

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

November 16, 2020
6:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Robinson, Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis, and Councilmembers Barksdale, Lee, Robertson, Stokes, and Zahn

ABSENT: None.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m., with Mayor Robinson presiding.

2. Roll Call, Flag Salute

City Clerk Charmaine Arredondo called the roll. All Councilmembers were present and participating remotely. Councilmember Barksdale led the flag salute.

(a) Commendation

Mayor Robinson noted the passing of Dr. Jerry Weber, former president of Bellevue College, on November 11. She said he fostered a collaborative relationship with the City, including in the areas of LGBTQ issues, student exchange programs, art, technology, affordable housing, and other priorities.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis read the commendation in appreciation of Dr. Weber's leadership and support for students, sustainability, and workforce training programs.

3. Approval of Agenda

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to approve the agenda, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

4. Oral Communications

- (a) Charles Watts thanked the Council and staff for their work on the Environmental Stewardship Plan. He encouraged the City to continue to be a regional leader and to act quickly to implement the plan.
- (b) Bruce Bowman noted his background as an engineer and his interest in becoming involved in the community. He said he contacted Councilmember Robertson, who directed him to contact Jennifer Ewing for more information about the Environmental Stewardship Plan. Mr. Bowman said he joined the climate action planning committee, which represents individuals throughout King County. He urged the City to take leading edge actions now to address the impacts of climate change.
- (c) Court Olson, a Lake Hills resident, offered his conditional support of the Environmental Stewardship Plan. He expressed concern about the general lack of understanding about climate change. He said buildings generate approximately half of Bellevue's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. He thanked staff and the Council for their work. He believes, however, that continued analysis and improvements to the plan will be needed to reach the City's 2030 goals. He noted that members of the People for Climate Action (PCA) organization have the knowledge and background to assist the City.
- (d) John Duggan said he is a lawyer for bicycle advocacy and for representing victims of bike injuries, most of which are the result of an accident involving a vehicle. He thanked the City for the bicycle infrastructure throughout the community to date and expressed support for the development of the Eastrail path. He said, however, that some areas are not safe for cycling. He said more cities are embracing bikes as part of multimodal transportation planning.

City Clerk Arredondo noted that David Hoffman, Puget Sound Energy, had signed up to speak in support of the Environmental Stewardship Plan. However, three speakers have already spoken in general support for the plan. She said that Mr. Hoffman emailed his comments to the Council.

5. Reports of Community Councils, Boards, and Commissions: None.

6. Report of the City Manager

- (a) Award for Best City Project from Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT): 120th Avenue NE, Stage 3 (NE 12th Street to NE 16th Street)

City Manager Brad Miyake noted that the City recently received an Award of Excellence from the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT).

Andrew Singelakis, Director of the Transportation Department, said the City received the 2020 Best City Project Award of Excellence for the 120th Avenue NE Stage 3 project. He said this is one of four awards by WSDOT each year. The evaluation criteria included safety enhancements, practical solutions, multimodal integration, innovation, and effective project management.

The 120th Avenue NE Stage 3 project widened the road from two lanes to four lanes and added a center turn lane. The project extended sidewalks and bike lanes, built a bridge over the East Link light rail alignment, added access to the development of core businesses, and provided roadway and utilities infrastructure.

Mr. Singelakis said the project was completed on time and under budget. The project provides access to the light rail stations and to Sound Transit's operations and maintenance facility. The total construction cost was \$20.3 million and was funded by Sound Transit, the Federal Highway Administration (FHA), Washington State Transportation Improvement Board, and the City.

Mr. Singelakis said the online formal award ceremony with WSDOT and the Federal Highway Administration is scheduled for December 1, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

(b) Governor's Update on COVID-19 Restrictions

City Manager Miyake highlighted changes in some of the pandemic-related restrictions based on the Governor's recent order. He said staff updated the City's web site with additional information and emailed businesses to inform them about assistance available from the City and elsewhere.

Mayor Robinson thanked staff for the updates.

7. Council Business and New Initiatives: None.

8. Consent Calendar

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to approve the Consent Calendar, and Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.

→ The motion to approve the Consent Calendar carried by a vote of 7-0, and the following items were approved:

(a) Motion to approve payment of claims and payroll for the period October 1 - October 31, 2020.

(b) Ordinance No. 6544: 1) amending the 2019-2025 General Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan to increase the budget for the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail - 132nd Avenue SE to 142nd Place SE project (CIP Plan No. PW-W/B-84) by \$5,930,000 and decreasing the budgets for the 124th Avenue NE - NE Spring Boulevard to Ichigo Way project (CIP Plan No. PW-R-166) by \$2,395,000 and the NE Spring Boulevard (Zone 1) - 116th to 120th Avenues NE project (CIP Plan No. PW-R-172) by \$1,500,000; 2) rejecting the bid protest of Johansen Construction Company; and 3) awarding Bid No. 20007, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail - 132nd Avenue SE to 142nd Place SE (CIP Plan No. PW-W/B-84) to Active Construction, Inc. as the lowest responsible and responsive bidder, in the amount of \$7,570,570.00, plus all applicable taxes.

- (c) Resolution No. 9840 authorizing execution of a five-year interlocal agreement with South Correctional Entity (SCORE) for inmate housing.
- (d) Resolution No. 9841 authorizing execution of Supplement No. 1 of the Professional Engineering Services Agreement with KPG, PS (Contract No. 1850045) supplementing the Agreement by \$107,570.00, plus all applicable taxes, for a total contract amount of \$190,495.10, plus all applicable taxes, to complete landscaping, irrigation and urban design and provide construction support services for the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail Project - Factoria Boulevard to 150th Avenue SE (CIP Plan No. PW-W/B-84).
- (e) Resolution No. 9842 authorizing execution of Supplement No. 2 of the Professional Engineering Services Agreement with HNTB Corporation (Contract No. 1850058) supplementing the Agreement by \$159,581.32, plus all applicable taxes, for a total contract amount of \$249,468.89, to complete structural engineering design and provide construction support services for the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail Project - Factoria Boulevard to 150th Avenue SE (CIP Plan No. PW-W/B-84).
- (f) Ordinance No. 6545: 1) authorizing execution of an agreement for a Public Assistance grant agreement (and supplements, if necessary) with the Washington State Military Department (WSMD) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to accept up to \$320,000 in grant funding to support the design and construction of repairs on SE 11th Street for damaged public facilities for incident(s) occurring between January 10, 2020 and February 10, 2020; 2) amending the 2019-2020 General Capital Investment Program (CIP) Fund to increase the appropriation by \$320,000 with the acceptance of the WSMD and FEMA grant; 3) amending the 2019-2025 CIP Plan to increase the budget for the Major Maintenance Program (CIP Plan No. PW-M-19) by \$320,000; and, 4) authorizing administrative officials to receive and expend funds as authorized in the Grant Agreement.
- (g) Resolution No. 9843 authorizing execution of a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Subgrant Agreement with the Washington State Military Department to accept grant funds in the amount of \$359,470 for cybersecurity and emergency services sustainment.
- (h) Resolution No. 9844 authorizing execution of an agreement with Coast to Coast Turf in the amount of \$112,750, plus all applicable taxes, to replace the basepaths, pitcher's mound, and home plate areas of the synthetic turf infield at Bannerwood Stadium.
- (i) Resolution No. 9845 authorizing execution of Amendment 2 to the VirTra, Inc. Simulated Firearm Equipment Rental and Training Services Agreement, to renew the term for three additional periods of twelve months.

9. Public Hearing

- (a) Public Hearing and Action on Ordinance No. 6530 imposing an interim official control tolling time limitations for certain active Temporary Use Permits and suspending the restriction for application of certain successive Temporary Use Permits; providing for severability; and establishing an effective date.

City Manager Brad Miyake recalled that the Council adopted Ordinance No. 6530 on October 12 imposing an interim official control (IOC) for certain active temporary use permits under the state Growth Management Act (GMA). The IOC is intended to address the impacts and restrictions of the pandemic on business operations.

Trisna Tanus, Consulting Attorney, noted that the Council's adoption of the ordinance required that a public hearing be held within 60 days. She said temporary use permits have been issued to restaurants to allow outdoor dining in parking lots, to retail stores to operate in outdoor spaces, and to entertainment companies to provide drive-in movies. Potential temporary use permits will allow educational institutions to bring in portable classrooms and health care companies to provide drive-through medical services.

The purpose of the IOC is to quickly mitigate the impacts of the pandemic and the limitations of the Safe Start Washington plan. Ms. Tanus said the objectives of the IOC are to: 1) allow reapplications for successive permits to ensure business continuity, 2) expand certain temporary uses for classrooms, medical services and other activities, and 3) minimize the underutilization of properties, suspension of business activity, and closed businesses.

Liz Stead, Land Use Division Director, said there is no specific time limitation on the temporary use permits as long as the Safe Start Washington plan is in place. The ordinance allows the applicant to apply for successive permits as needed to adjust to new circumstances. Ms. Stead highlighted the permit decision criteria: 1) protect public health, safety or welfare, 2) must not be incompatible in intensity and appearance with land uses in the immediate vicinity, 3) adequate parking for the temporary use, 4) must specify hours of operation, and 5) must not cause adverse noise, light or glare on surrounding uses.

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to open the public hearing, and Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Patrick Bannon, President of the Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA), expressed support for the IOC applicable to temporary use permits. He thanked the City for its leadership in helping small businesses, providing flexibility, and employing a solutions-oriented approach. He commended the Council and City staff for their work with the BDA and the community throughout the pandemic.

- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to close the public hearing, and Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

10. Study Session

- (a) Planning Commission Recommendations on 2020 Annual Comprehensive Plan Amendments (CPAs)

City Manager Miyake introduced discussion regarding the Planning Commission's final review recommendations for the 2020 Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) process. He recalled that the topic was previously discussed with the Council on July 20 and on August 3.

Emil King, Assistant Director, Community Development Department, noted that the common theme of the CPA proposals is housing.

Thara Johnson, Planning Manager, introduced Radhika Moolgavkar, Chair of the Planning Commission. Ms. Johnson highlighted the CPA final review criteria from Land Use Code section 20.30I.150. She described the four privately initiated CPA proposals (100 Bellevue Way SE, Safegard Self Storage, NE 8th Street Partners, Glendale Country Club NE) and the City-initiated policy amendment adding language regarding increasing affordable housing potential, consistent with Action C-1 of the Affordable Housing Strategy. She noted that two of the applications fall within the East Bellevue Community Council (EBCC) boundary, and the related courtesy hearing was held in early October.

Chair Moolgavkar said the Planning Commission recommended, by a unanimous vote, approval of the 100 Bellevue Way SE CPA proposal to amend the map designation to Downtown-Mixed Use (DNTN-MU) on the 0.87-acre site. The commission found that the application satisfies all of the decision criteria, and the proposal is consistent with other fixes to split-zoned properties.

Ms. Moolgavkar described the Safegard Self Storage CPA proposal to amend the zoning map from Office (O) to Community Business (CB) on its site. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the CPA and found that the application satisfies the final review decision criteria and is consistent with the Crossroads Subarea Plan.

The Planning Commission recommended approval of the NE 8th Street Partners CPA, which proposes a change in map designation from Office (O) to Multifamily-High (MF-H) for two parcels on a nearly one-acre site. The commission found that the application satisfies all of the decision criteria and that it seeks to maintain the vitality and character of the neighborhood.

Ms. Moolgavkar said the Planning Commission recommended approval of the Glendale Country Club NE CPA proposal by a vote of 4-2. The application proposes a change in map designation from Single Family-Low (SF-L) to Multifamily-Medium (MF-M) for a 3.3-acre portion of the golf course property. Ms. Moolgavkar said this CPA proposal was discussed at length. She said that most of the Planning Commission concluded that the CPA was consistent with the

Comprehensive Plan, and that it was not made in isolation to the surrounding area and thus could fit within the neighborhood. Chair Moolgavkar noted the environmental benefit of maintaining the golf course and open space in the middle of Bellevue.

Ms. Johnson described the City-initiated CPA proposing policy amendments to implement an incentive-based approach for increasing the potential for affordable housing on eligible properties, consistent with Action C-1 of the Affordable Housing Strategy: “Increase development potential on suitable land owned by public, non-profit housing, and faith-based entities for affordable housing.” Ms. Johnson noted that existing incentives for affordable housing have not been heavily used in Bellevue. She said the intent of the policy CPA is to focus on creating affordable housing on specific types of eligible properties, as defined by recent state legislation in House Bill 1377. The proposed qualifying properties include public surplus property, non-profit housing property, and faith-owned property in multifamily and mixed-use districts and faith-owned property in single-family residential districts. The policy excludes the Downtown, BelRed and Eastgate transit-oriented (TOD) areas as well as properties owned by the Parks and Community Services Department and the Utilities Department.

Ms. Johnson highlighted the three key policy amendments related to Action C-1 of the Affordable Housing Strategy: 1) supporting policy language for bonuses and incentives on eligible properties, 2) direction to implement the bonuses and incentives outside of the growth corridors, and 3) direction for the creation of a demonstration program for affordable housing projects in multifamily zones.

Chair Moolgavkar said the Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval of the Affordable Housing Strategy Action C-1 CPA. However, all of the commissioners felt there was not sufficient time to conduct an adequate analysis. Ms. Moolgavkar said there were members of the public who expressed concern about the lack of opportunity for public comment. She said commissioners understand the urgent need for housing. However, they raised concerns regarding the review time, the adequacy of the data related to the analysis of income levels, and the impact of the amendment on neighborhoods and infrastructure.

Ms. Moolgavkar said the Planning Commission requested the addition of the following language to its recommendation: “The Planning Commission desires to see the City Council direct that current and appropriate data on income levels and specific site impacts to infrastructure, including transportation, the environment, school districts, and other services, be provided to the commission during the study and review of the related Land Use Code Amendment (LUCA).”

Ms. Johnson summarized the threshold review and final review processes over the past year. She noted that a courtesy public hearing was held with the East Bellevue Community Council (EBCC) in October. She highlighted the number of final review comments from the public on the five CPA proposals. The City received 101 comments regarding the Affordable Housing Strategy Action C-1 proposal, with most of them in support of the policy. However, some individuals asked questions or made suggestions.

Mayor Robinson thanked staff and Chair Moolgavkar for the presentation.

Councilmember Barksdale, liaison to the Planning Commission, thanked the commission and staff for their thorough review and discussions. He expressed support for the commission's recommendations and for allowing more time for further analysis of the affordable housing policies in the future.

Councilmember Zahn thanked everyone for their work and expressed support for the recommendations. She said she appreciated the commission's thoughtful review. She expressed support for the proposed affordable housing demonstration pilot project. She wondered whether revenues generated by the new housing tax will be applicable to the Action C-1 initiative.

Councilmember Robertson observed that the CPAs all address housing, which is greatly needed. She expressed support for the recommendations and for the Planning Commission's request for additional data and analysis. Ms. Robertson said it is important for everyone, including the Planning Commission, to understand what is included in House Bill 1377. She said it would be helpful to have a full briefing for the Council as well.

Ms. Robertson said it is important to provide affordable housing throughout the community and to combine market-rate units and affordable units within the same developments. She suggested it would be helpful to have the members of the original affordable housing technical advisory group (TAG) meet with the Planning Commission to discuss the Land Use Code issues.

Councilmember Lee thanked the Planning Commission and staff for their work. He asked about the comments from the two commissioners who voted against the Glendale Country Club NE CPA. While concerned about potential unintended consequences, Mr. Lee said the CPA provides the opportunity to use available space for needed housing. Mr. Lee noted that residents near churches might be surprised to learn that housing can now be developed on church property. He reiterated his concern regarding the potential unintended consequences related to the CPAs.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis thanked everyone for their work and expressed support for the recommendations. He said the CPAs will provide much needed housing, and he supports the Planning Commission's request for additional data and time for review.

Councilmember Stokes thanked staff and the commission for their thorough review. He expressed support for the recommendations and for Councilmember Robertson's suggestion to reconvene the affordable housing TAG to meet with the Planning Commission and the Council. Mr. Stokes said he is optimistic about the potential for housing on public, nonprofit, and faith-based properties. He looks forward to working with the commission to implement the policy.

Mayor Robinson thanked staff for its responsiveness to the new state law, which provides the opportunity to add a variety of affordable housing units for different populations. Referring to the proposed case studies, Ms. Robinson said she feels that the City has already seen examples of the advantages of placing housing on a faith-based property, including at Andrew's Glen and 30 Bellevue. Responding to Mayor Robinson, Ms. Johnson said staff heard feedback from religious institutions that the density bonus might not be sufficient for some of the projects under consideration. Ms. Robinson questioned the value of case studies versus moving forward

expeditiously with church property rezones. Ms. Johnson said the proposed demonstration pilot project is intended for multifamily zones. Ms. Robinson wondered whether the case studies are necessary, given the City's past experience in developing housing projects with faith-based organizations. Ms. Johnson said a pilot project would not necessarily be on faith-owned property. She said the demonstration pilot project would provide the opportunity to determine whether there are barriers within the code and to identify innovative solutions.

Mayor Robinson said she would like to move forward with implementing the Affordable Housing Strategy Action C-1 CPA as quickly as possible. Ms. Johnson noted that there are multiple avenues for achieving the intended outcomes.

Responding to Ms. Robinson, Mr. Cummins said that many of the comments from the Planning Commission revolved around how the policy will be implemented through a Land Use Code Amendment (LUCA). The commission is interested in learning how the policy will work, where it might apply, and the impacts of implementation. Mr. Cummins said the proposed policy CPA will allow the flexibility to implement the Affordable Housing Strategy appropriately within the bounds of what is contemplated in the strategy. He said the Planning Commission is interested in more data to analyze the impacts of the policy.

Mayor Robinson noted that while the CPAs all allow for housing, the development of housing is not required. She would like to see affordable housing units in all the subsequent developments. She wondered whether something could be put in place to ensure the generation of affordable housing units.

Ms. Cummins acknowledged that there is no requirement to develop affordable housing and that the City instead relies on an incentive system. He said there is currently no significant incentive for the production of affordable housing units in multifamily zones. He noted that the Council is considering whether to expand the multifamily tax exemption (MFTE) program to be available citywide. He said that would provide a significant property tax incentive for developers who want to include an affordability component in their multifamily projects.

Councilmember Robertson asked when the issue of expanding the MFTE program will come back to the Council. Mr. Cummins said staff conducted additional stakeholder outreach and will return for further discussion with the Council early next year. Ms. Robertson said that while the applicants are not required to provide affordable housing, she anticipates that the CPA proposals will provide good opportunities for adding affordable housing.

Councilmember Zahn asked whether the housing to be developed under the Action C-1 policy will include both rental and ownership housing units.

Councilmember Stokes said it would be helpful for the Council to receive a briefing regarding the allowed uses of the new housing and housing services tax.

Councilmember Lee said he supports the need to create housing. However, he is concerned about the unintended consequences for surrounding uses. He asked about the comments from the two Planning Commissioners who voted against the Glendale Country Club NE CPA.

Chair Moolgavkar confirmed that Vice Chair Malakoutian and Commissioner deVadoss voted against the CPA. She said Mr. deVadoss felt that the property is not an appropriate location for housing. He opined that the proposal did not meet the decision criteria. She said Mr. Malakoutian agreed with the analysis provided by staff, who recommended against moving the CPA forward.

Ms. Johnson said staff's recommendation to the Planning Commission followed a review of the Comprehensive Plan decision criteria and the determination that the Glendale Country Club NE CPA did not meet the criteria. She said the project did not establish a clear nexus with planning policies in the Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

Councilmember Barksdale said he is looking forward to the next step in the process and continued review by the Planning Commission.

- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to direct staff to prepare ordinances approving the 2020 proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendments (CPAs) as recommended by the Planning Commission, as well as an ordinance documenting the City's annual plan amendment process under the state Growth Management Act (GMA). Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.
- Councilmember Lee moved to amend the motion to direct staff to establish a provision for a specific time period for implementing housing on faith-based property [Affordable Housing Strategy Action C-1 CPA], tied to some specific parameters to be used when implementation takes place. There was no second.
- The motion carried by a vote of 6-1, with Councilmember Lee dissenting.

- (b) 2021-2022 Operating Budget and 2020-2027 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan: Fire Inspection Fees and Basic Life Support (BLS) Transport Fee

City Manager Miyake noted the ongoing discussions regarding the 2021-2022 Operating Budget and the 2021-2027 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan. He said staff is seeking Council direction to prepare ordinances for formal action as part of the overall budget adoption package.

Toni Call, Director, Finance and Asset Management (FAM), said staff is seeking feedback regarding the Fire Department's Basic Life Support (BLS) transport fee. She noted the upcoming public hearing on the budget and CIP Plan on November 23. Budget adoption is anticipated on December 7 or December 14. Following the public hearing during the November 23 meeting, Councilmembers will describe any proposed adjustments to the budget for the Council's consideration. At that time, the Council may direct staff to return on December 7 with the list of proposals and a budget balancing tool, with the intent of taking final budget action on December 14, or the Council may direct staff on November 23 to finalize the budget package for formal action on December 7.

Ms. Call noted that proposed adjustments to the budget should identify the revenue source or other tradeoffs. She highlighted the list of Council actions to be taken in December as part of the

overall budget adoption. She said the package will not include a Fire Inspection Fee Ordinance because no changes to the fee schedule are proposed.

Fire Chief Jay Hagen recalled that Ordinance No. 6490 modified the fire inspection fee schedule effective January 1, 2020, based on customer outreach and ongoing data analysis. The fee schedule was updated again with the adoption of Ordinance No. 6534 in October. Chief Hagen said the Fire Department's 5,296 inspections are conducted by both fire protection officers and firefighters in the stations, depending on the level of complexity required for the inspection. He said the department has completed 70 percent of its inspections this year. He suggested reviewing the fees every two years. He said that inspection fees are calculated using the base rate, square footage, and an occupancy classification factor.

Chief Hagen said the Fire Department's inspection program is on track to achieve full cost recovery this year. He acknowledged the Council's direction to maintain a nexus between the fees and the level of effort required for the inspections. He said some inspections are being conducted remotely through video tours. Chief Hagen recalled that the Council asked in the past about the potential for waiving fire inspection fees for affordable housing units. He said staff will begin a holistic review of affordable housing exemptions and fees early next year.

Chief Hagen described the proposal to increase the BLS transport fee from \$638 to \$750 to align with regional partners in the county and to address inflation. He said the Bellevue Fire Department has charged for transport since 2012, and the last fee increase was adopted in 2014. He said that most transports are covered by insurance or private payments. However, no individual needing transportation to a local hospital is ever denied transport based on their age, sex, race or financial situation. The Fire Department accepts insurance payments and does not bill Bellevue residents for any additional amount. He noted that any resident without insurance may apply for financial assistance to have the entire amount waived. Chief Hagen said a non-Bellevue resident may also apply for financial assistance and have the entire amount waived if they qualify.

Councilmember Robertson thanked Chief Hagen for the presentation and said she appreciates that inspection fees are more closely tied to the effort and time required for the specific inspection. She said it is good to see that Bellevue's BLS transport fee falls roughly in the middle of the range of charges in the region.

Ms. Robertson asked about the proposed elimination of the training administration position. Chief Hagen said the position has existed for 25 years and the individual works at the Bellevue Public Safety Training Center. He said the position handles correspondence, calendaring, scheduling the use of the facility, tracking training activities, and supporting the uniformed officers using the facility.

Councilmember Robertson expressed an interest in considering a slightly larger increase in the BLS transport fee in order to continue to fund the Fire Department training administration position. She expressed concern that eliminating the position would have a detrimental impact on the department. She noted that the BLS transport fee has not been increased in six years.

Councilmember Stokes thanked Chief Hagen and the Fire Department for their work. He concurred with Councilmember Robertson's comments regarding the training administration staff position.

Councilmember Lee expressed an interest in considering a proposal to maintain the staff position. He thanked Chief Hagen and expressed support for the proposed BLS transport fee.

Councilmember Barksdale thanked Chief Hagen for the presentation. He asked whether the Fire Department has considered using an app to support fire inspections. Acting Fire Marshal Travis Ripley said the Fire Department recently implemented the use of the Streamline Inspections app. Mr. Barksdale said he would consider an adjustment to the proposed BLS transport fee in order to retain the training administration position.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis thanked everyone for their work and expressed support for the proposed BLS transport fee. He expressed an interest in Councilmember Robertson's suggestion to adjust the fee further to retain the staff position.

Responding to Councilmember Zahn, Chief Hagen said there has been a 21-percent decline in emergency calls this year. However, both medical and fire calls have involved more serious and significant incidents. He encouraged the public to seek medical attention if needed and to not be afraid about going to the hospital during the pandemic. In further response to Ms. Zahn, Chief Hagen said the CARES (Citizen Advocates for Referral and Education Services) teams have been working continuously throughout the pandemic.

Mayor Robinson thanked Chief Hagen for the presentation. She thanked him for his comments urging the public to not ignore health issues that might require medical attention. Ms. Robinson expressed concern about the opening of Fire Station 10, especially with continued residential growth in the Downtown.

Responding to Ms. Robinson, Chief Hagen said that no one should avoid calling 911 based on the inability to pay for medical transport. He said financial assistance is available for the very few individuals who do not have insurance or are otherwise unable to pay.

Responding to Mayor Robinson, Ms. Call said staff will come back with a proposed increase to the BLS transport fee that would retain the training administration staff position in the Public Safety Training Center.

Responding to Councilmember Lee, Ms. Call encouraged Councilmembers to provide questions or proposed adjustments to her by the following afternoon in order to prepare the meeting packet materials for the November 23 meeting. Councilmember Zahn said she would follow up with Ms. Call regarding her suggestions.

Responding to Councilmember Barksdale regarding budget adjustment proposals, Ms. Call said the proposals should be costed correctly and they should identify the offsetting reduction or revenue increase to support the budget item.

At 8:35 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared a short break. The meeting resumed at 8:45 p.m.

(c) Review of Recommended Environmental Stewardship Plan

City Manager Miyake introduced staff's presentation of the updated Environmental Stewardship Plan. The draft plan was released for public comment on September 24.

Mac Cummins, Director, Community Development Department, said staff is seeking Council direction to move forward with final approval of the plan. He said the plan strikes a balance between aggressively addressing climate change while balancing the needs and vitality of the business community. Mr. Cummins noted that the Environmental Stewardship Plan was discussed with the Boards and Commissions.

Mayor Robinson paused the meeting briefly while staff worked to restore Councilmember Stokes' connection to the meeting. At 9:08 p.m., City Clerk Arredondo indicated that Councilmember Stokes had rejoined the meeting.

Jennifer Ewing, Environmental Stewardship Program Manager, recalled previous Council direction to be bold in identifying opportunities for leading edge targets and actions, to develop nearer-term targets, to build on the City's foundation of success, and to lead by example in municipal operations. She said there were three rounds of public outreach to solicit input from the community. The draft Environmental Stewardship Plan was released for public comment on September 24, at which time staff conducted additional outreach, including a town hall and survey. The City received approximately 100 comments on the plan.

Ms. Ewing said the key themes were to: 1) strengthen the energy section of the plan, particularly for existing buildings, 2) review and update the plan annually, 3) create a citizen advisory commission, 4) add more specific timelines and next steps for actions, and 5) employ leading edge actions. She said staff recently presented the plan to the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce, where individuals expressed an interest in the impact of the plan on providing affordable housing. She said Puget Sound Energy (PSE) indicated its interest in continuing to work with the City.

In the Climate Change section of the plan, the goal is to reduce Bellevue's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and to prepare and adapt to ongoing climate change impacts. The 2050 target is to reduce GHG emissions by 80 percent. Ms. Ewing highlighted key actions regarding air quality monitoring and code considerations, regional collaboration through the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C), and related state legislative interests.

Ms. Ewing said the goal of the Energy section of the plan is to ensure long-term access to clean energy while saving money and reducing the environmental impacts of energy consumption. She noted the 2050 targets to achieve 100 percent renewable energy and to reduce energy usage by 30 percent. Key actions include home energy retrofits, support for commercial energy usage benchmarking, and green building incentives.

The goals of the Materials and Waste section of the plan are to reduce the negative impacts of consumption and waste practices and to achieve the 2050 target of zero waste. Key actions include implementing recycling requirements, restricting single-use plastics and styrofoam, and working with multifamily and commercial buildings.

The goals of the Natural Systems section are to improve and preserve the integrity and health of Bellevue's natural systems and to ensure that all residents have access to the abundant natural resources. The 2050 targets include achieving 40-percent tree canopy coverage and ensuring that all residents live within one-third of a mile of a park, open space, or trail. Key actions include planting 75,000 trees, updating the tree codes, and other measures to enhance the environmental benefits of open spaces.

In the Mobility and Land Use section of the plan, the goal is to minimize the environmental impacts of transportation and development by focusing on development in growth centers and providing all residents with access to a variety of mobility options. The 2050 targets include a 45 percent drive-alone rate, 100 percent electric vehicle ownership, 50 percent reduction in vehicle miles traveled per capita, and reaching the goal of 85 percent of jobs and 65 percent of housing within one-quarter mile of frequent transit service. Key actions include focusing on the Mobility Implementation Plan, electric vehicle usage and infrastructure, and transportation demand management.

Ms. Ewing said the City's goals in the Municipal Operations section of the plan are to lead by example and to achieve a series of 2040 targets: 80 percent reduction in GHG emissions, 35 percent employee drive-alone rate, 100 percent electric light-duty vehicles, 30 percent reduction in fossil fuel usage by City vehicles, 100 percent renewable energy, 50 percent reduction in building energy usage, 90 percent recycling rate, 10 percent reduction in water usage, and 80 percent of forests in a healthy condition. Key actions include addressing sustainable operations and project trainings, green building performance standards, renewable energy installations and power purchases, electrification of the municipal fleet, sustainable landscaping practices and water usage, and increased recycling of waste.

Ms. Ewing said there is public interest in monitoring the City's and community's progress in achieving environmental stewardship goals. She highlighted the new Environmental Stewardship dashboard on the City's web site. She said staff is seeking Council direction regarding the recommended Environmental Stewardship Plan with approval of the plan to occur at a future meeting.

Mayor Robinson thanked staff for the presentation and for their extensive work on the plan.

Councilmember Zahn expressed support for the plan and for moving forward with urgency. She said that 92 percent of GHG emissions are related to buildings and transportation. She said she appreciates that the City is setting bold to leading edge goals and actions. However, she noted that 70 percent of the community input is encouraging more leading-edge goals. Ms. Zahn suggested focusing on 2030 goals as well as the 2040 and 2050 goals. She would like to see specific timelines for pursuing the goals and to receive quarterly updates. She suggested learning about strategies and actions from other cities.

Ms. Zahn thanked the representatives of People for Climate Action for their input throughout the planning process. She encouraged a focus on building practices and on evaluating how overall environmental stewardship actions interact with the goals of reducing drive-alone vehicles and implementing Vision Zero safety measures. She expressed support for the City's leadership in reducing GHG emissions in municipal facilities. Referencing the suggestion to create a citizen advisory commission, Councilmember Zahn said she was unsure about its effectiveness and role. She would like further consideration of the suggestions and feedback from the community.

Councilmember Barksdale thanked staff and the community for all their work on the Environmental Stewardship Plan. He concurred with Councilmember Zahn that quarterly updates would be important. Mr. Barksdale asked whether staff has considered tailoring some of the actions by neighborhood. He wondered whether there is a way for neighborhoods to choose specific actions. Mr. Barksdale asked how the City might integrate the plan with other programs (e.g., neighborhood walks) to encourage public interest and support for the plan.

Emil King, Assistant Director, Community Development Department, said that two neighborhood walks were scheduled that week and staff will discuss certain aspects of the plan. He said it would be helpful to gather information at the neighborhood level to identify residents' interests and concerns. He noted that neighborhood priorities differ, for example, with some residents valuing trees and others wanting to preserve views.

In further response to Mr. Barksdale, Mr. King said that the integration with other neighborhood programs could be addressed through the Great Neighborhoods planning process. Mr. King said staff can continue to explore other ways to enhance the integration of programs as the Environmental Stewardship Plan is implemented.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis thanked staff for the thorough and specific plan that will have a widespread impact on the community. He said he appreciated the robust outreach with City departments and the community. He concurred with the importance of leading by example.

Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Ms. Ewing said the performance metrics are typically updated on an annual basis. She said that much of the data is not more frequently available and annual updates are the standard best practice.

Mr. Nieuwenhuis asked whether there have been discussions about public-private partnerships with corporate entities in the community. Ms. Ewing said that a number of Bellevue's large employers have expressed support for this work. She noted the concept of creating an eco-district through a public-private partnership. However, she said that type of effort is typically driven by the private sector. Ms. Ewing said the tree canopy goal provides good opportunities for community efforts and partnerships. Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis encouraged staff to continue to explore potential partnerships. He expressed support for organizing a technical advisory group of local and regional experts to address key issues in the plan.

Councilmember Robertson expressed support for the plan and said that implementation will be critical. She noted the important role of public education, incentives, and technical support and

advice for businesses and other groups. She expressed an interest in the eco-district concept and suggested that perhaps individual neighborhoods will want to implement specific measures (e.g., landscaping modifications, tree plantings). Ms. Robertson expressed support for the Deputy Mayor's suggestion to create a technical advisory group for evaluation and feedback as the implementation of the plan moves forward.

Councilmember Stokes concurred with the value of creating a technical advisory group as well and suggested doing so rather quickly. He expressed concern that the 2050 goals are too far into the future. He noted how quickly things have changed in Bellevue and in issues around climate change. He suggested that the plan could be more aggressive and reflect greater urgency. Mr. Stokes suggested identifying interim goals and milestones. He said he is encouraged by the overall direction of the plan and he appreciates the City's accomplishments related to municipal operations. However, he would like to see more aggressive, cutting edge actions and milestones to maintain momentum as the plan is implemented.

Councilmember Lee expressed support for the plan and noted strong community support for taking care of the environment. He concurred with the importance of creating near-term and ongoing milestones and suggested focusing on the targets under the City's control and leadership. He said the City cannot control whether the public moves to electric vehicles, conserves energy, or reduces waste, for example. He supports the importance of addressing climate change and said the City should lead by example with the things it can control.

Mayor Robinson concurred that the plan does not provide specific actions for reducing GHG emissions. She would like to see more actionable statements about how the City and community can reduce GHG emissions. She said the issue she hears most about from the public is the tree canopy goal. She encouraged moving forward to address tree codes in the near future.

Ms. Robinson said that only 10 percent of the people who work downtown also live downtown. Her goal is for half of the people working in Bellevue to also live in Bellevue. She would like to see that concept reflected in the plan in the future.

Mayor Robinson noted her colleagues' interest in more frequent updates from staff regarding the progress on the plan, as information becomes available. She likes the suggestion for integrating the environmental stewardship program with neighborhood programs and public education. Mayor Robinson suggested adding language regarding that topic as well as the topic of fostering public-private partnerships. Examples of partnerships include the establishment of eco-districts, working to increase the tree canopy, and expanding green building practices.

Ms. Robinson noted Council support for creating a technical advisory group as soon as possible. She wondered whether that could be added to the plan. She concurred with the suggestions to create interim goals and milestones, perhaps with the assistance of the technical advisory group.

Mayor Robinson expressed support for the robust plan and thanked staff for their work.

Councilmember Zahn said she would like to get to a culture of sustainability that influences all of the decisions made throughout City departments. She expressed support for urgency and for

setting near-term and interim milestones. She encouraged ensuring there is access and equity to the recommended actions. She wondered whether programs could be established to help residents, such as offering loans for energy improvements to their homes.

Ms. Zahn suggested that the City should look at how it can broaden its collaboration with other cities and King County. She suggested referencing information from the People for Climate Action (PCA) organization in the plan. She requested adding a note in the plan about how the City might expand its collaboration with the K4C and other cities. Mr. King suggested referencing PCA's input in the public engagement section of the Environmental Stewardship Plan.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis said it would be helpful to receive quarterly data if possible. However, he acknowledged that annual data might be more meaningful in determining trends. Ms. Ewing said she will explore whether at least some of the metrics could be updated more frequently. She noted that, even if new data is not available, staff could provide updates regarding milestones and key accomplishments.

→ At 9:50 p.m., Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to extend the meeting to 10:05 p.m. Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Continuing, Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis suggested identifying more action items related to climate change, as well as potential technology investments. He encouraged working with businesses to help them address environmental and GHG goals. He observed that the plan focuses on solar energy and he asked whether other energy sources were studied. He said he would like to see more about transportation technologies in the plan. Mr. Nieuwenhuis reiterated his support for the plan and thanked everyone for their work.

Councilmember Lee reiterated the importance of identifying specific actions and milestones. He noted that the Environmental Services Commission (ESC) is interested in addressing aspects of the plan.

Councilmember Stokes said he wants to move beyond the planning stage. He said the ESC is focused on the Utilities budget and utility rates. He suggested that the name of the commission is perhaps outdated and does not reflect the commission's focus. Mr. Stokes encouraged moving more aggressively to address climate change, even if that means the City needs more staffing. He would like to see a clearer connection between the actions and the targets. He suggested moving forward with the implementation of the plan.

Councilmember Robertson expressed support for moving forward to adopt the plan. She said she appreciated everyone's comments and she suggested that they should be applied to implementation activities versus revising the updated plan now. She said quarterly updates would be helpful. Ms. Robertson said it sounds like there is support for creating a technical advisory group. She concurred with Councilmember Stokes that the ESC is busy focusing on utilities issues.

Responding to Mayor Robinson, Ms. Robertson said she is ready to move forward with the plan as presented. Ms. Robertson recommended approving the plan now and addressing more details in the implementation phase.

Mayor Robinson noted two substantive recommendations from the Council for revising the updated plan: 1) work with the neighborhood programs, and 2) foster public-private partnerships.

Ms. Robertson suggested that Councilmembers requesting changes submit those in writing to staff in preparation for next week's meeting.

Councilmember Lee reiterated that the ESC is interested and has the capacity to be more involved in environmental stewardship planning.

Responding to Mayor Robinson, Mr. Cummins agreed with Councilmember Robertson that most of what he heard tonight is more applicable to implementation. He said staff will draft language for the Council's consideration regarding neighborhood planning and partnerships if desired.

Mayor Robinson said she liked Councilmember Zahn's idea about incorporating the plan into the work of all City departments. Councilmembers indicated their agreement.

11. Land Use: None.
12. Other Ordinances, Resolutions, and Motions: None.
13. Unfinished Business: None.
14. New Business: None.
15. Executive Session: None.
16. Adjournment

At 10:04 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared the meeting adjourned.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC
City Clerk

/kaw