

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

October 7, 2025
6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Robinson, Deputy Mayor Malakoutian and Councilmembers Bhargava, Hamilton, Lee, Nieuwenhuis and Sumadiwirya

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 and all Councilmembers were present. Councilmember Hamilton led the flag salute.

(a) Indigenous Peoples' Day Proclamation

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis read the proclamation recognizing October 13, 2025, as Indigenous Peoples' Day in Bellevue and urged everyone to reflect on the history, contributions and resilience of Indigenous people. He noted the City's commitment to building stronger relationships with our tribal neighbors.

Sharon Cini, ADA Title VI Equal Opportunity Officer, Human Resources Department, accepted and thanked the Council for the proclamation. She shared her clan names and heritage and noted her service in the U.S. Navy. She said she is proud to be working as a professional for the City to address disability inclusion, language access, programming and equal opportunity. She said the proclamation represents the existence of her people and Indigenous people across the world who are still here and still matter.

(b) Walk and Roll to School Day Proclamation

Councilmember Bhargava read the proclamation declaring October 8, 2025, as Walk and Roll to School Day in Bellevue. He encouraged everyone to consider the safety, health and well-being of children traveling to and from school today and every day.

Dr. Heather Sanchez, Chief Operating Officer, Bellevue School District, expressed appreciation for the partnership with the City as both parties work to cultivate education, infrastructure, safety and sustainability in the community. She thanked the Council for the proclamation.

(c) Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month Proclamation

Mayor Robinson read the proclamation recognizing October 2025 as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month in Bellevue. She encouraged all residents to learn about ways to support grieving families and to raise awareness around opportunities for prevention and healing.

Erin Hunt, a labor and delivery nurse at Overlake Medical Center, thanked the Council on behalf of the Perinatal Bereavement Team for acknowledging those who have suffered a pregnancy or infant loss. She encouraged those who have suffered a loss to understand that they are not alone and that they never have to forget their baby.

3. Approval of Agenda

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

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

4. Oral Communications

City Clerk Arredondo said the total time for oral communications is for a period not to exceed 30 minutes and topics must relate to City of Bellevue government. Persons speaking to items on the agenda will be called first and if time remains, others will be called. The presiding officer is authorized to give preference to individuals who have not spoken to the Council within the past 60 days or who are speaking to items that will come before the Council in the upcoming 60 days. Ms. Arredondo said each speaker is allowed up to three minutes to speak and a maximum of three speakers are allowed to speak to any one side of a particular topic. In compliance with Washington state campaign laws regarding the use of public facilities, no speaker may support or oppose a ballot measure or candidate.

Mayor Robinson asked everyone to be polite and to refrain from obscene language and rudeness. She reiterated that speakers should address topics directly related to City of Bellevue government. She suggested that if anyone is unable to speak tonight, they are welcome to submit their comments via email to Council@bellevuewa.gov.

(a) Joe Kunzler referred to Agenda Item 12(a) regarding a proposed ordinance to impose repeat offender minimum sentencing for certain theft crimes. He expressed concern regarding an individual who was found incompetent to stand trial for a trespass violation. Mr. Kunzler said the King County District Court should restore a competency ruling. He asked a fellow speaker to avoid using the Nazi salute at public meetings. He thanked the Council and the City Attorney's Office for their service to the community.

- (b) Alex Tsimerman expressed concern regarding the Council's rules governing oral communications during public meetings. He said he has been trespassed from the City a number of times. He asserted that the Council is antisemitic.
- (c) Lee Sargent said that, over the past few years, he has observed Councilmembers doing their job and working through differences of opinion. He said the Council always comes to a conclusion and he believes the Council has focused on ways that are hopeful for the City and the people the Council represents. Mr. Sargent said he appreciated the Council's efforts.
- 5. Reports of Community Councils, Boards, and Commissions: None.
- 6. Report of the City Manager: None.
- 7. Council Business and New Initiatives: None.
- 8. Consent Calendar
 - Deputy Mayor Malakoutian moved to approve the Consent Calendar, and Councilmember Nieuwenhuis seconded the motion.
 - The motion to approve the Consent Calendar carried by a vote of 7-0, and the following items were approved:
 - (a) Council Minutes
 - Minutes of September 16, 2025 Regular Meeting*
 - Minutes of September 23, 2025 Regular Meeting*
 - (b) Resolution No. 10545 authorizing execution of an Interagency Connection Agreement between Bellevue and King County for the use of the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS).
 - (c) Resolution No. 10546 authorizing execution of Amendment 7 and supplements, if necessary, to the Interlocal Cooperative Agreement with King County for the Conservation Futures program, providing the City with 1,565,881 for a completed property acquisition in the Coal Creek/Lakemont neighborhood.
 - (d) Resolution No. 10547 authorizing execution of: 1) an Interagency Agreement Amendment 6 with the Washington State Department of Enterprise Services (DES) to add project management services in the amount of \$38,300, plus all applicable taxes, to support work at the Bellevue Aquatic Center, and 2) a Funding Approval Amendment with DES in the amount not to exceed \$689,189, plus all applicable taxes to construct facility life extending and energy saving upgrades at the Bellevue Aquatic Center.
- 9. Public Hearing: None.

10. Study Session Items

(a) Bellevue World Cup Strategy

City Manager Diane Carlson introduced staff's update regarding the 2026 FIFA World Cup and noted that the Seattle area will host six matches.

Emil King, Director, Community Development Department, said the 2026 World Cup begins June 11 and involves three host countries and 16 cities. The first of the six matches in Seattle will be held on June 15 at Lumen Field.

Lizzette Flores, Cultural Tourism Specialist, said the World Cup is the most-watched sporting event in the world with approximately five billion views during the last tournament. She said the City is developing its tourism strategy. The names and base camps of the teams will not be announced until December 5. If Bellevue is chosen as a base camp, the local strategy will be updated and expanded. The six games in Seattle will be held on June 15, June 19, June 24, June 26, July 1 and July 6 and are expected to bring 145,000 visitors to King County.

Ms. Flores said Seattle Center is hosting the Official FIFA Fan Zone in King County offering large-scale viewing experiences, entertainment and cultural programming. Additional Fan Zones are being planned in nine communities across the state. The Seattle Chamber of Commerce and other regional partners are offering grant funding to support World Cup related activities outside of Seattle. The grants are designed to empower community organizations and small businesses to host their own events and activations, bringing the tournament to neighborhoods across the region.

Ms. Flores said that as the state's second largest hotel market, Bellevue is well prepared to welcome an anticipated 15,000 World Cup visitors, with an economic impact of \$23 million. She said the City and community are planning opportunities for residents to engage in activities, including food, music and cultural events, without needing a ticket to the games. Ms. Flores described infrastructure and maintenance investments in preparation for the World Cup including improvements to light poles around the Grand Connection and a new large-scale mural in the BelRed Arts District. Staff is planning programming for parks and City Hall open spaces, public art, and block parties.

Ms. Flores said that on Seattle match days, the City will encourage residents and visitors to take the light rail 2 Line to major events and work. She said there will be public activations at the light rail stations before, during and after the matches. She said work is underway to develop curated tourism trails around light rail stations. The City's partners include Visit Bellevue, Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA), BelRed Arts District, The Spring District, Eastside Regional Tourism Council and others.

Ms. Flores said next steps include a public information event and a call for station activations on October 22. She said the City will inform local events organizers and cultural organizations of grant opportunities and the partnerships to be offered leading up to the tournament. She said

efforts to address human trafficking will be amplified ahead of the tournament to train businesses to recognize and to know how to respond to signs of human trafficking. She said business readiness resources related to the World Cup will be shared with the community.

Mayor Robinson thanked staff for the presentation.

Councilmember Lee said the World Cup is a great opportunity to showcase this region to the world. He asked whether there are plans for events in areas along and south of I-90, east of I-405 and down to Renton. Mr. King said there will be a significant number of first-time visitors to Bellevue. He said Visit Bellevue is a great partner in this effort and is promoting Bellevue as a good central point for access to activities and nature around the region. Mr. Lee encouraged staff to consider events in the areas he referenced above.

Mr. Lee asked about plans for traffic management and overall public safety, including human trafficking. Mr. King said multiple departments are working to plan event locations and security measures. He said the Bellevue Police Department and the Fire Department will ensure that events are well-planned, well-staffed and safe for the community.

Councilmember Hamilton said he appreciated all of the planning in preparation for the World Cup and increased tourism. He asked about planning for the possibility that light rail will not begin operating across Lake Washington before the matches begin. Ms. Flores said City staff is in close communication with Sound Transit staff and the current status anticipates a timely opening in 2026. She said the activations planned for the light rail stations will benefit the community and riders. Mr. King said that if light rail is delayed, bus service will be enhanced to accommodate the surge in visitors.

Mr. Hamilton referred to the agenda memo, which states that the World Cup is an opportunity for entrepreneurs and cultural organizations to share their creativity and rich heritage. Mr. King said the City will provide resources for people and organizations who want to participate in this effort. He said the City's Community Programming Fund distributed grants over the past year for culturally based events. Mr. King said the first public outreach event will be held on October 22 to introduce the effort to the community. Ms. Flores said more information about the World Cup and Bellevue's local planning is available online.

Responding to Mr. Hamilton, Ms. Flores said staff is working to establish an email address for the public to contact the City. Staff will forward inquiries to the appropriate person or group. Mr. King said the City will publicize major events and anticipated traffic impacts for specific dates. Councilmember Hamilton suggested a mechanism for the public to sign up for periodic email alerts.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis thanked staff for the update and expressed his enthusiasm for the World Cup, noting that he has attended previous tournaments and formerly played professional soccer. He thanked staff for addressing human trafficking and said FIFA acknowledges that this is a problem at every World Cup tournament. Councilmember Nieuwenhuis asked whether FIFA is working directly with the police department and/or other staff. Ms. Flores said staff have been working with the police department, which has expertise in this area, and the police department

is working with regional partners. Mr. Nieuwenhuis encouraged the police department to reach out to FIFA as well.

Mr. Nieuwenhuis asked whether staff is working with King County Metro and the City of Seattle to discuss and coordinate transportation issues and impacts. Ms. Flores said Sound Transit is aware and supportive of Bellevue's plans, and the City is also working with local organizations and the Seattle Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Nieuwenhuis encouraged planning for the possibility that light rail does not begin operating across the lake before the World Cup. He requested an update following the announcement on December 5 about the teams that will play in Seattle.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis asked whether the art installations will be permanent. He asked whether Bellevue residents and/or arts organizations will have the opportunity to participate in that effort. Ms. Flores described plans for a permanent mural in the BelRed Arts District and the expansion of utility box wraps. She said residents may provide input through the Arts Commission. Mr. King said art will be discussed during the initial outreach event on October 22.

Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Ms. Flores said staff across departments is exploring ways to streamline the permitting process for block parties and potentially other events. Mr. King said the cultural grant process over the past year will help inform any opportunities for streamlining.

Councilmember Sumadiwiryia commended staff for proactively planning to address human trafficking. As a community ambassador for human trafficking, she believes it is important to learn how to recognize and prevent trafficking. She asked whether the City is working with partner organizations to provide training for retail businesses and public events. Ms. Flores said the City is coordinating with an organization as well as with the police department to design the best approach.

Ms. Sumadiwiryia asked about plans for supporting and promoting small businesses during the World Cup. Ms. Flores said the City will offer grants to encourage activations as well as information to help businesses determine what might be best for them.

Councilmember Bhargava said the World Cup is a huge event, second probably only to the Olympics, and he is pleased to see it coming to this region. He suggested incorporating elements related to the World Cup into events over the next year to build excitement in the community for the tournament. Mr. King said the outreach event on October 22 will address opportunities and potential coordination between the City and organizations.

Mr. Bhargava commented on the importance of planning to ensure emergency response access throughout Bellevue despite the increased traffic and number of visitors. He encouraged a focus on increased transit safety. He suggested planning for the potential of an event that might require sheltering in place or emergency evacuation. Mr. Bhargava asked about plans to increase the service levels for public transit during the Seattle matches.

Deputy Mayor Malakoutian thanked staff for the update. He concurred with Councilmember Bhargava's interest in establishing the City's risk management approach to World Cup events and increased tourism. He said issues include traffic impacts, transportation, crowd management

and public safety. Responding to Mr. Malakoutian, Mr. King said staff have not yet developed performance measures to evaluate the success of the City's approach. He said they will include factors like the number of visitors and economic impact. Mr. Malakoutian suggested trying to measure the potential legacy impact of local efforts.

Mayor Robinson encouraged expediting the completion of a continuous bike route on Main Street from the East Main area to Old Bellevue. She suggested a prominent banner on the City's website referring people to Visit Bellevue for business and event information. She said there will be a huge increase in the demand for light rail and bus service. She said there is currently plenty of parking available at the South Bellevue Park and Ride. She suggested exploring additional parking options if needed, such as church parking lots, with a shuttle service.

(b) Overview of Hazard Mitigation Plan and Disaster Debris Management Plan

City Manager Carlson introduced staff's presentation regarding the Bellevue Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Disaster Debris Management Plan. She noted that the consultant, Christina Wollman, Senior Planner with Perteet, was available to answer questions as well.

Kristi Oosterveen, Capital Facilities Planning and Programming Manager, Transportation Department, asked the Council to consider directing staff to return with a resolution to adopt the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan at a future meeting. She said staff would also provide an update on the Disaster Debris Management plan.

Carl Lunak, Emergency Manager, Fire Department, said the City has a number of emergency plans including tactical plans (Incident Action Plans, Standard Operating Procedures), Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Strategic Plan, and the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (including the Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Disaster Debris Management Plan). He said the definition of mitigation is any action taken now to reduce future disaster losses.

Mr. Lunak said the purpose of the Hazard Mitigation Plan is to identify natural hazards, assess vulnerabilities and capabilities, and identify mitigation actions. The benefits of planning are to understand the City's risks, prevent injury and loss of life, reduce costs and pursue grant funding. He said every dollar spent on mitigation typically saves \$6-13 in response and recovery costs.

Mr. Lunak said the planning process began with a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The City followed the competitive bidding process to select the consultant, Christina Wollman, Senior Planner with Perteet. Mr. Lunak said every City department has been involved in the planning process and there have been a number of public outreach opportunities to provide input regarding the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Mr. Lunak described the hazards identified for this area including severe weather (high risk), earthquake and landslide (medium risk), and drought, wildfire, volcano, flood and dam failure (low risk). He said 33 mitigation strategies have been identified to address all hazards.

Mr. Lunak said the Hazard Mitigation Plan has been submitted to the Washington State Emergency Management Division for review and will then be reviewed by FEMA before action by the Council to adopt the plan.

Ms. Oosterveen said a key priority after a disaster is to reopen the transportation system, which includes clearing debris. The purpose of the Disaster Debris Management Plan is to identify resources, minimize recovery time, facilitate local coordination, identify priorities and strategies, identify relevant regulations and to follow FEMA guidance for reimbursement. A number of cities have joined with Bellevue including Clyde Hill, Hunts Point, Yarrow Point, Medina and Newcastle.

The plan provides information regarding types of incidents, plan activation, priority routes, debris collectors and haulers, site monitors, temporary debris sites and local coordination. Ms. Oosterveen presented a table of debris estimates and resource needs for Bellevue and its partner cities in the event of an earthquake or severe weather. She presented maps depicting the priority travel routes throughout Bellevue. Temporary debris management sites include Bellevue Golf Course, Hidden Valley Sports Park, Lewis Creek Park, Downtown Park, Robinswood Park, Wilburton Hill Park, and Ivanhoe Park (Bellevue School District property).

Mr. Lunak said next steps for the Hazard Mitigation Plan are Council approval of the resolution, FEMA approval and training to support the plan. For the Disaster Debris Management Plan, the next steps are to: 1) complete the RFP (Request for Proposals) process to select a consultant to enter into a relationship with the debris haulers and monitors, and 2) conduct staff training.

Mr. Lunak requested Council direction to staff to return with a resolution adopting the Hazard Mitigation Plan at a future Council meeting.

Councilmember Bhargava asked how the City prepares for low-likelihood, high-severity events. Mr. Lunak said that is an ongoing challenge and involves coordination between the City's operational departments through the planning process. He said the question made him think about the school response. He said the Transportation Department and Utilities Department work together for snow removal and de-icing streets. He said there are ongoing adjustments to the City's response based on specific incidents.

Mr. Bhargava asked whether the City is prepared for a low-likelihood, high-severity event such as an earthquake. Mr. Lunak said plans are in place. However, no one knows for sure what will happen in a disaster. In further response to Mr. Bhargava, Mr. Lunak said the maintenance of lifeline services is addressed in the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. Councilmember Bhargava thanked staff for their work.

Councilmember Sumadiwiryra asked whether there is a plan for reaching out to vulnerable and older members of the community during a major weather event or other disaster. Mr. Lunak said it is not feasible to be able to go door to door. However, the City works with community partners and organizations to encourage ways to check on neighbors and loved ones.

Responding to Councilmember Sumadiwiry, Ms. Oosterveen said the City has contacts with all of the partner cities involved in Bellevue's Disaster Debris Management Plan. She said the cities of Beaux Arts, Kirkland and Redmond declined to engage in a joint planning effort. She said Bellevue staff provide annual updates to their counterparts in other cities to share information.

Councilmember Hamilton asked how the City plans to support community members to prepare for disasters. Mr. Lunak referred the public to the City's OEM web page for extensive information in multiple languages. He said staff will continue public outreach to educate and help prepare the community.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis thanked staff for the thorough presentation. Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Ms. Oosterveen said staff hoped to engage Beaux Arts in Bellevue's debris removal planning efforts. She said Beaux Arts' officials were skeptical and expressed concern that Bellevue might want to use their jurisdiction to store debris. Ms. Oosterveen said staff tried multiple times to reopen communications without success. She said the City of Kirkland indicated they did not believe debris was an issue for them. The City of Redmond was interested in participating with Bellevue but did not have adequate funding. Ms. Oosterveen said the City of Bellevue decided to have its own plan because staff wanted to be able to establish agreements with debris haulers and monitors.

Councilmember Lee said it was great to have a plan and to be prepared. Responding to Mr. Lee, Mr. Lunak said mitigation includes preventative measures, such as proper tree maintenance to prepare for wind events. Ms. Oosterveen said the City provides public information regarding emergency preparedness for residents and businesses.

Deputy Mayor Malakoutian thanked staff for their work. He asked whether staff has conducted any social vulnerability mapping to anticipate the impacts to specific groups (e.g., senior adults, renters, low-income residents, non-English speaking residents). Ms. Oosterveen said an analysis was conducted by the consultant and staff could provide more information if desired.

Responding to Mr. Malakoutian, Ms. Oosterveen confirmed that environmental stewardship staff have been involved in emergency planning efforts.

Mayor Robinson, noting that she now serves on the King County Flood Control District Board, asked about the risk ranking for flooding. Mr. Lunak said flooding falls below a volcano in the risk ranking due to the anticipated impact on the community. He said while flooding occurs somewhat regularly, the economic impact is low and there is a very low risk or threat to human life or health. Ms. Robinson recalled past weather events in the Factoria area that flooded low-income housing and suggested that flooding prevention and mitigation should be a higher priority.

Responding to Mayor Robinson, Ms. Oosterveen said the City did not receive FEMA funding after last year's significant windstorm. She said the State's request was rejected and an appeal was rejected as well.

Responding to Ms. Robinson, Mr. Lunak said the Utilities Department's emergency water plan included an assessment of wells in Bellevue. He said they are working with the Washington State Department of Health's Office of Drinking Water to assess which wells might be viable as an emergency water supply.

Mayor Robinson suggested bringing back adoption of the resolution on a future Council consent calendar.

→ Deputy Mayor Malakoutian moved to direct staff to return with a resolution adopting the City of Bellevue Hazard Mitigation Plan as a consent calendar item at a future meeting. Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.

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

11. Land Use Reports: None.

12. Other Ordinances, Resolutions and Motions

- (a) Ordinance No. 6866 adding a new Section 1.16.030 to Chapter 1.16 Enforcement Provisions of the Bellevue City Code to impose repeat offender sentence enhancement for certain theft crimes.

Mayor Robinson recalled that this item was previously discussed by the Council on September 23.

Trisna Tanus, City Attorney, said the intent of the ordinance to impose mandatory minimum sentencing for certain theft crimes is to reduce public disorder crimes in Bellevue. During the September 23 discussion, the Council directed staff to prepare a repeat offender sentence enhancement ordinance for action and to include inpatient treatment as an alternative. The ordinance applies to 3rd degree theft by repeat offenders who are 18 years and older and incur two or more convictions for theft in the state over a two-year period. An inpatient treatment alternative is available for defendants who meet prescribed criteria. The court may order electronic home monitoring if the sentence would present a substantial risk of mental or physical harm. Additional diversion programs are available for eligible defendants.

→ Councilmember Nieuwenhuis moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6866 to impose a repeat offender sentence enhancement for certain theft crimes. Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 6-1, with Councilmember Hamilton dissenting.

13. Written Reports: None.

14. Unfinished Business: None.

15. New Business: None.

16. Executive Session: None.

17. Adjournment

At 7:53 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared the meeting adjourned.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC
City Clerk

/kaw