

MINUTES

Eugene City Council
Bascom/Tykeson Room, Eugene Public Library
100 W. 10th Avenue—Eugene, Oregon

September 26, 2012
Noon

COUNCILORS PRESENT: George Brown, Pat Farr, Betty Taylor, Mike Clark, Chris Pryor, George Poling, Alan Zelenka, Andrea Ortiz

Her Honor Mayor Kitty Piercy called the September 26, 2012, Work Session of the Eugene City Council to order.

A: WORK SESSION: WEST EUGENE EMX EXTENSION

City Manager Jon Ruiz provided background on the topic and shared historical data, route information, transportation options and long-term guiding documents and plans

Councilor Brown, seconded by Councilor Farr, moved to approve LTD's construction of the West Eugene 6th/7th/11th EmX Corridor.

Councilor Poling stated that he would offer a substitute motion, noting that the Federal Transit Authority (FTA) was looking for support for the project and a vote would indicate how all residents who live within the LTD district feel about this proposed line.

Councilor Poling, seconded by Councilor Clark, moved to substitute to direct the City Manager to inform LTD that the City Council will approve the W. 11th EmX route/corridor if, and only if, LTD refers to its voters the question of whether the W. 11th extension be built and a majority of the votes approve the ballot measure.

The council discussed the merits of the motion and stated their reasons for supporting or not supporting it. Those in opposition expressed support for the EmX concept and the public process this issue has been vetted through.

Councilors in support noted that controversial decisions of this magnitude should be put to a public vote

The motion to substitute failed 3:5, councilors Brown, Ortiz, Pryor, Taylor and Zelenka opposed.

The council returned to original motion. Councilors discussed their strong support for public transit in general and agreed that many of the suggestions for improving the public process and the implementation of the West Eugene corridor should be considered. Attention should continue to be paid to mitigating any impacts on businesses affected by construction.

Mayor Piercy thanked everyone for their involvement and called for the vote.

The motion passed 7:1, Councilor Poling opposed.

B. WORK SESSION: OPPORTUNITY EUGENE FOLLOW-UP

Community Programs Analyst Michael Wisth provided an update on funding, social services, shelter, and other issues facing homeless persons in Eugene. He asked council for guidance on how site selection for some sort of homeless camp might occur, noting there are a number of variables, choices, factors and selection criteria, including:

- Land site issues –regulatory issues/concerns
- Target population - Who are we serving? What populations will we focus on?
- Type of shelter - permanent, temporary or short-term, emergency?
- Consideration of existing services - add new programs or work toward a balance?

Mr. Wisth outlined the next steps which will include a work session on October 17 to review site analysis, followed by a refinement of options, and further discussion in November to finalize direction.

Councilor Comments, Questions and Concerns:

- Impacts of one large camp – should remain on table as an option.
- Extension of car camping ordinance - City Manager Ruiz asked for head nods to determine if councilors were in favor of extending the car camping ordinance. A majority of councilors supported that extension.
- Illegal camping spots - problems with these sites need to be dealt with appropriately.
- Target population – support for helping both individuals and families with children was expressed.
- Social service funding - more attention should be focused on identifying sustainable funding.
- Notification of property owners of prospective sites.
- Short-term, cold weather option needed – implementation of longer-term plan to follow.
- Use of old Armory Building at 13th and Chambers.
- More information needed - weigh passion, enthusiasm, excitement against experience and caution.

The council generally agreed to narrow the list of options down to those sites the City has control over and several councilors also advocated a smaller-scale pilot project.

In response to concerns that no specific sites had been identified, Mr. Ruiz said he asked Mr. Wisth not to bring a site list to the City Council because there were too many factors to consider and the list was several hundred sites in number. He asked the City Council to help staff narrow down the elements related to site selection. Council agreed to the request.

ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at 1:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michelle Mortensen
Deputy City Recorder