends argue that when you have money act as a value, it actually competes with money as a use as a currency, basically to underpin transactions for goods and services. Anyway, you can talk to me after if you would like more, maybe I'll come back, give you some more education on the topic, but at least you should --

>> Thank you Kellan.

>> Our next and final speaker is Jennifer Blazer.

>> Excuse me, Jennifer Blazer, graduated north Eugene high. I believe there are currently four excessive force cases going on for EPD. I think that's ridiculous, there was already one racist officer that was caught, and I think we all know there's probably more out there. What are we doing? I certainly don't want my tax dollars paying for any lawsuit losses because Skinner doesn't know how to keep his force in check. My suggestion is that he look into Polk County sheriff Brady judge, and implement his tactics. Rather than trying to be a local celebrity. I'm almost positive he'll get better results. Next we have the double sided media, \$2.5 million fee

quote from EPD for info on the Justin pickles case. It could be the highest quote ever for a police department. According to Skinner's fee response, there are around 900 files per day on pickles, since he started working for EPD. His brother-in-law Joel works in EPD's department and attends citizen review board meetings. Seems like a conflict. I propose we audit EPD's receivables and expenditures. Pickles who was patrolling the Saturday market, never helped me, when I made complaints about drug dealers at free speech plaza. He's also a thief who still harasses me to this day. Officer Brailsford showed up and was stabbed. He's also being sued for excessive force. I wasn't comfortable with being screamed at and bruised and pointing out one of the drug dealers, I'm a little conflicted in feeling empathy. I turned it into the police auditor, but that went South. Lastly, the roofing and sexual assaults at tailgates across from Austin stadium are rampant. What are we doing? I know that KVAL and KMTR were not broadcasting back in 2024, I checked. They could be now, I used to work for them, I was the assistant business manager, we need for Skinner to resign or be fired and replaced.

>> Thank you, Jennifer. Mayor, that was our final speaker.

>> Mayor Knudson: Thank you, I now close the public comment period, are there any comments from city council? Councilor Keating?

>> Councilor Keating: I wanted to express my gratitude. It's a wet, cold Monday night. The place is not packed and full, because there's no hot button issue, but you took time to come out and share with your city council issues that are emerging in your community. And I just want to say thank you.

>> Mayor Knudson: Thank you, counselor. I'm going to ask a couple clarifying questions, something I heard in public comment we have heard before. We like to share updated information back when possible. I do know that in the circumstances where any of our city staff encounter materials or belongings, that we have a couple different locations within the city where those belongings are stored. One of them is at public works, another has to do with EPD. I'm wondering if the city manager or other staff could speak briefly to those locations where we store materials and belongings that people have?

>> I'll have to ask staff to confirm that location.

>> Mayor Knudson: Thank you.

>> One of the locations is Roosevelt yard, and there should be -- [Inaudible] And I'm sure Roosevelt yard, if you go into the main door there, the folks will help you find which building.

>> Mayor Knudson: Thank you. For those wondering. Our parks teams are part of our public works department, which is the group of people tasked with working all across our city, in so many ways related to public spaces,

transportation, park spaces, natural areas, and that is also why, because of some of the different programs that we have stood up in our communities, through parks ambassadors and other touch points, those terms are at the Roosevelt yard. It's the place to store them most easily connected with their work. I wanted to offer that into the record, so people know there's a lot of care taken in that process. I've spoken with staff about that process, it's not easy to do. I would certainly not presume it to be perfect, but I know that it is a well intentioned process that exists and requires effort and attention by all the people involved. I also just want to reiterate, because a gentleman mentioned this a few meetings ago, that one of the things we are doing in public comment is in fact embracing our habits and tenets of democracy. By establishing rules of conduct, is not to censor anyone in their speech. It's an opportunity among many, to connect with elected officials. A gentleman raised a couple weeks ago, a concern about this, and I just want to say something more clearly into the microphone, that I believe staff was trying to say at the time. This is a public meeting that is recorded and shared broadly throughout the internet, and sometimes children and families watch our meetings, and when we speak to the conduct within this room and for this meeting, it's because we're trying to maintain a space that is accessible and comfortable for everyone to participate. And that is certainly in no way having to do with censorship, we're simply speaking to the group, the rules of conduct that this body of city counselors has established. So with those two notes, a few of the things I wrote down. I will also thank people who came out this evening, to give public comment and others who are in the room with us, and this concludes our agenda for today. So I will now close the October 26, 2026 city council meeting and we are adjourned.