

Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 19, 2020 - 5:30 p.m.

Saul Room, Atrium Building, 3rd Floor

99 W. 10th Ave., Eugene

In attendance: Chair-Kelsey Zlevor, Vice-Chair- Zach Mulholland, Howard Saxion, Ralph McDonald, Art Farley, Laura Allen, Louisa de Heer, Julia Johnson, Doug Edwards, Kevin O'Brien, and Councilor Emily Semple

Staff: Chelsea Clinton, Mark Nystrom

Absent: Jon Kloor, Greg Ringer

Call to Order:

Chair Zlevor called the meeting to order. Chris Raimy from the Planning Commission was in attendance.

Action Item: Approve Agenda

Moved: Zach Mulholland

Seconded: Art Farley

Vote: All in favor

Action Item: Approved January Minutes

Moved: Zach Mulholland

Seconded: Art Farley

Vote: All in Favor, Kevin O'Brien abstained

Public Comment:

Steve Abbott provided testimony regarding EV charging. He encouraged the commission to push for more highly visible public locations. Steve provided written testimony that is attached.

Jim Ball asked more about the 7.6% carbon reduction goal and what the source of this document. He also mentioned that Councilor Zelenka suggested that the CAP2.0 be a living document and Jim agreed with that commentary.

Debbie McGee suggested that the Commission use their influence to encourage the City Council to ban any new natural gas infrastructure. She detailed the negative

Marc Robinowitz mentioned three issues: 1. He is upset about the recent aerial banning compromise. 2. He is concerned about the new beltline highway expansion. 3. He is worried the pandemic that is blossoming in China. He believes the pandemic will deeply impact the availability of parts, medicine, and other important imports.

Anita Van Asperdt wants the City to focus on home charging for EVs. Most trips are under 40 miles. Home charging is the most convenient and 90% of trips are under 100 miles. In 2-3 years there will be price parity with gasoline cars.

Commissioner Response:

Zach thanked the audience for attending and suggested they attend the newly formed EV Committee.

Art thanked Steve for his comments. He suggested that its important for individual and cultural actions and that the idea of having publicly visible charging stations.

Ralph reminded the audience that the Sustainability Commission pushed for charging stations in new residential construction. He expressed a lot of interest in EVs.

Laura asked about the NW Natural agreement. Councilor Semple stated that the City Council agreed to vote to have a public hearing to extend the franchise agreement for 6 months. The Council does not know what would happen if they did not extend the agreement.

Budget Process Discussion: Vicki Silvers and Twylla Miller, City of Eugene

Vicki provided an overview of the annual budget cycle. The slides that she used are available upon request.

Zach asked staff how the best way to engage in the budget process. Staff pointed out that many of the decisions are made at the department level and start with City Council stating goals and objectives. They also suggested that the City has not done the best job at promoting the sustainability actions the City are doing.

Howard asked what percentage of the budget is discretionary vs non-discretionary. Staff stated that generally looking at the general fund that primarily comes from property taxes.

Howard also asked what the revenue forecast is for the City? Twylla suggested that the economy is stable and expect that the budget should be relatively stable. She also encouraged the Sustainability Commission attend the upcoming March budget meeting which will include forecasts.

Art asked about getting a line item for the Sustainability Commission to support programs and Chelsea responded that she is currently investigating this option.

Louisa asked about how the City plans for disasters. Twylla stated that the City has an emergency management committee.

Louisa discussed the work of the Air Quality Committee and used replacing wood stoves as an example. Vicki suggested reaching out to City Council to make a policy around wood stoves. City Council would propose a solution and then the City Manager would add it to the budget based on that policy.

Kelsey asked about best practices or ideas for rising revenue for big, aspirational projects for CAP2.0 related actions. Twylla said that this is an age-old problem. She suggested that tax and rate payers do not want to pay more and that there is an equity concern about raising fees. Every community struggles with this problem as the world and the needs get more complicated. Vicki added that there is an online resource on the City's Budget Page that has information on what previous groups investigated to raise revenue. Kelsey followed up by asking what the best way to engage with the budget committee and Vicki suggested using the email link on the Budget Committee webpage.

Zach asked about the unfunded needs assessment (UNA). Vicki provided a background on the UNA and stated that it is an ongoing list and that it helps provide the public transparency on the decisions that they have made. The UNA is created when departments request funding for programs that are not currently

funded. Each request needs to be tied to some plan and often time spells out a need that the City will need in the future.

Zach asked about the process for the revenue forecast. Twylla stated that there is a multistep program that looks at current service levels and property tax revenue. The City also wants to keep a savings account for dealing with unforeseen situations. Reserve levels also directly impact our bond ratings. She also mentioned that any large program like parks or streets starts with at the Council level. Council will request staff to start looking at this.

Doug asked if there is anything in the current budget for climate work. Twylla stated that those dollars are in the UNA but there would need to be a specific request. Doug followed up by asking if something came out of the CAP2.0 work where would the budget request. Twylla stated that the budget started right now and that there is a supplemental budget in December. Doug asked where do final cuts get made? Vicki described how the City Manager proposes the budget and that there is a lot of back and forth between the staff, the City Manager, and Council.

Louisa asked about population growth and the unannexed properties in Eugene. Twylla stated that the City uses Portland State Population forecasts. In the past the City has done an analysis of annexation in the past.

Kevin thanked staff for making the presentation.

Committee Proposals (see agenda for descriptions):

Action item: Dashboard committee proposal

Members: Laura, Zach, Howard

Moved: Zach

Seconded: Laura

Vote: All in favor, Louisa abstained

Action item: Fossil Fuel Bond Committee Proposal

Members: Laura, Art, Ralph

Moved: Ralph

Seconded: Art

Vote: All in Favor

Action item: Budget Committee proposal

Members: Zach, Julia, Kelsey

Moved: Julia

Seconded: Doug

Vote: All in favor

Action item: EV Plan Review Committee Proposal

Members: Zach, Doug, Louisa

Moved: Zach

Seconded: Louisa

Vote: All in Favor

Action item: Plastics recycling committee proposal—the commission decided to table this proposal for now.

Action item: Energy Efficiency Financing Committee Proposal—the commission decided to table this proposal for now.

Committee Reports:

Air Quality Committee received an update from LRAPA. The Committee agreed to meet one more time to come up with a list of recommendations for the Council.

Outreach Committee met to look over the bylaws. They will plan on meeting an additional time if/when they find out about whether they have a budget or not.

Council Communication and Upcoming Items

Councilor Semple discussed the CAP2.0 Ad Hoc Committee that met last week.

The Council had a work session on Urban Reserves.

The Council had an executive session on the Northwest Natural and are referring extending the franchise agreement for another to a public hearing.

They also had a presentation about defensible space around the urban forest interface.

Items from Commissioners and Staff

Mayors Ad Hoc workgroup met last week and next steps will be out by the end of the week. Hope to wrap up the work by the end April.

Mark is leaving the City and joining Lane County.

Laura met with the EJC NAACP committee.

Kelsey will not be at the next meeting.

Louisa will also be out for the March meeting.

Meeting Adjourned