

MINUTES

Eugene City Council
Council Chamber—Eugene City Hall
777 Pearl Street—Eugene, Oregon

October 18, 2010
7:30 p.m.

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Alan Zelenka, Mike Clark, Betty Taylor, Jennifer Solomon, George Poling, Chris Pryor, George Brown.

COUNCILORS ABSENT: Andrea Ortiz.

Her Honor Mayor Kitty Piercy called the regular meeting of the Eugene City Council to order. She wished Councilor Mike Clark and City Manager Jon Ruiz a Happy Birthday.

1. PUBLIC HEARING:

An Ordinance Concerning Personal Property Sale Procedures

City Manager Ruiz introduced the topic. He said the proposed ordinance amendment was necessary to reflect changes to the Oregon Revised Statutes related to the posting and publishing of found property prior to sale. The ordinance would reduce the City's costs by 75 percent.

Mayor Piercy opened the public hearing. There being no requests to speak, she closed the public hearing.

2. PUBLIC HEARING:

An Ordinance Concerning Citation Authority of University of Oregon Department of Public Safety

City Manager Ruiz said the public hearing regarded amendments to Eugene Code Section 4.035 that provided citation authority to University of Oregon Department of Public Safety (UODPS) officers to enforce sections of the Eugene Code. The proposed amendment would allow UODPS officers to issue citations when the officer had a probable cause to believe that the person to be cited committed a violation on property owned or leased by the University of Oregon. The ordinance did not extend other new policing authority to UODPS officers.

Mayor Piercy opened the public hearing.

Carolyn McDermed, 2141 East 15th Avenue, asked the council to approve the ordinance as a "technical fix" that allowed UODPS officers to use the statutory authority they already possessed to issue citations under the Eugene Municipal Code. She said the authority granted by the City to the UODPS in November 2009 had reduced the duplication of workload between the Eugene Police Department (EPD) and UODPS and had streamlined law enforcement on campus. UODPS officers had more time to spend proactively patrolling the campus and developing trust-based policing practices with those who used the campus. The ordinance would allow UODPS officers to conduct investigations of lower level quality of life crimes, develop a probable cause arrest, and issue a citation for the crime independent of the EPD.

Mayor Piercy closed the public hearing and called on the Eugene Police Department for its position.

Lieutenant Richard Stronach said the department supported the ordinance. It would result in time savings for both agencies. He described a typical arrest and noted the redundancies that currently existed in the system.

Councilor Brown asked why the City did not act in 2009 when it granted expanded authority to issue citations to the UODPS. Lt. Stronach said the proposed changes were identified later as an oversight. Councilor Brown determined from Lt. Stronach that an EPD officer would still be needed to respond to the campus if a person had to be lodged in jail.

Speaking to the example used by Lt. Stronach, which involved a laptop stolen off-campus, Councilor Brown said it appeared that under the ordinance, such thefts must occur on property in the control of the University of Oregon for the ordinance to be effective. Lt. Stronach acknowledged that his example might not have been the most appropriate one to illustrate the benefits of the ordinance. He anticipated that the department would partner with UODPS to work through ordinance implementation issues.

Responding to a question from Councilor Zelenka, Lt. Stronach described how the ordinance would work and distinguished violations from the probable cause situations related to crimes that could result in the issuance of a citation by a UODPS officer.

Mayor Piercy asked what recourse one had if one thought they were incorrectly cited by UODPS. Lt. Stronach said that person had recourse to the judgment of the court.

Mayor Piercy adjourned the meeting of the Eugene City Council at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra J. Stubbs" with "Deputy" written below it.

Beth Forrest
City Recorder

(Recorded by Kimberly Young)