

# Concerns: Suggested tax levy will be discussed later this month

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said volunteers from 22 Eugene neighborhood organizations have been responsible for numerous services, from planting trees and picking up trash to providing forums for political candidates and city issues.

"As the city works its way through this process and cuts services, more will have to be done by volunteers," Towe said. "Where are they going to come from? The neighborhoods."

Councilors were also looking

for input on "doing things different," which for Eugene resident Charles Grey meant finding new revenue sources through a progressive income tax and a luxury tax.

"If the rich insist on building palaces, then they should be taxed so that no one in Eugene has to sleep in the street," Grey said.

Although these specific measures were not what Mayor Torrey had in mind, in a Wednesday afternoon council work session

Torrey introduced his plan for a three-year serial levy that would replace the anticipated revenue losses of Measure 47 and not require homeowners who make less than the median Eugene income to pay the extra tax.

The levy, which would be on the May 20 ballot, would have to be approved by 50 percent of Eugene voters before it could be used. The council will have to decide to go ahead with the levy by March 19.

A public hearing on the levy

will be held on March 17, during the regular council meeting.

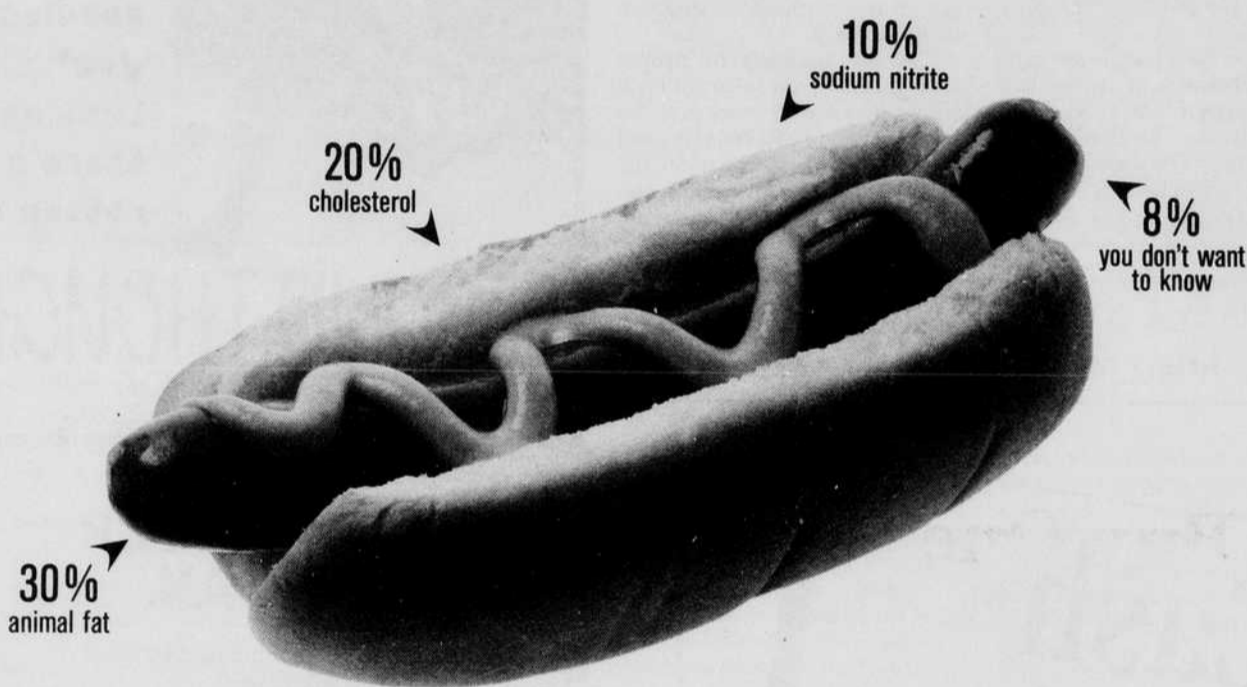
Torrey, who has been on hand at every one of the five Town Hall sessions, said he felt the public was telling city officials they don't want their services cut.

"We've had five meetings in this community, and the overwhelming sentiment, I'm talking 98 percent, is don't cut and reduce the quality of this community," Torrey said.

Wednesday night's session

was the last of five Town Hall meetings designed to spur public comment into the city service reduction process. In addition to the forum, citizens were asked to fill out surveys regarding their opinions on services that should be reduced, maintained or eliminated.

City officials will gather public input from the forums, surveys and a telephone hotline and present that information to the council, which will use it to form a preliminary plan in April to reduce city services.



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