## CITY OF BELLEVUE CITY COUNCIL

### **Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting**

September 24, 2024 6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers Bellevue, Washington

<u>PRESENT</u>: Deputy Mayor Malakoutian and Councilmembers Hamilton, Lee, Nieuwenhuis,

Stokes and Zahn

ABSENT: Mayor Robinson

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m., with Deputy Mayor Malakoutian presiding. He asked everyone to refrain from speaking out of turn or interrupting others to ensure a productive and respectful meeting.

Mr. Malakoutian noted that Mayor Robinson would be unable to attend the meeting.

- → Councilmember Hamilton moved to excuse Mayor Robinson's absence from tonight's meeting, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.
- $\rightarrow$  The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

### 2. Roll Call; Flag Salute

City Clerk Charmaine Arredondo called the roll and all Councilmembers except Mayor Robinson were present. Councilmember Zahn led the flag salute.

(a) Bellevue SchoolPool Walk and Roll to School Day Proclamation

Councilmember Stokes read the proclamation declaring October 9, 2024, as Bellevue SchoolPool Walk and Roll to School Day and encouraged everyone to consider the safety and health of children traveling to and from school today and every day.

Melissa DeVita, Deputy Superintendent, Bellevue School District, thanked the Council for the proclamation and for their continued support of students and their safety.

### 3. Approval of Agenda

- → Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the agenda, and Councilmember Zahn seconded the motion.
- $\rightarrow$  The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

#### 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.

- (a) Pamela Johnston said that she sent the Council a note about land banks. She said an example of a land bank is where a local government allows an organization to use a city-owned property, instead of giving the property to the organization. She said this would provide borrowing power for funding that could be used for grants to other organizations to meet additional community needs and priorities.
- (b) Tika Smith introduced herself as a new adult member of the Bellevue Youth Link Board. Akira Sharma, a youth member of the Bellevue Youth Link Board, invited the Council to the annual Gumbo Night on Wednesday, October 23. This event is an opportunity for Bellevue Youth Link members to talk to elected officials and community leaders about topics and priorities affecting youth.
- (c) Jaskaran Saro expressed concern about jewelry theft crimes, which seem to often be focused on targeting people from India. He said these crimes cause physical and emotional trauma.
- (d) Alex Tsimerman expressed concern regarding antisemitism and discrimination.
- (e) Tim Motts, Boys and Girls Clubs of Bellevue, announced that one of the club's team members will be surprised on September 25 with an all-expense paid trip to next year's Super Bowl. He invited the Council and the public to the Lake Hills Clubhouse from 2:00-3:00 p.m. to participate in this nationwide event in partnership with the National Football Leauge.
- 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

- → Councilmember Zahn moved to approve the Consent Calendar, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.
- → The motion to approve the Consent Calendar carried by a vote of 6-0, and the following items were approved:
  - (a) Resolution No. 10415 authorizing execution of amendment to increase the three-year contract value of the Energy Smart Eastside Boost Program Administration Contract #81186 with Hopelink from \$262,727 to \$440,648.
  - (b) Resolution No. 10416 authorizing execution of a five (5) year Master License and Software Support Agreement with Granicus, LLC for licensing and maintenance of the current permit tracking system, AMANDA, with a total contract amount not to exceed \$764,000.00 plus all applicable taxes.
  - (c) Resolution No. 10417 authorizing the purchase and execution of a purchase order and all documents necessary with Peoria Ford to purchase 40 Police Interceptor Utility vehicles for the Bellevue Police Department, in an amount not to exceed \$1,970,000, plus all applicable taxes.
  - (d) Resolution No. 10418 authorizing an increase in the construction contract with Lakeside Industries (Bid No. 24000) by \$499,400.00 for a total contract amount of \$7,086,471.50, plus all applicable taxes, for the 2024 Overlay Program (CIP Plan Nos. PW-M-1, W-16, PW-R-46, and PW-R-199).
  - (e) Resolution No. 10419 authorizing execution of all documents necessary for the acquisition of a property in the West Lake Sammamish neighborhood area, at 1800 West Lake Sammamish Pkwy SE, including a purchase and sale agreement, in an amount not to exceed \$1,950,000, plus related closing costs.
  - (f) Resolution No. 10420 authorizing execution of an amendment to increase the contract value of the Energy Smart Eastside Boost Heat Pump Reimbursement Contract # 2450078 with Hopelink from \$1,700,000 to \$4,410,090 and extending the end date of the contract from February 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025. Funding for this increase is sourced from grants awarded to Energy Smart Eastside and accepted by Council in 2024. No new funding is being requested to support this initiative.

# 9. <u>Public Hearing</u>

(a) Second Public Hearing on the Preliminary 2025-2026 Operating Budget and the 2025-2030 Capital Investment Program Plan

Acting City Manager Carlson introduced the public hearing on the preliminary 2025-2026 operating budget and 2025-2030 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan.

John Resha, Chief Financial Officer, Finance and Asset Management Department, said this is the second of three public hearings regarding the budget and CIP Plan.

- → Councilmember Zahn moved to open the public hearing, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.
- $\rightarrow$  The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.
- 1. Courtney Nygaard, representing People for Climate Action, encouraged increased funding to address greenhouse gas emissions. She suggesting expanding the Energy Smart Eastside program, developing new programs to decarbonize multifamily buildings, and increasing public transit service.
- 2. Scott [unable to verify last name], a Downtown Bellevue resident for six years, said he has lived in a number of different cities across the country. He expressed support for People for Climate Action's efforts to address greenhouse gas emissions. He said a recent near-death medical emergency taught him to not take things for granted, including the people, fresh air and beauty of the Pacific Northwest. He encouraged enhanced public transit and proactive environmental stewardship.
- 3. Sara Ikeda, a senior at Bellevue High School, thanked the Council for their efforts in advancing sustainability funding. She said she is affiliated with both Seattle Humane and the Seattle Aquarium, where she hosted a beach cleanup event. She expressed concern regarding sustainability in aquatic habitats and the overall Bellevue environment. She said she has encountered significant obstacles related to transportation access and safety. She said that while the light rail station near Bellevue High School is within walking distance, the surrounding environment is not conducive to safe walking. She said many female minorities are apprehensive about using public transportation due to safety concerns. She urged the City to provide funding to increase safety on public transit and improve cross-town bus service.
- 4. April Stevens expressed concern about the environment and its impact on the health and well-being of her children and grandchildren. She said the City's greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal is not optional. She said clean air and water are fundamental services to be provided by local government. She is a volunteer with the People for Climate Action group. She expressed appreciation for the City's new Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) staff and said more funding is needed to fully implement the programs to meet the City's greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal. She said there are similar-sized cities that spend significantly more than Bellevue in this area.
- 5. Bill Westre expressed support for the budget request submitted by People for Climate Action to accelerate the City's greenhouse gas emissions reduction program. He encouraged replacing natural gas and fuel oil furnaces with new electric heat pump technology, which also provides air conditioning. He said federal, state and Puget Sound Energy (PSE) rebates are available to convert to heat pumps. He expressed support for

- the request from People for Climate Action that the City provide \$5.8 million in the budget for rebates for lower and middle-income households converting to heat pumps.
- 6. Paul Bruno, a member of People for Climate Action, encouraged the City to decarbonize multifamily buildings. He said many of the buildings are in need of energy performance enhancements and some may need to transition from the use of natural gas. He said People for Climate Action recommends that the City budget \$2.5 million annually to assist 100 multifamily buildings of less than 20,000 square feet in improving energy efficiency. Mr. Bruno thanked the City for all it is doing to address climate change.
- 7. Irene Budlong, a member of People for Climate Action, said Washington State has passed legislation to make buildings more energy efficient. However, the regulations focus on buildings with more than 20,000 square feet. She encouraged the City to assist smaller offices, multifamily development and commercial buildings to convert to heat pumps. She suggested expanding the Energy Smart Eastside program for homeowners to work with owners of commercial buildings as well. She encouraged an increase in more frequent cross-town bus service to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- 8. Alice Meng, a member of People for Climate Action, asked the Council to provide funding to decarbonize homes, 100 multifamily buildings with less than 20,000 square feet, and 20 commercial buildings under 20,000 square feet, and to enhance cross-town bus service. She said some similar-sized cities spend five times what Bellevue spends on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and suggested that the City allocate \$9.8 million toward that goal. She noted that 11 organizations co-signed the letter to the Council in support of the budget request from People for Climate Action.
- 9. Christopher Randels, speaking on behalf of Complete Streets Bellevue, expressed support for the Vision Zero investments in the budget. He thanked the City for a number of safety projects, including sidewalks. He said they appreciated that Bike Bellevue funding will be increased to \$1 million per year. He expressed support for funding of \$2 million per year in the CIP for the Vision Zero Rapid Build Data-Driven Safety Program. Mr. Randels urged the Council to provide more funding for Vision Zero projects to meet 2030 goals.
- 10. Putter Bert, President and CEO of KidsQuest Children's Museum, thanked the Council for their support and partnership over the years. She highlighted a brief history of the museum and said they are currently raising capital funds for a new facility.
- 11. Alex Tsimerman commented on the need for affordable housing for low-income senior adults and disabled persons. He commented on the City's utilities discounts for seniors and disabled persons and questioned whether they are truly needed by every recipient, given that they own a house. He said renters do not receive the same discounts or rebates.
- 12. Jiadong Gu said he attends Bellevue High School and is a member of the Youth in Climate Action Team. He expressed concern about the impacts of climate change, including related to increasingly volatile storms and weather patterns. He thanked the

- City for increasing staffing in the environmental stewardship office. He expressed support for efforts to convert to heat pumps. He commented on the need to implement projects quickly to meet greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals.
- 13. Vishnu Mangipudi said he feels an obligation for him and his generation to advocate for a cleaner and more sustainable future. He thanked the Council for all of their support and investments to date to address greenhouse gas emissions and environmental stewardship. He commented on environmental justice and accomplishments related to cleaner transportation systems. He urged the City to implement plans, including the Mobility Implementation Plan, as quickly as possible. He encouraged a continued focus on a multimodal transportation system including bike, transit and pedestrian facilities.
- 14. Valentina Vaneeva said that 20 percent of Washington residents do not drive and 68 percent of those residents cited car ownership and insurance costs as the barriers to driving. She encouraged the City to lower the speed limit in the Crossroads area. She commented on the need to expand the bike network and thanked the Council for the projects that have been completed. She encouraged increasing funding for Vision Zero projects through a transportation benefit district. She encouraged everyone to participate in the National Week Without Driving Challenge beginning on September 30.
- 15. Pearl Leung, Co-Chair of the Friends of the Grand Connection, said Amazon and others began working together approximately one year ago to support the Grand Connection crossing. She commented on their role as advocates for the project and partners with the City to identify and help secure funding. She said there are now 39 steering committee members and 20 partner organizations in the Friends of the Grand Connection group. Ms. Leung said they launched their web site earlier this year, increased their social media presence and participated in community events to advocate for the project. She said they meet regularly with City economic development staff for ongoing coordination and partnership. She thanked Maher Welaye, Transportation Department, and staff for their assistance and collaboration. She expressed support for funding in the budget for the Grand Connection project.
- 16. Arman Bilge, a Bridle Trails resident, recalled a bike ride six months earlier with Councilmember Nieuwenhuis, Councilmember Zahn and Acting City Manager Diane Carlson. He noted an earlier ride with Mayor Robinson, Deputy Mayor Malakoutian and Councilmember Hamilton. Mr. Bilge said he believes everyone has learned more about how important it is to fund safety projects for all modes of travel. He expressed support for the budget and expressed appreciation for projects to enhance safety around schools and through the Vision Zero program. He encouraged using a transportation benefit district to fund projects.
- 17. Katie Wilson, General Secretary of the Transit Riders Union, expressed enthusiasm for the expansion of light rail and improvements to the bus network. She expressed support for the regional transit coordinator position in the proposed budget. She noted the importance of public transit and of speed and reliability in transit services. She thanked the Council for their efforts to encourage and support multimodal transportation.

- 18. Annmarie Dooly, an Overlake Medical Center physician, expressed support for increased funding for the Vision Zero program.
- 19. Pamela Johnston commented on a number of longtime Bellevue residents who have left the community, due in part to decreased affordability. She expressed concern about bike projects that have not been completed and encouraged a focus on completing bike infrastructure in the Spring District.
- → Councilmember Zahn moved to close the public hearing, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.
- $\rightarrow$  The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.
- 10. Other Ordinances, Resolutions and Motions
  - (a) 2024-2044 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update Part 2 Review of Planning Commission's Recommended Updates

Acting City Manager Carlson introduced discussion regarding the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update and noted that staff is requesting direction to prepare an ordinance for Council action at a future meeting.

Emil King, Director, Community Development Department, recalled that the Council last discussed the update on September 10. He said there has been additional input from the public since that time.

Mr. King said this type of Comprehensive Plan update occurs every 10 years. The plan delivers a roadmap for growth and the proposed amendments unlock opportunities for more types of housing, affirm Bellevue's commitment to sustainability and achieve more equitable policy impacts. The plan focuses growth in the Downtown, BelRed, Wilburton, Crossroads, Eastgate and Factoria areas. He said recent public comment is reflected in the amended plan. He recalled that during the September 10 Council meeting, there was discussion regarding allowing more time for community feedback, future land use in the Eastgate area, planning for transportation, electrical capacity, small business retention and proposed density at the Crossroads Mall site.

Mr. King highlighted a technical correction to the future land use map for the Eastgate area based on comments from Michelle Wannamaker on September 10 regarding two parcels.

Deputy Mayor Malakoutian thanked staff for their extensive work on the periodic update. He thanked the community for their involvement and input, including during the past couple of weeks. He said the Comprehensive Plan is the cornerstone guiding Bellevue's future development as an equitable community.

Councilmember Zahn expressed support for the update and thanked Ms. Wannamaker for noting the discrepancy in the future land use map based on the Eastgate/I-90 study.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis thanked his colleagues for supporting the additional two weeks for continued community input. He thanked the Planning Commission and staff for all of their work and expressed support for the update.

Councilmember Lee said he appreciated the community engagement. Responding to Mr. Lee, Mr. King said the plan was developed with the involvement of all of the City's boards and commissions. He said Transportation Department staff reviewed the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan and concurred with the updates.

Councilmember Hamilton thanked staff and the Planning Commission for their significant efforts on the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update. He said he was ready to move forward.

Councilmember Stokes thanked staff for their great work.

- → Councilmember Zahn moved to direct staff to return with an ordinance approving the 2044 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update. Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.
- $\rightarrow$  The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

At 7:27 p.m., Deputy Mayor Malakoutian declared a short break. The meeting resumed at 7:37 p.m.

### 11. Study Session Items

(a) Budget Deliberations: Discussion of the Basis and Resources associated with the Preliminary 2025-2026 Operating Budget and the 2025-2030 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan

Acting City Manager Carlson noted that this is the second study session in budget deliberations.

John Resha, Chief Financial Officer, Finance and Asset Management Department, said the second budget public hearing was held earlier in the meeting. He said there will be three study sessions in October for an overview of the budget by strategic target areas. The final public hearing will be on November 12 and budget adoption is anticipated on November 19.

Mr. Resha highlighted a chart depicting tax growth in dollars from 2019 to 2030. He noted the slight dip in revenue growth for 2024 followed by increased revenues in 2025 and beyond. Key taxes are the property tax, sales tax, business and occupation (B&O) tax, utilities tax and real estate excise tax (REET).

Evan Phillips, Financial Strategy and Performance Director, referred the Council to page 69 of the budget book for more information on revenues. He said revenues total \$1.6 billion in the 2025-2026 budget. Taxes provide 43 percent of revenues, and charges for goods and services (i.e., utilities) generate 20 percent of revenues.

Mr. Phillips said the one percent property tax increase reflects an increase of \$11.66 in 2025 for a home valued at \$1.19 million. He noted that 12 percent of the overall property tax bill goes to the City of Bellevue and remaining revenues go to the State, Bellevue School District, King County and other jurisdictions.

Mr. Resha said reserves have historically been held within departments or as an unnamed fund balance. However, the process was changed this year. He referred to Chapter 8, page 95, of the budget book for information regarding reserves (i.e., operating reserves, capital and replacement reserves, compensation and risk reserves, planning reserves and development services reserves). He said the budget does not contemplate appropriating those reserves unless there is a need to use reserve funds.

Mr. Resha commented on the overall budget and financial plan. He said historically Bellevue has appropriated all of its cash, including reserves, in an unallocated fund balance. This budget reflects appropriations only for expenditures, which makes it appear that the budget has been reduced from the previous biennial budget. Mr. Resha said expenditures are aligned with revenue sources without transfers. He noted that staffing for capital projects has been moved from the operating budget to the CIP Plan.

Deputy Mayor Malakoutian thanked staff for their work on and improvements to the budget process.

Councilmember Lee thanked staff for streamlining and increasing transparency in the budget process. Responding to Mr. Lee, Mr. Resha said the majority of reserves are in line with their historical levels. Mr. Phillips said some of the reserves are set based on actuaries's determinations as required under state law. Responding to Mr. Lee, Mr. Resha said the planning reserves total approximately \$91 million.

Councilmember Stokes thanked staff for their work on the budget and complimented the improvements to the process.

Councilmember Hamilton thanked staff for their thorough review and streamlining of the budget. He concurred with the change in how reserves are reflected in the budget. He expressed support for the property tax adjustment, noting the annual impact of \$11.66 for a house valued at \$1.19 million.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis thanked the public for their comments and input regarding the budget and CIP Plan. Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Mr. Phillips said other jurisdictions receiving funds through property tax revenues include the King County Library System, Sound Transit and the Port of Seattle.

Councilmember Zahn said she appreciated the thoughtfulness and data-driven approach reflected in the budget document. She requested more details regarding reserve levels. She expressed an interest in a future Council discussion regarding funding options to accelerate investments.

Deputy Mayor Malakoutian said he had three questions that he would forward to staff for later follow-up with the Council.

Rebecca Horner, Director of the Development Services Department, introduced Jake Hesselgesser, Assistant Director; Teri Jones, Fiscal Manager; Tom Mullins, Issaquah School District and Matt Feldmeyer, Renton School District. Ms. Horner highlighted the agenda for the presentation.

Mr. Hesselgesser noted a projected increase in development activity from 2023 to 2024. However, he acknowledged a slowdown in the development pipeline due to challenging financing conditions at this time. He said a future decrease in interest rates will likely help stimulate development. He presented a bar chart of building permit valuation levels since 2014 and noted the decrease in valuation since 2021. He presented a chart of major projects square footage since 2015, which peaked in 2022 and has decreased since that time.

Mr. Hesselgesser said staff has been focused on process improvements in recent years through engagement with the Bellevue Development Committee, customers and other stakeholders to streamline the permitting process. He noted the permit fee reduction program and expedited permitting process to help encourage the development of affordable housing.

Mr. Hesselgesser recalled Council direction on June 11 to implement permit streamlining measures consistent with Senate Bill 5290. He said the proposed budget include three measures related to reasonable fees, budgeting for consultant contracts and identifying contingent positions for quick response.

Mr. Hesselgesser recalled the 100-percent cost recovery objective for development services fees in the areas of business support, inspection, engineering review and land use discretionary review. There is no cost recovery objective for pre-submittal support, policy development, public information or code enforcement work. He reviewed the financial management guiding principles regarding a funding structure to support development services through economic cycles, paying for services received, predictable and understandable fees, and regionally competitive fees.

Teri Jones, Fiscal Manager, said the proposed fee adjustments update hourly rates and flat fees, update the building valuation table to 2024 and apply the Washington State modifier, and adjust building permit fees by CPI-W (3.49%). She said the proposed adjustments are the result of the cost-of-service study and fee analysis conducted annually. She presented a table depicting the current and proposed hourly rates for land use review, fire review and inspection, transportation review and inspection, and utilities review and inspection, with the increases ranging from 3.3 percent to 8 percent.

Ms. Jones highlighted proposed flat fee adjustments for land use review simple tree removal, right-of-way review for street use, minor commercial projects and single-family 500-square-foot additions. She compared fees of other jurisdictions and said Bellevue's fees are comparable to the City of Redmond and lower than fees in the City of Seattle.

Director Horner provided information regarding updated school impact fees for the Issaquah and Renton School Districts. The fees are collected by the City through the building permit process and transferred to the districts. A portion of the Lake Washington School District also falls within Bellevue's city limits. Ms. Horner said the fees are used to support capital programs. All of the school impact fees are decreasing in 2025 for single-family and multi-family development.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis thanked staff for the presentation. He expressed support for the proposed development fees and commented on the importance of being predictable and accurate in the permitting process. Ms. Horner said the Bellevue Development Committee has been actively involved in the City's streamlining efforts. She said public education is targeted to where it is needed. Councilmember Nieuwenhuis expressed concern about changes in the requirements or their interpretation during final inspection. Ms. Horner said staff works together to minimize impacts for applicants.

Mr. Nieuwenhuis asked whether the City is able to offer urgent services in extreme cicumstances where a contract could be in jeopardy. Ms. Horner said she is aware of a number of programs in other jurisdictions. She said the City is committed to providing excellent customer service. However, staff understands that there are a lot of permits that need to be addressed.

Responding to Councilmember Nieuwenhuis regarding school impact fees, Tom Mullins, Issaquah School District, highlighted sections of his letter to the Council to describe how the fees are calculated. He said an analysis indicated there is no need for elementary school projects due to growth. However, increased high school enrollment is projected.

Councilmember Zahn said she appreciated the information regarding development services fees and the efforts to ensure the fees are both predictable and regionally competitive. She suggested that a slowdown in development activity is a good time to review practices to identify opportunities for improvement. She asked about the potential for using AI technology to assist with reviews and/or respond to questions about the permitting process. She referred to the concept of expedited permit review and processing mentioned by Councilmember Nieuwenhuis and said that some cities will expedite permits for green buildings, affordable housing or other objectives.

Ms. Horner said staff has been exploring and studying expedited options over the past year. Mr. Hesselgesser said that, consistent with Council direction, staff has focused on helping to expedite and remove barriers for affordable housing projects. He said he is frequently contacted by AI companies. He said there have been a number of pilot projects over the past year and he anticipates that the private sector will coalesce around the most effective tools. He said they will continue to monitor the AI industry. Councilmember Zahn said she sees AI as a tool for staff and not a replacement for staff.

Councilmember Stokes thanked staff for the presentation.

Councilmember Lee said Bellevue is a customer-friendly city. He said the code includes some flexibility in interpretation to respond to individual situations. However, he acknowledged that this can sometimes cause confusion.

Responding to Mr. Lee, Ms. Horner concurred and said staff will respond and consider an afteraction where appropriate. As for public input, she said the Bellevue development community has worked closely with the City to identify priority issues they would like to see addressed. Councilmember Lee thanked staff for all of their efforts.

Councilmember Hamilton expressed support for using reserves in 2025 to continue delivering on the City's continuous improvement efforts and to focus on retaining necessary staff. He expressed support for the proposed development services fees. Responding to Mr. Hamilton, Ms. Horner said staff presented the fee adjustments to the Bellevue Development Committee and did not receive much feedback then or since the meeting.

Councilmember Hamilton said he appreciated the streamlining measures, information on school impact fees and the emphasis on affordable housing. He encouraged the consideration of mixed income developments.

Councilmember Lee observed that the residential hourly rates are almost as high as the commercial rates. Mr. Hesselgesser clarified that a flat fee is charged for single-family permits.

Deputy Mayor Malakoutian said the proposed fee adjustments for development services reflect a careful balance between cost recovery and maintaining a competitive environment. However, he noted overall Council comments indicating an interest in ensuring a successful permitting process that is simple, accurate, efficient, transparent, user-friendly and technologically advanced. He suggested exploring practices in other cities as staff continues to seek improvements.

- 12. Land Use Reports: None.
- 13. Written Reports
  - (a) Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) Quarterly Update

Deputy Mayor Malakoutian encouraged everyone to read the Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) quarterly update.

- 14. <u>Unfinished Business</u>: None.
- 15. New Business: None.
- 16. Executive Session: None.
- 17. Adjournment

Deputy Mayor Malakoutian announced that the October 1 meeting has been canceled.

At 8:55 p.m., Deputy Mayor Malakoutian declared the meeting adjourned.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC City Clerk

/kaw