

MINUTES

Eugene City Council
Harris Hall, 125 East 8th Avenue
Eugene, Oregon 97401

April 18, 2018
12:00 p.m.

Councilors Present: Emily Semple, Betty Taylor, Alan Zelenka, Jennifer Yeh, Mike Clark, Claire Syrett, Chris Pryor

Councilors Absent: Greg Evans

Mayor Vinis opened the April 18, 2018, Work Session of the Eugene City Council.

1. **WORK SESSION: MovingAhead Project Update**

Senior Planner Zach Galloway, Transportation Planning Engineer Chris Henry and Lane Transit District Transit Development Planner Sasha Luftig provided an update to Council on the MovingAhead project before it enters the public involvement phase.

Council Discussion

- Clarification requested about how Council and LTD make joint decisions and what would happen if the separate bodies disagree.
- Summary of NEPA results requested, including footprint outside of right-of-way, air and water quality, trees, transportation impacts.
- More information is needed about completion, availability, and funding for these routes because the first set was mainly funded by federal dollars.
- Look into whether road bond money could be used to help develop the bus routes and concrete pavement lanes.
- The final cost of West 11th EmX project was roughly \$100 million. Request information about how much investment was made for additional infrastructure improvements.
- Need to start working on funding strategies; talking about large numbers.
- Concern expressed that pursuing a faster and/or cheaper strategy will result in the wrong decisions that don't serve the community well.
- It is critically important to consider pedestrians and cyclists when transportation planning.
- Each corridor has a different package of transportation options and investments, make strategic investments in each area.

2. **WORK SESSION: 1,000-Foot Marijuana Buffer Zone**

Land Use Analyst Mike McKerrow provided background on two previous City Council work sessions to discuss a 1,000 foot buffer between retail marijuana businesses, and provided information about similar marijuana buffer policies in other Oregon cities.

Council Discussion

- Many residents have been asking for a buffer between marijuana businesses as part of the effort to revitalize downtown.
- Concern expressed that the process to implement a buffer zone would take six to nine months. Land Use code amendments to Chapter 9 first have to go through a Planning Commission public hearing process and then City Council public hearing process.

- Consider other options to incorporate the buffer zone into a different chapter of the code, such as the business license code.
- Support grandfathering in existing businesses, but encourage a faster approach to implementing the buffer zone.
- More information requested about how many applications have been received within the past six months and how many marijuana business have closed within the last six months.
- More information requested about whether it's possible to limit the number of applicants for a marijuana business license each year.
- Request made for a map of all operating marijuana businesses, not just all licensed businesses that may include ones that are not currently operating.
- No further regulation is necessary; the market will allow the marijuana industry to evolve appropriately.
- Marijuana businesses are already treated differently as they are subject to a business tax.
- Many constituents and businesses are asking for this new regulation and the council should address their concerns.
- If there has been a higher number of incidents or arrests related to marijuana stores, then the council should consider the health and safety aspects of the proposal.
- Constant attention and care needs to be given to the downtown if it is expected to succeed.
- The Red Caps and other public safety personnel both feel that it's not healthy to have so many marijuana business downtown. It concentrates the problem in a small area.
- Other cities have enacted buffer zones; it is worth pursuing.
- The proposed motion as written initiates a land use code amendment. It can be altered to a simpler code amendment if that is Council's desire.

MOTION: Councilor Clark, seconded by Councilor Semple, moved to direct the City Manager to schedule a public hearing on an ordinance that requires new retail recreation marijuana businesses to locate at least 1,000 feet from existing retail recreation marijuana businesses.

Council Discussion

- Support the motion because it allows individuals and businesses to have another opportunity to speak to the issues.

VOTE: PASSED 4:2, Councilors Taylor and Zelenka opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 1:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elena Domingo
Deputy City Recorder