

MINUTES

**Eugene Budget Committee
Harris Hall, 125 East 8th Avenue
Eugene, Oregon 97401**

**January 21, 2014
5:30 p.m.**

Committee Members Present: City Council Members George Brown, Mike Clark, , Chris Pryor, Alan Zelenka, George Poling, Betty Taylor, Greg Evans; Budget Committee Citizen Members Mark Rust (Vice-Chair), Marshall Wilde, Ken Beeson, Robert Clarke, Chelsea Clinton, Will Shaver

Committee Members Absent: City Council Member Claire Syrett; Budget Committee Citizen Members Laura Illig (Chair), Jill Fetherstonhaugh

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Rust called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

I. PUBLIC HEARING ON SIX POTENTIAL BUDGET REDUCTION OPTIONS

1. *Sarah Finley* – requested the Bethel and Sheldon branch libraries remain open.
2. *Bill Aspegren* – suggested the Committee hire an outside, independent performance auditor.
3. *Mike Barnebey* – urged the Committee to locate the funding to continue current staffing levels for the Fire Department.
4. *Lauren Yorgesen* – asked the Committee to keep all libraries open in the community.
5. *Margaret Hansen* – stated she would support library revenue measures on a future ballot, and asked the Committee to not close the branch libraries.
6. *Avery Cottle* – urged the Committee to keep the Bethel Branch library open.
7. *Ann Burgess* – stated closing the branch libraries is not an option.
8. *Sabine Detoit* – spoke against the possible closure of Bethel Branch library.
9. *Paul Jorgensen* – asked the Committee to generate a solution to keep the Bethel Branch library open.
10. *State Representative Val Hoyle* – advocated for services in the Bethel area, such as library, fire and police, and asked the Committee if there are instead administrative services that can be removed from the Human Services Commission funding.
11. *Kirstin Lee* – urged the Committee to minimize cuts to the Human Services Commission discretionary funding.
12. *Jan Aho* – requested the Committee minimize reductions to the Human Services Commission discretionary funding.
13. *Jenny Jonak* – urged the Committee to find a way to keep the branch libraries open.
14. *Chaz Dutoit* – disappointed the May 2013 ballot measure did not pass, and requested new revenue be a budget balancing option.
15. *Susan Ban* – supported continued funding for the Human Services Commission.
16. *Bonny McCornack* – stated cutting services is not necessary, funds are available in the City Hall Reserve Fund.
17. *Susan Tavakolian* – encouraged the Committee to look at new revenues and discuss policy changes to balance the budget.
18. *David Monk* – urged the Committee to work with Chief Kerns to reduce the Eugene Police Department budget.
19. *Ellen Bridges* – requested the branch libraries remain open.

20. *Rebecca McNutt* – suggested the Committee look at the administration, increase efficiencies, and continue funding the Bethel Branch library.
21. *Jeff Donaca* – urged the Committee to continue funding four police detectives.
22. *Sandy Ludeman* – expressed concern over the potential closure of Sheldon Branch library.
23. *Larry Deckman* – suggested the Committee discuss a potential bond measure for library funding and not close the branch libraries.
24. *Linda Ague* – stated the City should be expanding library services, not considering cuts to library services.
25. *Andrew Fisher* – urged the Committee to retain funding for Neighborhood Services.
26. *Cindy Clarke* – suggested the City may have the funds available to fund the services utilizing reserves.
27. *Bob Cassidy* – urged the Committee to not continue cutting services or jobs, instead balance the budget using reserves or new revenues.
28. *Brent Barker* – encouraged the Committee to continue funding for the branch libraries.
29. *Stephanie Midkiff* – voiced concern over any cuts to Neighborhood Services funding.
30. *Connie Regali* – urged the Committee to keep branch libraries open.
31. *Cynthia Kokis* – suggested the Committee find the money to continue all City services that belong to the community.
32. *Madeline Smith* – suggested the City follow San Francisco’s lead on using old municipal buses to aid the homeless.
33. *Alley Valkyrie* – requested the Committee look at the sale of Laurelwood Golf Course to generate money for services useful to the community.
34. *State Representative Nancy Nathanson* – spoke about continued funding for the branch libraries.
35. *Robin Hanson* – urged the Committee to retain funding for the branch libraries.
36. *Danelle Elizabeth Austin* – suggested the Committee tweak their thought process and find the money to continue services at the branch libraries.

II. NEXT STEPS

Vice-Chair Rust thanked everyone for the testimony. He announced the next Budget Committee Public Hearing would take place Tuesday, January 28 in the Bascom/Tykeson room of the Downtown Eugene Public Library at 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Mumme,
Program Coordinator, Finance Division