

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Special Meeting

September 10, 2024
4:00 p.m.

Conference Room 1E-113
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Robinson, Deputy Mayor Malakoutian and Councilmembers Hamilton, Nieuwenhuis, Stokes and Zahn

ABSENT: Councilmember Lee

1. Interview of City Manager Candidate Diane Carlson

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m., with Mayor Robinson presiding. All Councilmembers were present with the exception of Councilmember Lee.

Mayor Robinson recalled that on May 28, a candidate profile for the next city manager was adopted by the Council and the Council decided to move forward with an interview of the acting city manager for the permanent role before determining whether to conduct a national search. The purpose of this meeting is to give the Council the opportunity to interview the acting city manager, Diane Carlson. Ms. Robinson said that Councilmembers would be allowed to ask questions and there would be no opportunity for public comment. However, the Council will take public comment during its regular meeting following the special meeting.

Mayor Robinson said no final decision would be made today. She said two public forums are scheduled for Ms. Carlson to respond to interview questions submitted by the community: Thursday, September 12, 3:00 p.m. and Saturday, September 14, 12:00 p.m. Those meetings and tonight's meeting will be recorded and broadcast via Channel 21, Bellevue TV, and livestreamed on Bellevue TV's YouTube channel. Attendees will be asked to submit feedback on comment cards following the interviews. The information will be compiled by Human Resources Department staff and provided to the Council.

Councilmembers took turns asking questions of Ms. Carlson regarding a number of topics: leadership style, approach for motivating staff to achieve organizational goals, strategic planning, enhancing the City's regional and statewide influence and leadership, teamwork approach, budgeting, community engagement, crisis prevention and management, communications, areas for improvement within the organization, growth planning, innovation, collaboration and communication with the Council, and approach to addressing diversity, equity and inclusion.

Mayor Robinson thanked everyone for attending. She said the Council anticipates making a decision within the next few weeks about how to proceed next in the hiring process.

The special meeting concluded at 4:47 p.m.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC
City Clerk

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