

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

November 2, 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 6:10 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 Stokes led the flag salute.

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) Brian McGowan, President and CEO of Greater Seattle Partners (GSP), expressed appreciation for the work of Councilmember Lee and the Council in economic development. He expressed strong support for the Economic Development Plan scheduled for Council action tonight. Mr. McGowan thanked the City's economic development staff for their involvement in helping GSP create a regional economic recovery framework that focuses on equity and inclusion. He thanked Mayor Robinson for her involvement with the mayors work group. Mr. McGowan thanked Bellevue for its leadership in economic development and for prioritizing safety for its residents and workforce. He said GSP looks forward to continued collaboration with the City.

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

6. Report of the City Manager

City Manager Brad Miyake highlighted Agenda Item 8(d), Resolution No. 9835, which authorizes the execution of grant agreements with human services agencies for costs incurred due to the COVID pandemic. On October 12, the City received additional Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Recovery (CARES) Act funding of approximately \$1.1 million for agencies serving Bellevue.

7. Council Business and New Initiatives

There was no discussion.

8. Consent Calendar

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to approve the Consent Calendar, and Councilmember Stokes 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 October 19, 2020 Regular Meeting
- (b) Resolution No. 9833 authorizing execution of an amendment to the professional services contract with MacLeod Reckord PLLC in the amount of \$89,622, to provide additional design and construction support services for the Downtown Park NE Gateway entry project.
- (c) Motion to award Bid No. 20049 for AC Water Main Replacement 2020 Phase 2 to Fury Site Works, Inc., as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, in an amount not to exceed \$4,951,788.33 plus all applicable taxes (CIP Plan No. W-16, CIP Plan No. W-69, and CIP Plan No. S-66).
- (d) Resolution No. 9835 authorizing execution of grant agreements with human services agencies for costs incurred due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

9. Public Hearing

- (a) Public Hearing and action on Resolution No. 9836 authorizing the execution of documents necessary to release a portion of an existing water easement located at 8000 NE 16th Street, which has been declared surplus to the City's needs and is no longer required for providing continued public utility service; the granting and recording of such release being deemed in the best interest of the public.

City Manager Brad Miyake recalled that on September 21, 2020, the Council declared that a portion of a water easement at 8000 NE 16th Street is surplus to the City's needs. He said staff is requesting Council action on the proposed resolution following the public hearing.

Ira McDaniel, Real Property Division Manager, described the proposal and the site, which is located on property owned by the Overlake Golf and Country Club. St. Thomas School owns property next to the golf course and leases a portion of the golf course property. The school is in the process of constructing a new gymnasium inside the leased property, and the footprint of the structure extends over a portion of the existing water line easement. The two property owners will relocate the existing water main and grant a partial release of the new water easements.

Mr. McDaniel requested Council action to authorize the execution of the documents necessary to release the surplus portion of the water easement.

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

No one commented as part of the public hearing.

- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to close the public hearing, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.
- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to approve Resolution No. 9836, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

10. Study Session

- (a) Budget Update - Human Services Commission's Recommendations for 2021-2022 Human Services Funding; 2021 Community Development Block Grants

City Manager Miyake noted that this is the third of six meetings scheduled to discuss the proposed operating and capital budgets. He introduced discussion regarding the Human Services Commission's recommendations for the 2021-2022 Human Services Fund and the 2021 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

Toni Call, Director of the Finance and Asset Management (FAM) Department, said staff is seeking Council direction to prepare ordinances approving the funding recommendations for adoption as part of the overall budget actions tentatively scheduled for December 7. She highlighted the budget process calendar, noting continued discussions on November 9, 16, and

23, with budget adoption slated for December 7. The third and final public hearing will be held on November 23. Ms. Call noted a list of the Council actions to be adopted as part of the overall budget package.

Michael Shiosaki, Director of the Parks and Community Services Department, said staff is seeking Council approval of the recommendations for the Human Services Fund and for CDBG funding. He said the review process was informed by the 2019-2020 Human Services Needs Update, which helps to identify the gaps in services as reflected in the data.

Mr. Shiosaki said the City took steps to address equity throughout the grant process. An information session was held in the fall of 2019 to provide smaller organizations that serve diverse communities with advance notice of funding requirements in order to give them more time to prepare. The City contracted with the nonprofit Communities Rise to provide grant funding technical assistance free of charge during the application period to agencies representing communities impacted by systemic oppression. The Human Services Commissioners received training on how to review applications through an equity lens. Mr. Shiosaki said that all programs that received funding must submit an annual demographic report reflecting the populations the organizations are serving.

Mr. Shiosaki said the grant application deadline was extended by four weeks due to the impacts of the public health emergency. In July, the City asked all of the applicants to provide updates on how the pandemic has affected their programs since submitting their grant applications.

Dee Dee Catalano, Grant Coordinator, said the City received \$7 million in funding requests, significantly more than the \$4.1 million available for human services, which includes the donation from Amazon. The Human Services Commission held 10 virtual meetings over a four-month period and discussed 102 applications during three rounds of review.

Ms. Catalano noted that 10 new human services programs have been recommended for funding. Five of the new recommended programs serve people of color and individuals with disabilities: 1) Bridge Disability Ministries Meyer Medical Equipment Center, 2) Bridge of Promise Bridge Academy, 3) MCRC Information, referrals and resources, 4) Youth Eastside Services Latinx programs, and 5) Latinx Cultural Navigator (agency to be determined).

For CDBG funding, an agency must perform an eligible activity under the federal objectives established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The agency must be in Bellevue or serve Bellevue residents, and the funds must benefit low- and moderate-income residents. The 2021 CDBG budget is estimated at \$1 million based on the 2020 entitlement amount, which includes \$200,000 in program income from home loan repayments.

Ms. Catalano highlighted the 2021 CDBG funding recommendations to the Jewish Family Service Immigrant and Refugee Service Centers, Sound Generations' minor home repair program, the City's major home repair program, and Seattle Business Education Hub technical assistance. The recommendations are detailed in Attachment C of the meeting packet and include funding for CDBG planning and administration.

Ms. Catalano said the City will also receive \$897,000 in special CDBG funding next year to respond to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The City received \$489,000 in CDBG funds earlier this year, which the Council allocated in May. A request for proposals (RFP) will be issued early next year to solicit applications for the special CDBG funding, and the Human Services Commission will present its recommendations to the City Council at that time.

Timothy Ma, Chair of the Human Services Commission, commented on the development of the funding recommendations over a series of 10 online meetings. He said the process was particularly difficult this year due to the significant impacts of the pandemic. He said there is a higher demand for services, while nonprofit organizations are receiving fewer donations and are unable to hold their annual fundraisers. Mr. Ma said that more assistance is needed to provide affordable child care, behavioral health services (especially for youth), legal assistance to address evictions and landlord-tenant conflicts, and funding for domestic violence programs.

The requests for assistance from shelters and day centers for single adults and families experiencing homelessness were nearly 300 percent higher than the 2020 funded amounts. Mr. Ma said that the one-time funding allocated by the City Council for shelter services in 2020 is not included in the 2021 Human Services Fund. He said the Commission's recommendations for shelters and day centers increase their funding as much as possible.

Chair Ma said the Commission was committed to an equitable application review process, keeping in mind that organizations operated by members of underserved communities and communities of color are often more trusted by the populations they serve. He said the organizations were offered grant writing technical assistance through the Eastside Refugee and Immigrant Coalition. He noted the earlier comments regarding five new programs recommended for funding that serve diverse and underrepresented communities.

Mr. Ma said the Commission recommends full funding for the major and minor home repair programs. These programs help to keep low- and moderate-income residents in their homes, and they have been unable to continue operating during the pandemic due to the governor's restrictions. The Commission recommends one new program for CDBG funding, the Seattle Business Education HUB, which provides business technical assistance and financial literacy training. The majority of the organization's clients are women, minorities, and limited English-speaking immigrants.

Chair Ma noted that the Commission's contingency plan addresses how to allocate the grants if funding is higher or lower than anticipated. He thanked the Council for its support of human services.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis, liaison to Human Services Commission, thanked Chair Ma and the commission for the extensive time spent in reviewing the applications. He thanked staff for their guidance and work with the commission.

Mr. Nieuwenhuis expressed support for the recommendations. He commended staff for extending the application deadline and expanding community outreach. He said he appreciated the equity lens applied to the review process. He noted the critical need for affordable child care,

behavioral health services, legal assistance (especially evictions and landlord-tenant issues), and domestic violence survivor services. He acknowledged that food and shelter assistance is always needed.

Mayor Robinson thanked everyone for their hard work and good decision-making. She said there are at least two organizations working hard to support the immigrant community. However, they were unable to complete the grant applications without assistance. Ms. Robinson wondered whether technical assistance could be provided to help organizations achieve a nonprofit status. She suggested coordinating with ELAP (Eastside Legal Assistance Program).

Ms. Robinson said that if additional funds become available, she would like the City to reopen the grant application process. She said the community's needs are changing throughout the pandemic, and the situation is unpredictable.

Councilmember Barksdale thanked the commission and staff for all of their work. He noted the prioritization of agencies already receiving funding from other sources. He expressed concern that newly formed organizations might not yet have funding from other sources.

Mr. Barksdale asked whether any of the agencies provide apprenticeship programs. He asked about the most frequent barriers in meeting the community's needs.

Mr. Ma said the commission recommends that the organizations not rely solely on the City and that they find multiple funding sources. Other review criteria include residents served, target populations, and the community's needs. He noted that financial donations to nonprofit organizations have decreased substantially during the pandemic.

Mr. Ma said he was not aware of any apprentice programs or services through the funded agencies. Ms. Catalano said the City did not receive any applications related to apprenticeship programs. Mr. Ma said that human services funding has been provided to mentorship programs in the past.

Responding to Councilmember Barksdale regarding the challenges for smaller agencies, Mr. Ma said the commission discussed options for simplifying the application process to the extent possible. Mr. Ma said that legal assistance could help individuals form new nonprofit agencies. He said the application process and form have been streamlined in recent years to encourage more applicants.

Ms. Catalano said the commission and staff simplified the financial requirements, especially for smaller organizations with an annual budget less than \$3 million. Those organizations were not required to submit a full audit and were allowed the option of obtaining a third-party review of their financial records.

Councilmember Robertson thanked staff and the commission for their work. She acknowledged that there is significant need in the community for human and social services. She observed that the funding recommendations strike a good balance in the types of services that are supported. She noted that when times are difficult, the City invests more in people and the community. She

expressed an interest in reviewing new organizations that might serve a specific need and/or population in Bellevue.

Councilmember Zahn thanked Chair Ma and the commission for their work, which ultimately helps people in the community. She said she appreciated the diversity and equity training for the commission. She expressed an interest in considering additional new organizations for grant funding in the future. She thanked staff for their efforts to simplify and streamline the application process. Ms. Zahn said the demand for human services will continue to be challenging as the pandemic progresses.

Councilmember Lee thanked Chair Ma, the commission, and staff for their efforts to improve the application process. Mr. Lee said the Council has been asking staff to focus on capacity building in the community. He expressed support for funding for mental health services, especially with the hardships associated with the pandemic. Mr. Ma confirmed that the commission funded programs that provide mental health services for youths, including a Latinx program.

Responding to Mr. Lee, Ms. Catalano said that grant applications totaled \$5.6 million two years ago, and the current applications totaled \$7 million. Ms. Catalano said this is the largest annual increase in funding requests over the past five years.

Councilmember Stokes expressed support for the funding recommendations. He noted that people will continue to come to Bellevue to live and work. He suggested exploring how the City can do an even better job of locating and working with people and organizations in need. Mr. Stokes noted that many people needing help now have previously never needed public assistance or nonprofit social services. He suggested exploring how the City can foster new organizations. He said there will continue to be more challenges as well as more opportunities to address needs.

Mayor Robinson noted that a number of Councilmembers have asked how the City might be able to be more inclusive in granting funding to new organizations that do not currently meet the criteria. She asked what type of technical assistance could be provided to help individuals establish a nonprofit organization.

Mr. Shiosaki said the City offered workshops early in the application process to educate the applicants about the requirements and process. He said staff is always looking for new organizations to engage in addressing human services needs.

Mayor Robinson suggested leaving it to the Human Services Commission to comment on how to assist with the smaller organizations. She suggested that perhaps new small organizations could be allowed to apply for funding next year instead of waiting two years for the next budget cycle.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis agreed with the suggestion to consider additional funding requests next year.

Councilmember Barksdale and Councilmember Robertson concurred.

Councilmember Zahn said she would support reviewing new applications next year.

Councilmember Lee said the Council has been committed to reaching out to small organizations. He expressed support for the commission's funding recommendations

Councilmember Stokes expressed support for the commission's funding recommendations and for considering new applications next year. He noted the Council's priorities to be more nimble and responsive and to provide more funding.

Mayor Robinson noted a Council consensus to direct staff to prepare an ordinance approving the human services and CDBG funding recommendations as part of the City's overall budget adoption in December.

Moving on, Ms. Call followed up on questions raised previously by the Council. She said the Council raised the issue of whether more funds should be transferred from the Capital Investment Program (CIP) to the General Fund. She noted that the use of sales tax revenues is currently split by Council policy directing 75 percent to the General Fund and 25 percent to the CIP Plan. She said the Preliminary Budget proposes adjustments to the sales tax policy split and asks the Council to adopt a budget that moves an additional \$3 million from the CIP to the General Fund for 2021 and 2022 only. The purpose is to support core services during unusual and unpredictable times. Ms. Call said staff is seeking Council direction about whether to transfer the funds.

Keyi Lu, Assistant Director, Finance and Asset Management (FAM) Department, described the process to balance the CIP Plan. After establishing the revenue forecast, the first use of funds is debt service payments, ongoing maintenance of CIP projects, and the continuation of the CIP Plan. Ms. Lu said that the resources projected for the CIP Plan total \$659 million and include retail sales tax, levy funds, real estate excise tax (REET), business and occupation (B&O) tax, grants, fees, and other minor revenues. She said the resources are lower than past CIP Plans due to the loss of revenues associated with the pandemic.

Ms. Lu recalled that the CIP guiding principles were discussed on June 22. The first use of CIP funds is to ensure that debt service and maintenance functions are funded at the appropriate levels. The next priority is to continue to develop and support new and existing projects. Ms. Lu said the \$659 million in revenues are directed as follows: 1) debt, \$179 million, 2) ongoing maintenance, \$134 million, 3) levies, \$135 million, 4) existing CIP (discrete and ongoing) programs, \$180 million, and 5) new projects, \$31 million. In order to allow the funding of new projects, other adjustments included removing the inflationary budget increase for ongoing maintenance programs and reducing construction for some projects.

Ms. Lu described how the CIP Plan was balanced according to the Council's guiding principles. She noted a total of \$120 million for the top Council Vision priorities: BelRed infrastructure projects, affordable housing contingency fund, enterprise application replacement reserve, Downtown Transportation Plan implementation, Grand Connection early implementation, and neighborhood congestion management and safety. Ms. Lu said that approximately \$46 million is allocated to the guiding principle related to community outcomes and needs: Fire Station 5, neighborhood sidewalks, pedestrian and bicycle access improvements, neighborhood traffic

safety program, Vision Zero data driven safety program, public art program, and Fire Station 10 (112th Avenue NE at McCormick Park).

Approximately \$45 million are directed toward a parks operations and maintenance facility, City fleet fuel system replacement, Bellevue Way SE high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane project, City fleet in-ground lift replacement, 130th transit-oriented development (TOD) parking lot paving, and the Major Comprehensive Plan Update. Ms. Lu recalled Council input during the July 22 budget workshop that the City should leverage partnership funding, including the transportation grant match program and King County parks levy funds. She noted that risks to the CIP budget include the cost of inflation, operating maintenance costs, amount of state revenues, and projects on the horizon.

Ms. Call summarized that allocating \$3 million in sales taxes revenues annually in 2021 and 2022 from the CIP Plan to the General Fund is fiscally prudent and reasonable given the current economic uncertainty. The sales tax split to the General Fund and the CIP Plan will return to the original formula in 2023. She said that additional adjustments to the CIP Plan will require tradeoffs. Ms. Call noted ongoing investments in human services, affordable housing, homelessness services, mental health services, access to City services, and issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion. She said the budget does not include the new revenues to be generated through the tax to support housing and housing services.

Councilmember Lee thanked staff for the thorough presentation.

(b) South Correctional Entity (SCORE) Jail Interlocal Agreement

City Manager Miyake introduced discussion regarding the proposed Interlocal Agreement to continue to house misdemeanor inmates at the South Correctional Entity (SCORE) facility. Staff is seeking Council direction to enter into a new five-year Interlocal Agreement with SCORE for ongoing jail services.

Major Mark Tarantino, Bellevue Police Department, said the City entered into a contract with SCORE in August 2012 and is currently one of 40 cities that contracts with the facility. He said the City's jail costs have decreased during the pandemic. Before the pandemic, the City housed 30-35 inmates per day at the SCORE facility. In recent months, the City has typically housed 5-10 inmates daily. Major Tarantino said the jail system has modified a number of protocols to protect the workforce, inmates, and the public during the pandemic.

Major Tarantino said SCORE is waiving booking fees for 2020 and 2021. He said the proposed Interlocal Agreement reserves the City's right to amend the contract based on COVID-related issues. The new agreement lowers the guaranteed bed rate from 25 beds to nine beds. However, there is an option to renegotiate the rates based on the pandemic and future crime trends. The total contract value for the 2021-2025 SCORE Interlocal Agreement is approximately \$5.4 million. The total cost in 2019 was \$1.1 million, and the projected cost for 2020 is \$611,072.

Major Tarantino requested Council direction to return with a resolution on a future consent calendar authorizing the execution of the Interlocal Agreement.

Responding to Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis, Major Tarantino said the City contacted five other cities and their contract rates for jail services are the same. SCORE charges different rates, however, for specific services including medical and mental health services.

In further response to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Major Tarantino said he was unaware of any COVID outbreaks at the SCORE facility or within the Bellevue Police Department. Mr. Tarantino said BPD is not booking individuals into jail for low-level misdemeanor crimes. However, if an individual becomes a chronic problem in the community and a threat to public safety, there is an option for booking them into jail.

Councilmember Robertson expressed support for the Interlocal Agreement and suggested that the item come back for Council action as a consent calendar item. She said the SCORE facility provides certain mental health services that are not available at other jails. She noted that the King County Executive has stated that he would like to close the King County jail in Seattle. She expressed concern about the proposed move because the jail provides programs (e.g., addiction treatment, mental health services) that are not available at other facilities.

Responding to Ms. Robertson, Sergeant John Burgos said the City considered contracting with the Wapato County jail but decided against it. He noted that the facility later filed for bankruptcy.

Responding to Councilmember Zahn, Director of Intergovernmental Relations Joyce Nichols said the Interlocal Agreement allows the renegotiation of the contract terms based on post-COVID conditions. She said the costs are capped, which was one of the City's major concerns.

Ms. Zahn expressed support for the Interlocal Agreement and thanked everyone for their work.

Responding to Councilmember Lee, Assistant Police Chief Patrick Arpin said the savings in jail costs will be reallocated to other needs and unanticipated costs in the budget.

Councilmember Stokes expressed support for the Interlocal Agreement. He said it will be interesting to see how things go throughout and following the pandemic. He said that perhaps this provides the opportunity for a new perspective on jail services.

Councilmember Barksdale expressed support for the Interlocal Agreement and thanked the police department for prioritizing facilities with mental health services.

Responding to Mayor Robinson, Major Tarantino said the City's inmate population decreased over a period of several months. There was a daily average of five inmates in August and 11 inmates in September. However, overall crime rates are down.

Mayor Robinson noted a Council consensus in support of taking formal action approving the Interlocal Agreement on a future consent calendar.

At 7:55 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared a short break. The meeting resumed at 8:05 p.m.

11. Land Use

- (a) Ordinance No. 6542 approving the Puesta del Sol Conditional Use Permit application by Bellevue School District; an application to demolish Bellewood Elementary School to construct a new one- to three-story, 102,143-square-foot elementary school on a 9.93-acre site located at 301 151st Place NE. Permit File No. 18-130014-LB.

City Manager Miyake introduced the Council's consideration and final direction regarding the Puesta del Sol Conditional Use Permit (CUP) application by the Bellevue School District to demolish Bellewood Elementary School and to construct a new 102,143-square-foot elementary school on a 9.93-acre site located at 301 151st Place NE. He recalled that the matter was initially discussed by the Council on October 19.

Nick Melissinos, Deputy City Attorney, said this is a Process III quasi-judicial matter in which the Hearing Examiner issues a recommendation to the Council. The Council's role is to consider and take final action on the application based on the information included in the Hearing Examiner's record. The Hearing Examiner recommends approval of the permit, and no appeals were filed.

The Council's alternatives are to: 1) approve the CUP application as recommended by the Hearing Examiner, 2) approve the application with modifications or conditions, 3) remand the application to the Hearing Examiner to direct an additional hearing for specific issues, or 4) deny the application. Ordinance No. 6542 approves the CUP permit application, subject to the Hearing Examiner's recommendation and conditions.

Mr. Melissinos suggested that, because this is a quasi-judicial matter, Councilmembers be provided an opportunity to disclose any ex parte communications regarding the project. He said staff has searched all emails received through the Council's email addresses and found no ex parte communications for Councilmembers to disclose. However, Councilmembers should disclose any additional contacts including the name of the person, date or approximate date of the contact, method of communication, and the substance of the communication.

Mayor Robinson and all Councilmembers indicated that they had no ex parte communications to disclose.

- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6542, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

12. Other Ordinances, Resolutions, and Motions

- (a) Resolution No. 9834 adopting the Bellevue Economic Development Plan which sets forth direction to guide the City's economic development activities over the next five years.

City Manager Miyake said staff is seeking Council approval of Resolution No. 9834, which adopts the updated, five-year Bellevue Economic Development Plan. He recalled that there have been eight Council discussions with staff and the consultants regarding the plan update.

Mac Cummins, Director of the Community Development Department, said the Economic Development Plan will guide the City's efforts over the next five years. He thanked staff, the consultants, community stakeholders, and others for their hard work and input throughout the update process.

Jesse Canedo, Chief Economic Development Officer, thanked the Council for working with staff over the past year as the Economic Development Plan was updated and reformatted. He said the plan reflects where Bellevue is now and where it wants to be following the pandemic and related economic recession. Mr. Canedo said the plan addresses capacity building to identify additional partners for delivering services to the business community and residents. It also addresses small businesses, diversity and equity, and workforce training and development. Mr. Canedo noted an emphasis on retail activity, the creative economy, and tourism.

Councilmember Lee said the plan will help Bellevue's economy rebound and recover from the impacts of the pandemic. He highlighted the performance metrics and action items. He said he appreciated all the work by staff and others to update the plan. He thanked staff for their significant efforts during the pandemic to assist small businesses. Mr. Lee thanked Brian McGowan of the Greater Seattle Partners (GSP) for his comments earlier in the meeting.

Mr. Lee referred to the use of "multimodal and advanced options" in the transportation section of the workforce strategy. He suggested being more specific about potential alternatives and adding language referring to autonomous connected electric shared (ACES) technology.

Mr. Lee suggested adding tax increment financing (TIF) to the City's state legislative agenda. He wants to have as many tools available as possible to assist with economic recovery.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis expressed support for the updated Economic Development Plan. He encouraged Bellevue's strong leadership in economic recovery and development. He asked how the City will grow Bellevue's brand while also educating about the community regionally, nationally, and internationally. He noted that Bellevue is known for major technology employers and other businesses.

Mr. Nieuwenhuis thanked the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce for commenting on the Economic Development Plan. He noted that the Chamber shares the Council's priorities related to child care services for the workforce, supporting local businesses, and the importance of a

multimodal transportation system. Mr. Nieuwenhuis thanked staff for their great work on the updated Economic Development Plan.

Councilmember Zahn expressed support for the plan and praised Bellevue's leadership in economic development. She looks forward to continued partnership with the Greater Seattle Partners. She said the plan addresses both small and large businesses as well as issues around diversity, equity, and inclusion. She said the plan encompasses many aspects of Bellevue's quality of life including the people, the jobs, the arts, and partnerships. She said it is important to be sure that staff has the resources needed to implement this ambitious plan. She noted the importance of including multimodal transportation as an aspect of economic development. Ms. Zahn said she appreciates the interest in creating resiliency in the local economy.

Ms. Zahn said the City's Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) Plan includes a strategy for creating a sustainable eco-district linking property owners, tenants, the City, and other groups. She suggested adding a reference to that in the Economic Development Plan. She observed that creating an eco-district provides an opportunity to attract economic development to Bellevue.

Councilmember Barksdale expressed support for all of staff's outreach, research, and analysis. He expressed support for the plan and acknowledged the ability to adjust the plan as the City's needs change.

Councilmember Robertson said this has been a tremendous effort and she is very happy with the plan. She noted that Bellevue's economy and community are strong due to the efforts of past City Councils and staff who have implemented a vision of economic development while maintaining a high-quality residential environment. She said Bellevue is well positioned for continued investment and growth. She said she is grateful for the actions of previous City Councilmembers who valued community investments and overall quality of life. Ms. Robertson noted that she was ready to take action that evening if her colleagues agreed.

Councilmember Stokes expressed support for the plan and thanked everyone for their hard work and input. He said he is pleased with the City's involvement with the Greater Seattle Partners. He recalled his past involvement with the Economic Development Council led by former governor Chris Gregoire. Mr. Stokes said he believes Bellevue will be able to come out of the pandemic well positioned for economic recovery. He thanked staff for the revisions to the plan since the Council's last discussion.

Mayor Robinson thanked Mr. Cummins, Mr. Canedo, and Ms. Marsh for their significant work to update the Economic Development Plan and for their extensive efforts in response to the pandemic to assist small businesses. Ms. Robinson observed that two important priorities for any community are to be welcoming and safe. She noted her commitment to ensuring a good quality of life across Bellevue with convenient access for everyone to good schools, parks, jobs, and other amenities.

Ms. Robinson noted three recommendations from Councilmembers tonight: 1) add language regarding ACES technology to the section on multimodal transportation, 2) add language regarding the creation of an eco-district, and 3) add tax increment financing (TIF) to the

Council's state legislative agenda. Mayor Robinson asked about the implications of implementing the three suggestions.

Mr. Canedo said that the concept of an eco-district would fit into both the small business and capacity building categories of the plan.

Responding to Mayor Robinson, Ms. Nichols said that cities have tried for many years to achieve state legislation that would allow tax increment financing. She noted the need to resolve a conflict between the state constitution and TIF provisions. Ms. Nichols said it is unlikely that the state legislature would address this topic during the next session.

Responding to Ms. Robinson, Mr. Canedo said that the ACES technology is covered under the multimodal and advanced transportation options section of the plan. He said the ACES concepts are also reflected in Bellevue's Smart City Plan.

Councilmember Zahn reiterated her request to add language regarding the creation of an eco-district, as described in the City's ESI Plan. Mayor Robinson noted a Council consensus in support of Ms. Zahn's suggestion.

Councilmember Lee acknowledged that the ACES concepts are reflected in the Smart City Plan. He said the effectiveness of the transportation system is critical for economic development. Mr. Lee observed that the Economic Development Plan ties together all of the related components.

Responding to Mayor Robinson, Mr. Canedo suggested that staff add general language about the ACES concepts without tying the technology to a goal in the five-year plan.

Councilmember Robertson suggested adding a few words to reflect Councilmember Lee's ACES concept. She asked where language regarding an eco-district would be added in the plan.

Councilmember Zahn noted that a desired outcome is a sustainable and equitable city. She suggested that the eco-district concept would fit well in that section of the plan. Mr. Canedo said the concept would be covered under the capacity building and small business areas.

Philippa Marsh, Economic Development Manager, suggested adding the ACES and eco-district references to the foundational strategy section because they involve other City departments. She said the concept of an eco-district is consistent with the goal of cultivating attractive and diverse business districts across the city. She proposed minor revisions to the plan to address the concepts.

Mayor Robinson expressed support for the suggested revisions.

Councilmember Stokes concurred.

Responding to Councilmember Robertson, Ms. Marsh commented further on her suggested revisions on pages 15 and 16 of the plan.

Councilmember Lee indicated his support for the revisions.

Mayor Robinson noted the Council's interest in discussing TIF when staff presents the draft state legislative agenda.

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to approve Resolution No. 9834 adopting the Bellevue Economic Development Plan, with the inclusion and emphasis on the addition of eco-district language and ACES technologies language. Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.

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

13. Unfinished Business: None.

14. New Business: None.

15. Executive Session: None.

16. Adjournment

At 8:54 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared the meeting adjourned.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC
City Clerk

/kaw