



City manager (right) is confronted by demonstrator at council meeting.

Photo by Clay Eals

City manager, mayor, ● council govern Eugene

regulations" that are constitutional and in the best interests of the citizenry.

A vote of the people is required to amend the charter. Bond issues and tax levies are charter amendments.

In Eugene's "Council Manager" set-up the Mayor's office is the Executive Branch. Lester Anderson is Eugene's Mayor. Eight people elected for four-year terms comprise the Common Council which is the legislative Branch. Any official council action must be taken at the Monday evening sessions held the second and fourth Monday of every month. A Municipal Court, headed by a judge appointed by the Common Council, comprises the Judicial Branch of the court. The court has jurisdiction over all offenses against the city.

A change or addition in the city's ordinance can take place in two ways. If the city council passes by a majority vote, and the Mayor gives his approval, an ordinance will become law in 30 days. Emergency measures dealing with health, peace and the safety are effective immediately following passage by two-thirds of the Council. Also, through the process of the initiative, the voters may make a change in the city ordinances.

The person in charge of administering and supervising a lot that happens in the city is the City Manager. Hugh McKinley is Eugene's City Manager.

He is appointed indefinitely by the Council and is responsible for reports, petitions and the annual budget, enforces city ordinances, acts as a business agent of the Council and coordinates city services with those of other governmental units.

There are three sections of the Administrative Branch. Central purchasing for literally everything the city uses is done by a person appointed by the City Manager. The 600 full-time employees of the city are the responsibility of the Personnel department, and the Civil Service Commission screens and certifies employees in all civil service positions.



Mayor Anderson signs affirmative action bill.

Photo by Kent Smith

The official municipal corporation of the city of Eugene dates back to 1862, with an act of the Oregon Legislature. The law, or charter, that the city operates under today was written in 1905 when the city was reincorporated.

The citizens of Eugene voted in 1944 to adopt a "Council Manager" form of government. This was done by amendment to the city charter. The charter is both specific and general in nature. It lists some powers of the city government and leaves it open for the City Council to enact any "ordinances, by-laws, and Oregon Daily Emerald