

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

June 23, 2026
6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Malakoutian, Deputy Mayor Hamilton and Councilmembers Bhargava, Briar, Nieuwenhuis, Robinson¹ and Sumadiwiry²

ABSENT: None.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m., with Mayor Malakoutian presiding. He suggested that, depending on the number of people wanting to speak during the public hearing, perhaps speakers should be limited to two minutes instead of three minutes.

2. Roll Call; Flag Salute

City Clerk Charmaine Arredondo called the roll and all Councilmembers were present. Deputy Mayor Hamilton led the flag salute.

3. Approval of Agenda

→ Deputy Mayor Hamilton 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 Council appreciates public comments and supports everyone's right to express themselves. The total time for oral communications is for a period not to exceed 30 minutes and topics must relate to City of Bellevue government. Individuals 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. 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

¹ Councilmember Robinson left the meeting at approximately 9:20 p.m.

² Councilmember Sumadiwiry participated remotely and left the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

campaign laws regarding the use of public facilities, no speaker may support or oppose a ballot measure or candidate.

- (a) Mary Jane Jagodzinski spoke in support of Agenda Item 8(d) regarding transit-oriented development (TOD) and affordable housing and thanked City staff for their work.
 - (b) Matt Larson, Puget Sound Energy, expressed appreciation for the City's investment of resources to complete the Electric Grid Capacity Study.
 - (c) Peggy Jackson said she supports safe parking programs. However, she expressed concerns about whether the Newport Presbyterian Church location is an appropriate site. She suggested a thorough environmental analysis.
 - (d) Nikita Melnichenko, a resident of the Vasa neighborhood, expressed concern regarding child and pedestrian safety. He thanked Bellevue Police Department officers and City staff for walking the area with residents.
 - (e) Andrea Kline said her cooperative housing community strongly supports Ordinance No. 6927 accepting grant funding for the heat pump incentive program.
 - (f) Matthew Rehr said June is Men's Mental Health Awareness Month and September is Suicide Prevention Month. A teen-friendly suicide prevention walk will be hosted by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention at the Bellevue Botanical Garden on Sunday, September 22. He recommended that the City Council sponsor a staff team and help raise awareness about suicide prevention.
 - (g) Noriko Fujita expressed concerns about and opposition to the proposed safe parking program at Newport Presbyterian Church.
 - (h) Richard Rosal expressed concern regarding the siting of the proposed safe parking program in a residential community. He expressed concern regarding environmental impacts and parked vehicles along the road that impede emergency access.
 - (i) Joe Kunzler urged the Council to enforce its rules during oral communications. He said it is unacceptable for an individual to stand up and voice personal attacks against the mayor. He encouraged everyone to value democracy and civility.
 - (j) Pamela Johnston commented regarding the Evans Plaza Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) and zoning. She expressed concern regarding changes in the Bridle Trails neighborhood and future increased density and building heights.
 - (k) Alex Tsimerman shared his allegations about a number of Councilmembers.
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 Hamilton moved to approve the Consent Calendar, and Councilmember Briar 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 June 2, 2026 Regular Meeting
Minutes of June 9, 2026 Regular Meeting
- (b) Motion to approve payment of claims and payroll for the period May 1, 2026 - May 31, 2026.
- (c) Motion to award Bid No. 26008 for the Aqua Vista Sewer Replacement project to Laser Underground & Earthworks Inc., as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, in an amount not to exceed \$881,250, plus all applicable taxes (CIP Plan No. S-24).
- (d) Resolution No. 10645 authorizing execution of a Predevelopment Agreement and future Ground Lease with BRIDGE Housing for the redevelopment of the City-owned Kelly TOD parcel for affordable housing.
- (e) Resolution No. 10646 authorizing execution of a labor agreement between the City of Bellevue and the Washington State Council of County and City Employees, AFSCME Council 2, representing the Land Use Professionals, Planners and Code Compliance Officers in the Land Use and Code & Policy Division of the Department of Development Services, for a four-year contract period starting January 1, 2026, and expiring December 31, 2029. The executed agreement shall be substantially in the form of the agreement in the Council Library.
- (f) Ordinance No. 6927: 1) authorize execution of an amendment with Washington State Department of Commerce to accept \$1,100,000 in grant funding from the 2024 Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate Program for Energy Smart Eastside to make heat pump incentives available to the Silver Glen Senior Cooperative Housing; 2) amend the 2025-2026 budget of the Operating Grants, Donations, and Special Reserve Fund to increase the appropriation by \$1,100,000; and authorizing expenditures of said grant funds.
- (g) Motion to reject all bids for Bid No. 26012, Eastrail to NE Spring Boulevard Trail Link project.

- (h) Ordinance No. 6928 relating to speed limits; amending Chapter 11.32 of the Bellevue City Code to reduce the speed limit on the majority of streets in Bellevue where the allowed limit is currently 30 mph or greater; providing for severability and establishing an effective date.
- (i) Resolution No. 10647 authorizing the execution of a 3-year purchase agreement with Dynamic Systems to provide annual software maintenance for the City's JD Edwards (JDE) Enterprise Resource Planning application, in an amount not to exceed \$720,343.09 plus all applicable taxes. This resolution also authorizes the City to exercise annual options to renew in years four and five for an additional potential expenditure of \$568,590.00 plus all applicable taxes. The total five-year expenditure is \$1,288,933.80 plus all applicable taxes.
- (j) Motion to award Bid No. 26044, SE 60th Street RRFB & Lake Heights and 149th Avenue SE Overlay project to Lakeside Industries, Inc., as the lowest responsible and responsive bidder, in the amount of \$743,117.70, plus all applicable taxes.
- (k) Resolution No. 10648 authorizing execution of amendment to the Energy Smart Eastside Boost Heat Pump Reimbursement Contract with Hopelink, increasing the contract by \$1,165,000 to an amount not to exceed \$11,143,810, plus all applicable taxes.
- (l) Resolution No. 10649 authorizing amendment of an agreement with McKinstry Essention LLC for the Eastside Clean Buildings Technical Support Program by an amount up to \$150,000 for the Clean Buildings Incentive Program.

9. Public Hearing

- (a) Initial Public Hearing on the 2027-2028 Budget and 2027-2032 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Plan

Noting the number of people signed up to speak, Mayor Malakoutian suggested limiting each speaker's comments to two minutes.

- Deputy Mayor Hamilton moved to limit each speaker's remarks to two minutes for the public hearing. Councilmember Nieuwenhuis seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

City Manager Diane Carlson introduced the public hearing regarding the 2027-2028 Budget and the 2027-2032 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Plan.

Emily Inlow-Hood, Deputy Communications Officer, City Manager's Office, commented regarding the community engagement approach related to budget planning. A new Budget 101 session is planned for August 13, transportation information sessions are scheduled for July 16

and 23, and a budget information session is planned for September 30. Neighborhood and community group sessions will be held in August and September as requested. Ms. Inlow-Hood encouraged the public to email questions to FAM@bellevuewa.gov.

Ray Fleshman, Manager of Financial Planning and Analysis, Finance and Asset Management Department, said the preliminary budget will be presented to the Council in September and the second public hearing will be held on September 15. The transportation budget study session is scheduled for July 21. The third and final public hearing will be on October 27 and budget adoption is tentatively set for November 17. The website for more information is <https://bellevuewa.gov/budget> and the public may send comments to the City Council at council@bellevuewa.gov.

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

City Clerk Arredondo noted that the Council received nine written comments regarding the budget and CIP Plan.

The following individuals came forward to comment:

1. Mariya Frost, Vice President of Government Affairs, Kemper Development Company, asked the Council to fund the City's transportation master plan and smart intersection and technology upgrades. She noted the importance of the transportation system to economic competitiveness and long-term mobility. She said safety investments should be data-driven and targeted.
2. Sarah Langton, Executive Director of the Friends of the Grand Connection, thanked the Council for continuing to move the Grand Connection project forward.
3. Laura Pilkington asked the Council to include funds in the CIP Plan for pedestrian pathways on West Lake Sammamish Parkway between SE 34th Street and SE 26th Street.
4. Alice Meng, representing People for Climate Action Bellevue, requested a significant increase in the City's investments in programs that will reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions.
5. Diana Leo, speaking on behalf of the Bellevue Mobility Coalition, asked the Council to prioritize the completion of the transportation master plan, safety investments, multimodal projects, intersection level of service and intelligent transportation systems.
6. Cameron Barajas recalled that People for Climate Action Bellevue submitted a report last summer identifying 12 critical actions needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. He listed a number of jurisdictions, organizations and individuals that have expressed support for the proposal.

7. Gary Young, representing a homeowners association located on SE 29th Court, requested enhanced maintenance of the area cleared after Mayor Robinson visited the neighborhood last year. He thanked the City for its efforts to date and encouraged the trimming of vegetation along nearby streets. Mr. Young encouraged the City to complete improvements to the West Lake Sammamish corridor.
8. David Porter, a member of People for Climate Action, encouraged continued collaboration with the City to address climate change and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
9. Mark Norelius commented on the importance of protecting the natural environment and expressed support for efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions now and for future generations.
10. Marilyn Mayers, representing 350 Eastside, expressed concerns regarding the impacts of climate change and endorsed the work of People for Climate Action Bellevue. She encouraged increased funding to address greenhouse gas emissions.
11. Tracey Cook-Lee urged the Council to increase funding to address climate change mitigation.
12. Sana David, an incoming senior at Interlake High School, said she is a member of the Sustainability Ambassadors and co-chair of the Bellevue School District's sustainability committee. Speaking as an individual, Ms. David expressed concern regarding the impacts of climate change, including wildfires, and encouraged increased resources to address climate action.
13. Nihal Singh urged the Council to increase funding to address climate change and greenhouse gas emissions.
14. Neil Bakshi, an incoming freshman at Interlake High School, expressed concerns regarding the impacts of climate change. He thanked the Council for its work to address sustainability and greenhouse gas emissions. He said Energy Smart Eastside and the City's Mobility Implementation Plan have helped the community move forward in reducing emissions. He said more heat pumps and electric vehicles are needed.
15. Michael Lee, a physician, said that extreme heat has forced the closure of operating rooms at times to prevent the growth of bacteria due to the inability of the cooling system to maintain the proper temperature. He encouraged the Council to consider the medical and health impacts of climate change and to increase funding to reduce emissions.
16. Luke Lee, a student at Newport High School, said he is a member of the Sustainability Ambassadors. Speaking as an individual, he expressed concern about the impacts of climate change on the future. He thanked the Council for its efforts to date and encouraged increased funding to reduce emissions and support multimodal transportation.

17. Court Olson expressed concern regarding the future of the natural environment and encouraged more funding to address climate change.
18. Alexey Kon said he does not feel safe biking and walking in areas of Bellevue. He encouraged the prioritization of the Vision Zero program to enhance safety.
19. Jennifer Keller, a Lake Hills resident, urged the City to move forward strongly to address climate change. She noted the negative impacts on trees and streams. She encouraged enhanced funding and expressed support for the recommendations of the People for Climate Action organization.
20. Valentina Vaneeva, a Crossroads resident, encouraged additional funding for transit and safety projects, especially outside of downtown Bellevue. She noted the need for expanded safe bike access in neighborhoods to light rail stations and the future Grand Connection.
21. Katherine Liu expressed concern about traffic speeds and pedestrian safety. She urged the Council to prioritize Vision Zero projects and street safety programs.
22. Christopher Randels, representing Complete Streets Bellevue, encouraged the Council to prioritize safety and multimodal mobility in the budget.
23. Ava Lo, a student at Newport High School, said she is a member of the Sustainability Ambassadors. Speaking as an individual, she urged the Council to protect the environment and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
24. Barbara Tengtio, president of the League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County, said she is a Bellevue resident. She said the organization's mission is to empower voters and promote democracy. She commented on the importance of a healthy environment and the need to continue to focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
25. Tori Hulverson, an incoming junior at Interlake High School, said she is a member of the Bellevue Youth Council's climate action team. Speaking as an individual, she expressed concern regarding rising temperatures and wildfires. She thanked the Council for the Sustainable Bellevue plan and expressed support for the use of heat pumps.
26. Ben Mickle encouraged increased funding for street safety projects including pedestrian walkways and protected bike lanes. He suggested placing bike lanes on 156th Avenue and Bel-Red Road. He expressed concern that wider roads and increased road capacity will encourage vehicle usage and contribute to higher traffic speeds.
27. Juan Ramos said he loves living downtown and being able to walk to transit, places to eat and the grocery store. He said he has realized that living in a safe and walkable place is a luxury, and he believes that Bellevue has the opportunity to set a strong example of a community with safe and walkable spaces.

28. Matt Jack, Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA), encouraged the Council to continue investments in programs, infrastructure and initiatives that support a vibrant and competitive downtown.
29. Heidi Dean said the top priorities for Bellevue, according to a survey, are prosecuting misdemeanor crimes, reducing travel concerns in downtown Bellevue, improving intersections and roadway capacity, managing residential development, responding to code violations and enforcing traffic laws. She commented on the importance of utilities, transportation, parks and other facilities provided by local government.
30. Vivian Lim, a recent high school graduate, expressed support for efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and encouraged increased funding in the budget.
31. Vanessa, a Newport High School student, said climate change is consistently getting worse. She expressed concern about Bellevue's progress toward meeting its emissions reduction goals.
32. Pamela Johnston suggested that the City's website maintain a list of current projects and hot topics and feature them prominently on the website.
33. Alex Tsimerman expressed concerns related to growth and traffic congestion.
- Deputy Mayor Hamilton moved to close the public hearing, and Councilmember Nieuwenhuis seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Mayor Malakoutian thanked everyone for their comments.

At 8:00 p.m., Mayor Malakoutian declared a break. The meeting resumed at 8:13 p.m.

10. Study Session Items

(a) Financial Outlook of the Broader Economy and Bellevue

City Manager Carlson introduced staff's presentation regarding the City revenue forecast, Development Services Department forecast and Utilities Department rate methodology and forecast.

John Resha, Chief Financial Officer, Finance and Asset Management Department, noted that staff would maintain a memory bank list throughout the Council's discussion to track budget suggestions and questions.

Mr. Fleshman highlighted the budget timeline and noted the public hearings on September 15 and October 27. He said economic issues are affected by inflation, geopolitical instability, labor costs, interest rates/borrowing costs and state legislation.

Mr. Resha noted weaker consumer confidence and rising costs. He said the construction pipeline is stable and growing. However, overall economic recovery and tax growth now looks unlikely before 2029.

Mr. Resha presented information regarding the 2025-2026 Amended General Fund Revenue forecast and the 2025-2034 forecast of City taxes (i.e., property tax, business and occupation tax, sales tax, utility tax and real estate excise tax).

Mr. Fleshman said a statistically valid budget survey is conducted annually and 1,278 responses were received from November 21, 2025 through January 5, 2026. The survey is provided by an outside vendor in multiple languages. Mr. Fleshman highlighted the survey results, noting that 80 percent of residents are neutral to strongly supportive that they are getting their money's worth for their tax dollars. Top budget priorities include public safety, being a livable city, sustainable and reliable transportation system, innovation, and fostering an equitable and caring community.

Mr. Resha said the city manager has indicated that the budget is focused on existing resources. He said the budget will contain the one percent property tax previously approved by the Council at a cost of \$13.50 annually for the average Bellevue home.

Mr. Resha recalled that there has been discussion about the formation of a transportation benefit district (TBD) as an optional revenue source (e.g., sales tax, vehicle fee). He said staff was directed to not include this option in the base budget but to help develop a proposal for Council consideration.

Moving to the Development Services Department forecast, Jake Hesselgesser, Acting Director, provided an update on development and permit activity. He commented on community engagement including the Bellevue Development Committee. He noted the public's interest in streamlining and simplifying the permitting process and improving project management and coordination.

Mr. Hesselgesser recalled the department's financial guiding principles, including that the funding structure should support development services through economic cycles. Permit applicants should pay for services received and fees should be predictable and understandable to the customer. Mr. Hesselgesser presented the cost recovery targets for different types of services.

Teri Jones, Acting Director, Business Services, Development Services Department, described the City's fees and rate methodology. She said Bellevue's permitting fees are competitive with Redmond, Seattle and King County.

Lucy Liu, Director, Utilities Department, opened the utilities forecast and rate setting methodology presentation, noting that rates are the primary funding source for operations and capital projects. Utility rate adjustments are guided by the City's comprehensive financial

policies related to infrastructure investments, system expansion and pass-through wholesale costs. Ms. Liu said the Utilities Department is financially self-sustaining and not subsidized by tax revenues. She presented information regarding the key rate drivers of the 2027-2028 Utilities budget.

Matt Hobson, Fiscal Manager, Utilities Department, presented the rate forecast for the water, sewer and storm water utilities.

Scott Edwards, Deputy Director, Utilities Department, described the impact of the rate increases on multifamily and single family residential monthly bills. He presented a comparison of Bellevue's rates with surrounding cities' rates.

Mr. Edwards commented on the community outreach and engagement process, including news releases, social media, newsletters, community meetings and events.

Councilmember Robinson said the budget is responsive and responsible. She highlighted key priorities including public safety, transportation safety, clean utilities, housing stability, access to parks and green spaces, small business support, and continued investments in programs that support our residents, especially youth. She expressed concern about utilities costs. She expressed an interest in lowering the cost of living by balancing increasing costs.

Councilmember Briar concurred with Ms. Robinson's concern regarding utilities costs.

Councilmember Sumadiwiryra expressed support for traffic safety projects, including trimming vegetation. She thanked staff for their work and for the expansion of the utility bill assistance programs.

Councilmember Bhargava thanked everyone for their work. He concurred with Councilmember Robinson's concern about utility rates and affordability. He commented on the importance of data-driven decisions. He expressed support for exploring revenue options to increase funding related to climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis thanked everyone who spoke during the public hearing and who participated in the community survey. He expressed concern regarding taxes in Washington state including the sales tax, business tax, capital gains tax, estate tax and a new income tax for high-earners. He thanked staff for their emphasis on community engagement.

Deputy Mayor Hamilton thanked staff for the presentation and thanked the public for their input. He commented regarding the state legislative changes to the B&O tax and sales tax and the additional forecast risk. He expressed support for the financial guiding principles referenced in the presentation. He thanked Ms. Liu and Utilities staff for their work to manage rate changes.

Mayor Malakoutian thanked everyone for their input during the hearing.

(b) Electric Grid Capacity Study Overview and Future Implementation

City Manager Carlson opened discussion regarding the Electric Grid Capacity Study.

Emil King, Director, Community Development Department, said the study is important to support growth and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Council included funding for the study in the current budget.

Teun Deuling, Senior Planner, said the purpose of the study was an independent assessment by a consultant regarding current and future grid capacity. He said the City of Bellevue partnered with the City of Redmond to conduct the study and worked in close collaboration with Puget Sound Energy (PSE) to share data inputs and assumptions and to inform the technical scope.

Erin Cherry, Project Manager, AECOM, said the study included a technical assessment of projected loads and grid capacity and a workshop series with PSE to strengthen its partnership with the City.

Kenton Phillips, Building Electrification Lead, AECOM, highlighted the consultant's approach to forecast future conditions. He said the study did not analyze large new loads attributed to data centers, and major industrial uses were not explicitly included. He said the future electricity demand is driven by the building and transportation sectors.

Ms. Cherry said the study found that there is sufficient substation capacity to serve Bellevue over the next 10 years. Four substations are likely to experience capacity pressures by 2035 (i.e., Clyde Hill, North Bellevue, Northup and Somerset).

Mr. Deuling presented seven recommendations for improved coordination and joint planning between the City and Puget Sound Energy (PSE). Three recommendations focus on improved demand forecasting and long-term grid planning and additional recommendations address regulatory responsiveness, local permitting processes and reducing peak demand. Proposed next steps include initiating a semi-annual joint forecasting session, improving communications, and collaborating with PSE on a pilot project to implement demand-side management strategies to reduce peak demand.

Mayor Malakoutian thanked everyone for the information and thanked Councilmember Nieuwenhuis for suggesting the study.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis thanked staff for the approach and data collection. Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Ms. Cherry said she could follow up with more information regarding the four substations with the highest demand. Mr. Nieuwenhuis said he appreciated the partnership with PSE. He expressed concern that Bellevue's growth is close to outpacing the electrical infrastructure. He asked whether development projects are experiencing delays due to infrastructure needs. He expressed support for providing funding in the budget to implement the recommended next steps.

→ At 9:52 p.m., Deputy Mayor Hamilton moved to extend the meeting to 10:10 p.m.
Councilmember Nieuwenhuis seconded the motion.

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

Councilmember Sumadiwirya expressed support for the study and thanked everyone for their work.

Councilmember Bhargava thanked City and PSE staff for their work. He concurred with Councilmember Nieuwenhuis regarding the need for long-term monitoring and planning.

Councilmember Briar expressed support for the study and thanked Mr. Nieuwenhuis for initiating the effort.

Deputy Mayor Hamilton thanked Councilmember Nieuwenhuis, City staff, the City of Redmond and PSE for their involvement in the study.

Staff responded to questions of clarification.

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

At 10:07 p.m., Mayor Malakoutian declared the meeting adjourned.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC
City Clerk

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