

MINUTES

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

July 21, 2010
12:00 p.m.

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Chris Pryor, Mike Clark, George Brown, Andrea Ortiz, Alan Zelenka
(via telephone), George Poling (via telephone)

Mr. Clark called the work session meeting of the Eugene City Council to order at 12:00 p.m. and noted that Mayor Piercy, Ms. Taylor, and Ms. Solomon would not be in attendance.

A. WORK SESSION - Police Commission Annual Report and FY11 Work Plan

Police Commission Chair Tamara Miller provided the commission's annual report and briefly outlined the policy review strategies of the three Commission subcommittees: the Use of Force committee, the Policy Screening and Review committee, and the Public Outreach committee.

Ms. Miller reported that the use of force subcommittee's review of the Eugene Police Department's taser policy had taken longer than had previously been anticipated.

Ms. Miller described how the policy screening and review committee had used the Lexipol structure in order to review the EPD's policies more efficiently.

Ms. Miller described how the public outreach committee had created various communications tools to educate and inform the community about various EPD policies.

Ms. Miller stated that the commission's report included a list of its public work sessions as well as a description of the commission's efforts to formalize its relationships with the Human Rights Commission and the Civilian Review Board.

Ms. Miller stated that the commission and the HRC had co-sponsored the hate crimes public forum and panel sessions that had occurred in April of 2010. She expected the commission to conduct similar sessions with the HRC in the future.

Ms. Miller noted that the commission had presented information on local homeless populations to the council in May of 2010.

Ms. Miller noted that the commission planned to present information from its meetings with Police Auditor Mark Gissiner to the council in September.

Ms. Miller stated that EPD Chief Pete Kerns had attended all of the commission meetings and had provided valuable information regarding data-led policing strategies.

Ms. Miller noted the various personnel and work plan adjustments that had occurred within the commission for the benefit of the council.

Ms. Ortiz appreciated the work of the Police Commission and was also pleased with the group's participation in the recent hate crimes public forum. She was glad that the commission's EPD taser policy reviews had been conducted with a great deal of care and transparency.

Mr. Pryor stated he had been very impressed with the level and amount of work that the Police Commission had done. Mr. Clark agreed with Mr. Pryor's statement.

Police Commission member Juan Carlos Valle commended the efforts of Ms. Miller as Chair of the commission and provided the council with an overview of the commission's plans for the coming year. He stated that the commission's plans would involve three primary elements over the next year: the commission's subcommittees, the commission work sessions, and the development of annual and long-term commission projects designed to enhance and improve various EPD policies. He further noted that the policy screening and review subcommittee planned to continue its review of EPD policies relating to homeless populations, warrantless entry and vehicle pursuit. He noted that the use of force subcommittee also planned to continue its review of several EPD policies.

Mr. Valle reported that the Commission's public outreach subcommittee would be transitioned into a new subcommittee dedicated to the review of EPD resources. He stated that the subcommittee had scheduled a public hearing for September 1, 2010.

Mr. Valle noted that in an effort to better coordinate the efforts of the Police Commission with the CRB and the HRC two new commission liaisons to those groups had been appointed.

Mr. Valle listed and briefly discussed the commission's work plan outcomes and goals for the benefit of the council. He hoped that the commission's effort would continue to help the community fully understand the nature of the adopted EPD policies.

Ms. Miller, responding to a question from Ms. Ortiz, stated that further information regarding the commission's review of the EPD's pursuit policies had been included in the policy screening and review subcommittee section of the commission's work plan.

Ms. Ortiz asked for further information regarding the Commission's public outreach and resource review subcommittee and asked if that group planned to coordinate with Lane County officials regarding the law enforcement budgets of the two municipalities. Mr. Valle responded that while no specific plans in that regard had yet been made, the long term nature of the committee's work processes might dictate the involvement of Lane County budget and resources staff in the future.

Ms. Ortiz recognized that Lane County had no groups that were comparable to the Eugene Police Commission.

Mr. Clark anticipated that Lane County might somehow be involved in any significant EPD policy changes and maintained that the Eugene Police commission was well-positioned to provide advice and feedback regarding such matters.

Ms. Ortiz noted that in her ongoing monitoring of the commission's work she had been frustrated that she had not been included on the interested parties list to receive the regular minutes, agendas and information materials used by the commission. Ms. Miller stated that she would see that Ms. Ortiz was included on the regular correspondence lists for Police Commission materials.

Mr. Zelenka joined the meeting via telephone at 12:23 p.m.

Ms. Miller, responding to a question from Mr. Poling, briefly described the recruitment and appointment process that was currently being used to replace a vacant position on the Police Commission. She noted that the commission planned to interview applicants for the position during the week of July 26 and that they planned to provide subsequent recommendations regarding the position to the council.

Mr. Clark and Mr. Poling indicated they wished to receive updated information regarding the commission applications and selection process as it became available.

Mr. Clark asked Mr. Ruiz to explain in greater detail the current application and selection process for the Police Commission. Mr. Ruiz responded that he was not prepared to answer Mr. Clark's question but noted that he would provide additional information to the council later on.

Mr. Poling was concerned that the council appeared to have been left out until the final stages regarding the application, selection and appointment process for the Police Commission.

Mr. Clark asked Mr. Ruiz to provide the full slate of candidates for the vacant Police Commission position regardless of which candidates had been eliminated by either the commission or Mayor Piercy.

Ms. Miller stated that the Police Commission intended to interview all viable candidates before forwarding their recommendations to Mayor Piercy.

Ms. Ortiz maintained that the commission's public outreach and resource review subcommittee represented a good opportunity for community members to become more involved in the policy work of the Commission.

Ms. Ortiz, seconded by Mr. Pryor, moved to approve the Eugene Police Commission's FY2011 Work Plan. The motion passed unanimously, 6:0.

Ms. Miller thanked staff for their assistance with the commission's presentation.

Chief Kerns stated that the final draft of the revised taser policy was very similar to the policy revisions that the Police Commission had recommended. He noted that he did not intend to finalize the taser policy revisions until the training curriculum and the handbooks regarding the revised policy had been completed. He stated that those materials were expected to be completed sometime within the next month.

Chief Kerns noted that the emergency vehicle operations training for EPD officers in September would include the application of the department's revised pursuit policies. He noted that the materials for that training were also to be completed by September.

B. WORK SESSION - Eugene Counts Update

Mr. Ruiz provided an introduction to the update of the Eugene Counts initiative and stated that it would involve a review of the visions, goals and extensive public outreach processes that were being used. He stated that while the final iterations of the Eugene Counts initiative had not been completed, many of the information elements of the initiative had been used during the City's most recent budget processes.

Terrie Monroe introduced Pavel Gubanikhin and Jeff Oswald whom she noted had each made significant contributions to the planning of the Eugene Counts initiative.

Ms. Monroe stated that the Eugene Counts initiative would, among other outcome measuring tools, involve the use of a web-based dashboard to facilitate communication and track the progress of the desired outcomes.

Ms. Monroe briefly described how the various strategies being used for the Eugene Counts initiative had been developed. She further described how those individual strategies corresponded to the five primary goals of the Eugene City Council.

Ms. Monroe provided a demonstration of the web-based dashboard tool being used as part of the Eugene Counts initiative. She stated that the tool had been designed only to provide basic information regarding how the initiative had directly addressed the five City Council goals.

Ms. Monroe reported that some of the information being used as part of the Eugene Counts strategies would only be updated once a year. She further described how other information was expected to be updated.

Ms. Monroe described how the measures being used as part of Eugene Counts had been developed by five teams chosen for their expertise in the areas relating to the council's goals. She noted that the City's executive management team had been very generous in providing personnel and resources in that regard. She further noted that the City Council would have the opportunity to take on an active and ongoing role with respect to the execution of the Eugene Counts strategies.

Ms. Monroe demonstrated the names of the goal development teams for the benefit of the Council.

Ms. Ortiz appreciated the opportunity to serve as the council's representative on the Eugene Counts goal subcommittee even though she had not attended the meeting where she had been appointed to that position.

Ms. Monroe discussed in detail the sets of measure development criteria that had been used by the Eugene Counts goal subcommittees in order to better determine the best possible outcomes of the initiative. She noted that many elements of the criteria were still subject to further revision.

Ms. Monroe distributed a list of goals, outcomes and strategies relating to the five City Council goals and discussed several of the elements contained therein.

Mr. Clark planned to use the strategies and objectives of the Eugene Counts initiative to review broader questions regarding the future of Eugene and to see how the work elements of the council goals interacted. He suggested that certain elements of the economic development strategies described in the initiative had been overly focused on the downtown area.

Mr. Ruiz responded to Mr. Clark's comments regarding the economic development strategies and stated that they served only as examples and did not fully represent the City's comprehensive economic development strategy.

Mr. Pryor responded to the outcomes and strategies list discussed by Ms. Monroe and suggested that it was important to carefully consider the internal and external processes of each area. He hoped that a clear understanding of the intentions behind the outcomes and strategies would ultimately lead to an improved quality of life for the community.

Mr. Brown hoped that additional information regarding unemployment rates in the community and strategies to address such issues would be included in future updates to the Eugene Counts initiative. Ms. Monroe stated that such information would be updated with varying frequency once the initiative had been fully implemented.

Mr. Ruiz stated that certain areas of the measures and strategies identified as part of the Eugene Counts initiative were new to the process and that no data had yet been collected regarding them.

Mr. Brown noted his concern that some of the strategies and outcomes of the Eugene Counts initiative would be "hit or miss."

Ms. Monroe stated that many elements of the Eugene Counts initiative and the strategies contained therein would feed into the Council's next goal setting sessions.

Mr. Clark stated he was particularly interested in seeing how the more dynamic aspects of the measurements used in the Eugene Counts initiative changed over time so that more accurate conclusions might be drawn about which strategies worked best for the City. Ms. Monroe responded to Mr. Clark's comments and confirmed that the dynamic progression of the measurements would be clearly tracked over time so that such information could actively be used by the council.

Ms. Ortiz commented that she had recently reviewed elements of the Eugene Counts initiative with Ms. Monroe. She noted the importance of the public outreach processes that had been incorporated into the initiative but also noted her concern that the City might be overly focused on using online outreach tools.

Mr. Zelenka was very impressed by Ms. Monroe's presentation and believed that the measures she had demonstrated for the Eugene Counts initiative would be beneficial. He noted that some members of the community had felt that there were City areas related to the Eugene Counts process that were not transparent or accessible.

Mr. Poling agreed with Mr. Zelenka's comments that indicated that sometimes too much information had been presented to the community as part of previous processes similar to the Eugene Counts initiative.

Mr. Clark responded to Ms. Ortiz's previous comment and stated that the strategic communications plan for the Eugene Counts initiative would be very helpful toward making the process more transparent for the community.

Mr. Clark adjourned the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Ruiz
City Manager

(Recorded by Wade Hicks)