

MINUTES

Eugene City Council
McNutt Room—City Hall
777 Pearl Street—Eugene, Oregon

February 14, 2011
5:30 p.m.

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Betty Taylor, George Brown, Andrea Ortiz, George Poling (via speakerphone), Mike Clark, Chris Pryor, Alan Zelenka, Pat Farr.

Her Honor Mayor Kitty Piercy called the February 14, 2011, work session of the Eugene City Council to order.

A. ITEMS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Piercy noted that February 14 was both Valentine's Day and the 152nd birthday of the State of Oregon.

Mayor Piercy expressed sorrow for the recent accidental death of Eugene Police Sergeant Jerry Webber. She shared information about Sergeant Webber's funeral service and said the February 16 council meeting would begin a half-hour later to accommodate the event. She expressed the council's gratitude for Sergeant Webber's work on behalf of Eugene and extended its condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues.

Mayor Piercy said she attended the Celebration of Life for Connor Auslund, one of the two South Eugene High School students who recently perished from drowning. She had been uplifted by Mr. Auslund's life story and struck by how many people he had impacted.

Mr. Clark shared Mayor Piercy's sentiments regarding the deaths of Sergeant Webber, Mr. Auslund, and Jack Harnsongkram, also a student at South Eugene High School.

Mr. Clark congratulated Eugene resident Robert Bennett for being named First Citizen by the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Clark reported that he had attended the Santa Clara Community Organization meeting on February 3 and the Eugene Police Commission meeting on February 10.

Ms. Ortiz shared in the sorrow the community felt for the deaths of the Mr. Auslund and Mr. Harnsongkram.

Mr. Pryor reported that the Housing Policy Board met on February 7 to begin the process of developing its Request for Proposals for affordable housing projects. The board was in the process of filling some vacancies.

Mr. Pryor said the Joint Locally Preferred Alternative Committee (JLPAC) met earlier that day and discussed the options for the West Eugene EmX route, including the 6th/7th/11th option, 11th/13th and the No Build option. The committee had forwarded all three options to the council for consideration at its March 14 meeting, when he anticipated the council would discuss the land use and transportation implications of the EmX route before forwarding an option to the next stages of the process.

Mr. Pryor said that the Executive Committee of the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) was finalizing its efforts around three initiatives, one focused on economic development, one on human services, and one on communication. He was enthusiastic about the communication initiative, which he believed would help LCOG find its voice while being representative of the many voices the agency represented.

Mr. Zelenka extended his condolences to Sergeant Webber's family and the families and friends of Mr. Auslund and Mr. Harnsongkram.

Mr. Farr also extended his condolences to the families and friends of Sergeant Webber, Mr. Auslund, and Mr. Harnsongkram.

Mr. Farr reported that the Economic Subcommittee of the Community Resource Group (CRG) had met on Friday and the full CRG met on Saturday to discuss the Triple Bottom Line (TBL) analysis of Envision Eugene's "Seven Pillars." He was happy to see so much attention and energy placed into the social equity element of the TBL. The participants in his small group had spent considerable time discussing housing and housing affordability.

Mr. Farr spoke of the Tom Egan Warming Center, which provided shelter to the homeless on cold nights, and circulated a picture of Mr. Egan as he appeared when serving with Mr. Farr in the Oregon National Guard.

Mr. Farr invited residents to the Bi-Lingual Family Festival at the Bethel branch library on February 19.

Mr. Brown said the McKenzie Watershed Council met on February 10 and heard an update on the outreach process planned by Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) to share its water quality proposals with residents living along the McKenzie River. The council also heard an update on the new boat landing being constructed by EWEB near Goodpasture Island Road, which would open soon.

Mr. Brown said he attended also the February 11 meeting of the Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission (MWMC). The MWMC approved Supplemental Budget #2 for fiscal year (FY) 2010-2011 and heard a report on the draft FY2011-2016 Capital Improvement Program and capital budget for FY2012. Mr. Brown noted that only one of the MWMC's capital projects had gone over budget and other projects were significantly under budget. He believed the MWMC was doing a good job of managing the public's money. He anticipated the MWMC would ask the council to approve its budget in May 2011.

Mr. Poling shared in the sorrow felt by other councilors about the recent deaths of Mr. Auslund, Mr. Harnsongkarm, and Sgt. Webber and extended his condolences to their families.

City Manager Jon Ruiz reported he would attend the February 15 meeting of the South University Neighborhood Association (SUNA) to share information about Envision Eugene. He said he and University of Oregon President Richard Lariviere would present to the Oregon Chapter of the American Institute of Architects at its meeting in Eugene on February 16. He noted that the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce's economic forecast was scheduled for February 17.

City Manager Ruiz extended his condolences to Sergeant Webber's family and friends and particularly to his fellow employees.

Mayor Piercy spoke to the action taken by the JLPAC, saying the motion passed by the committee forwarded the two "build" options for West Eugene EmX along with the required "no build" option.

Ms. Ortiz reminded the community that the Asian Festival was occurring February 18-20, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) dinner was scheduled for February 19.

Ms. Ortiz recalled that the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) had hired Consensus Association to assist the board of directors and staff to work through some communication and governance issues. She was impressed by the work the board had done with the consultants and believed it had been productive. Several board members had participated in a listening exercise with LRAPA employees and she thought it had been a healthy conversation that resulted in commitments toward the creation of a better work environment.

Ms. Ortiz noted her provision of LRAPA's annual report to the council. She said she had come to realize LRAPA existed to help businesses stay within the parameters of the law, but it could also encourage businesses and residents to adopt more innovative, green approaches. She noted the work the agency had done to replace wood stoves in Oakridge as an example. She believed that LRAPA reflected community values and gave the community "the best bang for our buck."

Ms. Ortiz said she attended her first Public Safety Coordinating Council meeting in January and heard a report on some preliminary findings of a study on Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC).

Mayor Piercy believed the work of LRAPA had resulted in improvement in the quality of the air in Eugene and Oakridge. She also acknowledged the positive impact of the cessation of field burning. She determined from Ms. Ortiz that the results of air quality monitoring at Petersen Barn would be available in summer 2011.

Responding to a question from Mr. Zelenka, Ms. Ortiz acknowledged that air quality monitors were very expensive. She said LRAPA would like more monitors but its budget was being reduced. She emphasized the importance of Eugene working with its funding partners in LRAPA to ensure its continuance.

**B. WORK SESSION:
Ward Redistricting**

City Manager's Office Division Manager Keli Osborn joined the council for the item. City Attorney Glenn Klein was also present for the item. Ms. Osborn provided some brief background on the topic. She noted the purpose of redistricting, which was to create wards that were roughly equal in population to better assure equal representation. She anticipated the City would receive census data between April and June 2011, which would give the council demographic information as well. She noted some preliminary information prepared by Portland State University, which indicated the variances between ward populations was much less than it had been ten years ago.

Ms. Osborn called attention to a process timeline included in the meeting packet.

Ms. Osborn noted that while the council oversaw the last redistricting process, it could also appoint an oversight committee. She briefly described the public outreach associated with the last process. Ms. Osborn called attention to the public information options outlined in Attachment C of the Agenda Item Summary (AIS). She suggested that the council would want to adopt criteria to guide the process, and called attention to the 2001 criteria listed in the AIS.

Mayor Piercy solicited council questions and comments.

Ms. Ortiz asked Ms. Osborn to find out when data specific to the community's demographic make-up would be available.

Ms. Ortiz had no objection to the proposed time schedule or criteria. She supported the formation of an *ad hoc* committee that included both councilors and representatives of civic organizations such as the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce, NAACP, and League of Women Voters.

Responding to a question from Mr. Zelenka, Ms. Osborn indicated that the City would be working with census data and the census definition of residency to determine population numbers. The City would not double-count students from other communities who attended school in Eugene but did not claim residency in Eugene.

Mr. Zelenka had no objection to the time frame or criteria. He supported Ms. Ortiz's suggestion for an *ad hoc* committee.

Mayor Piercy suggested that the make-up of such a committee would inform people's opinions about its work, and the council needed to think carefully about that.

Mr. Clark had no objection to the 2001 criteria or the *ad hoc* committee suggested by Ms. Ortiz. He wanted to involve more people in the discussion. He looked forward to the staff recommendation related to the composition of that group. He suggested that the council needed to act in a timely way to give the County adequate time to establish precinct lines.

Ms. Taylor did not support the formation of *ad hoc* committee and preferred that the council work with a staff committee on the task. She also supported having staff meet with neighborhood groups.

Ms. Taylor recalled that in 2001, the council had not chosen the option she thought best. She believed there were factors other than geographic factors to consider. She recalled that Ward 3 as previously configured had been changed by placing it all on one side of the Willamette River.

Ms. Taylor advocated that the task of redistricting be accomplished soon so that potential candidates and voters knew the precise boundaries of their wards.

Mr. Poling agreed with Mr. Clark and Ms. Taylor about the need to act soon.

Mr. Pryor wanted the process to be transparent, fair, and equal. He did not think council involvement necessarily worked against that, but he was concerned about the community perception if the council drew its own ward boundaries. He suggested one argument for an *ad hoc* committee with council participation was that the redistricting process would belong to the community, not the council. He thought the committee would increase the credibility of the process. The council had a vested interest in the outcome of the redistricting process or the appearance of a vested interest, even if it claimed it did not.

Mr. Pryor preferred to do the process right as opposed to fast. It would be an added benefit if it was possible to complete redistricting in time for people to be certain of ward boundaries before they filed for office.

Mr. Farr recalled the 2001 process being very contentious but did not expect that to be the case this time given the slight changes in population that had occurred. He did not object to the council being the decision-maker in the process, although he acknowledged the concern expressed by Mr. Pryor.

Mr. Brown also acknowledged Mr. Pryor's concerns but believed the task of redistricting was not complicated and the council was a capable group and it could work with staff to complete the task.

Mayor Piercy thought the council had worked hard to build trust with the community and engaging the community in the task would help to continue to build that trust. With total trust in the council, she continued to prefer a committee with broad community representation.

Ms. Ortiz expressed appreciation for the discussion. She noted her own habit of soliciting a broad range of constituent opinions on council decisions and hoped that the council would do extensive outreach if it decided to move forward on its own.

Mr. Zelenka suggested the question of the *ad hoc* committee depended on its charge. He suggested that such a committee could be modeled along the lines of the Community Resource Group. Its work could inform the council's ultimate decision. He agreed the process needed to be a broad-community based process to gain support for the ultimate decision.

Ms. Taylor did not think any citizen advisory committee formed for the process should include councilors.

Ms. Taylor recalled that one of the criteria for the 2001 process was to make only incremental changes, but she believed drastic changes had resulted from that process. Ms. Osborn shared a copy of the ward map prior to the 2001. Mr. Brown requested a copy of the map.

Mr. Farr said the more people a councilor represented, the more diluted representation became. He believed that Bethel was underrepresented on the council.

Mr. Clark acknowledged that under the law the council had authority over the matter, and hoped the council avoided a situation where it created a committee that believed it had that authority. He wanted to create a public process that allowed people to feel their advice was heard, but not that they were the final decision makers. Mayor Piercy suggested that might be accomplished by a process that allowed people to respond to a series of questions.

Responding to a question from Mr. Zelenka, Ms. Osborn briefly described how the City had projected population growth resulting from annexations during the previous process.

Mr. Clark thought the current ward configuration did a good job of capturing communities of common interests and would not require much change.

Ms. Taylor suggested that a connection to the University of Oregon represented a common interest, and she believed if Ward 3 again extended across the river it would capture more of the University student

population. Mr. Zelenka suggested that could exacerbate the problem of low student turnout in that ward. Ms. Taylor acknowledged the point but said her focus had been more on common interests.

The council briefly discussed the non-annexed areas within the city limits and the potential that annexation of those areas would spur creation of another ward. The council also briefly discussed the impact of neighborhood association boundaries on the subject and the potential that association boundaries might also be adjusted in the future.

Ms. Osborn indicated she would return to the council with some options to move forward at a future meeting.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Approval of Tentative Working Agenda**
- B. Ratification of IGR Committee Minutes**

Ms. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Brown, moved to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion passed unanimously, 8:0.

Mayor Piercy adjourned the work session at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Forrest

Beth Forrest
City Recorder

(Recorded by Kimberly Young)