

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

February 11, 2025
6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Robinson, Deputy Mayor Malakoutian and Councilmembers Hamilton, Lee, Nieuwenhuis, Stokes and Zahn¹

ABSENT: None.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m., with Mayor Robinson presiding.

Ms. Robinson said individuals are not allowed to disrupt the meeting, which includes talking out of turn or without permission, interrupting or making sounds when someone else is talking or approaching a Councilmember or City employee who is staffing the meeting. If a person disrupts the meeting, Mayor Robinson will issue a warning, end the speaker's comment time or ask the person to leave the room for the rest of the meeting. She asked everyone to express themselves without name-calling, taunting or disparaging others.

2. Roll Call; Flag Salute

City Clerk Charmaine Arredondo called the roll and all Councilmembers were present. Councilmember Lee led the flag salute.

(a) Day of Action and Remembrance for Japanese American Incarceration During World War II Proclamation

Councilmember Stokes read the proclamation recognizing February 19, 2025 as the Day of Action and Remembrance for Japanese American Incarceration During World War II. He urged all members of the community to reflect on this dark chapter in our nation's history and to maintain a commitment to protecting everyone's civil rights.

Sheldon Arakaki, Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), accepted and thanked the Council for the proclamation. He said the incarceration of Japanese Americans affected the lives of approximately 120,000 individuals on the West Coast, including 60 families in Bellevue. He

¹ Councilmember Zahn participated remotely.

encouraged everyone to visit the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial at Eagle Harbor. Mr. Arakaki said the new Japanese Remembrance Gallery at the Washington State Fairgrounds tells the story of the Puyallup Assembly Center.

3. Approval of Agenda

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

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

4. Oral Communications

City Clerk Arredondo said the total time for oral communications is for a period not to exceed 30 minutes and topics must relate to City of Bellevue government. Persons speaking to items on the agenda will be called first and if time remains, others will be called. The presiding officer is authorized to give preference to individuals who have not spoken to the Council within the past 60 days or who are speaking to items that will come before the Council in the upcoming 60 days.

- (a) Pamela Johnston asked the Council to prohibit dual office-holding and to ask Councilmember Zahn to resign from one of her offices. She said the Council has the authority to prohibit a person from being eligible for a Councilmember position while they are holding any other elected office. She expressed concern about potential conflicts of interest when serving in two offices and said there are legal and ethical questions.
- (b) Christopher Randels, representing Complete Streets Bellevue, expressed support for the King County Metro RapidRide K Line. He noted they submitted a letter of support to the Council in collaboration with a number of organizations. He spoke to the need for expanded, reliable transit service.
- (c) Alex Tsimerman expressed his concern regarding the Bellevue School District.

Mayor Robinson asked Mr. Tsimerman several times to address a topic related to City business. Following the expiration of his allotted time to speak, Mayor Robinson indicated that he was disrupting the meeting.

5. Reports of Community Councils, Boards, and Commissions

- (a) Fourth Quarter 2024 Report and Communication from the Parks and Community Services Board [*Written information only, no presentation.*]

6. Report of the City Manager

- (a) Yarrow Point Franchise Agreement and Water and Sewer Rate Amendments

City Manager Diane Carlson introduced staff's briefing regarding the Yarrow Point franchise agreement and water and sewer rate amendments.

Ms. Carlson thanked the team of staff from the Transportation Department, Utilities Department, Parks and Community Services Department, and Finance and Asset Management Department for keeping Bellevue streets free of snow and ice during the recent winter weather event.

Lucy Liu, Director, Utilities Department, highlighted three items on the consent calendar related to the daily administration of the Utilities Department: 1) franchise agreement with the Town of Yarrow Point, 2) amendment to water rate ordinance, and 3) amendment to the sewer rate ordinance. The updated franchise agreement addresses emergency response procedures, process for removing or relocating facilities, better coordination of projects to minimize disruptions to community and rules for collecting franchise fees and taxes. Ms. Liu said the City's current rate ordinances allow for changes to utility rates if a town increases or decreases the franchise fees paid by the City of Bellevue to use the public right-of-way. The proposed ordinances on the consent calendar will allow the Utilities Department to address rates when excise taxes increase or decrease as well.

7. Council Business and New Initiatives: None.

8. Consent Calendar

→ Deputy Mayor Malakoutian 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

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(b) Resolution No. 10468 authorizing execution a five-year agreement, with an option to extend for two additional two-year terms, between the City of Bellevue and American Traffic Solutions, Inc., doing business as Verra Mobility, for the continued use of automated cameras to issue notices of red-light infractions at selected arterial intersections and speeding infractions at selected elementary schools within City limits.

(c) Resolution No. 10469 authorizing the execution of a Professional Services Agreement with HDR, Inc. in the amount of \$935,000.00, plus all applicable taxes, for planning and engineering design services for the 114th Avenue SE and SE 8th Street Complete Streets Project (CIP Plan No. PW-R-207). This project is partially funded by the Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity and Congestion Levy (PW-R-199).

- (d) Resolution No. 10470 authorizing execution of a grant agreement (and supplements if necessary) with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to accept up to \$3,500,000 in federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) funding to support design of the NE Spring Boulevard Zone 3, Arterial/Multimodal Network Completion Project, part of the NE Spring Boulevard (Zone 3) - 124th Ave NE to 130th Ave NE Program (CIP Plan No. PW-R-210).
- (e) Resolution No. 10471 authorizing execution of a professional services agreement with Urbancraft Consulting, LLC, in the amount of \$354,860, plus all applicable taxes, for engineering services to support demolition of four City owned, buildings along West Lake Sammamish Parkway SE.
- (f) Resolution No. 10472 authorizing the City Manager, or her designee, to accept a new, non-exclusive franchise from the Town of Yarrow Point for the purpose of operating water and sewer utilities within the Town's public rights-of-way.
- (g) Ordinance No. 6832 establishing revised sewerage service charges for the Sewer Utility for the City of Bellevue; repealing Ordinance No. 6818; providing for severability; and establishing an effective date.
- (h) Ordinance No. 6833 establishing revised charges for water service, water consumption, and water standby capacity for private fire protection for the Water Utility for the City of Bellevue; repealing Ordinance No. 6819; providing for severability; and establishing an effective date.

9. Public Hearings: None.

10. Study Session

- (a) Proposal for Renewal of King County Medic One Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Levy

City Manager Carlson introduced staff to present the proposed renewal of the King County Medic One levy for emergency medical services.

Genesee Adkins, Deputy City Manager, said King County EMS initiated a year-long process in 2024 that took a comprehensive look at the current levy. She noted that Mayor Robinson participated in this process and chaired one of the subcommittees.

Michele Plorde, EMS Division Director, King County, said the current six-year levy expires on December 31, 2025. King County hosted a regional eight-month process to develop recommendations for the strategic plan and finance plan for voter renewal of the levy in 2025. The Medic One EMS system serves more than 2.3 million people and provides lifesaving services approximately every two minutes. In 2024, Medic One responded to more than 255,000 calls in King County. In 2023, the survival rate for cardiac arrest was 51 percent throughout the

region, and cardiac arrest victims here are 2-3 times more likely to survive compared to other regions.

Ms. Plorde said Medic One uses a tiered response model based on medicine and science, is equity driven, and is committed to providing high-quality care. She said the program has been consistently funded through levies, which have proven to be reliable and stable. She described how the increase in population correlates with an increase in Basic Life Support (BLS) call volumes since 2020. The number of Advanced Life Support (ALS) calls has remained relatively stable.

Ms. Plorde said that 80 percent of all calls have a median response time of 10 minutes or less, and most responses are within five to eight minutes. She commented on the increasing diversity in the community with a growth in Asian, Hispanic and multiracial communities and an increase in the number of King County residents born outside of the United States. She presented a map depicting all of the languages spoken throughout the county.

Ms. Plorde said creating the next strategic plan involves identifying programmatic needs, developing a financial plan, providing sufficient reserves and developing a recommendation regarding levy length, rate and ballot timing. She said the current levy started at a rate of 26.5 cents per \$1,000 assessed valuation (AV). It generated \$1.115 billion over six years for ALS and BLS services, regional services, strategic initiatives and financial reserves. The average cost for a homeowner in 2020 was \$193 for the year.

Ms. Plorde said the EMS advisory task force was composed of 20 elected officials and decision-makers from the Sound Cities Association (SCA), King County Council, cities with greater than 50,000 in population and fire departments. The group was chaired by the King County Executive's Office and had four subcommittees: ALS, BLS, regional services and finance. Ms. Plorde highlighted the subcommittees' recommendations. She thanked Mayor Robinson for her oversight of the finance subcommittee, which recommended: 1) conduct a risk analysis to determine appropriate reserve funding to help safeguard the Medic One/EMS system from unforeseen financial risk, and 2) incorporate sufficient reserves and contingencies to mitigate financial risk and provide flexibility.

Ms. Plorde said the main revenue drivers are the beginning AV for the new levy, new construction levels, split between the City of Seattle and King County, and the amount of reserves to carry forward from the current levy. Main drivers in terms of expenditures and reserves are the number of ALS units and cost per unit, cost escalators, reserves and contingencies, and new or enhanced services. Ms. Plorde presented a risk analysis of four possible scenarios under the new levy rate of 25 cents. The recommended 2026-2031 EMS levy package totals \$1.5 billion.

Ms. Plorde summarized that the task force supported the subcommittee programmatic recommendations for a levy rate of 25 cents, with the levy to be on the ballot in November 2025. The annual cost to a homeowner with a home valued at \$850,000 is \$212.

Battalion Chief Matt Burrow, EMS Division, Bellevue Fire Department, said staff is seeking direction to bring a resolution on a future consent calendar in support of placing the proposed 2026-2031 EMS levy on the November ballot. He said Bellevue is one of five agencies in King County with Medic One units, which have been operating since the early 1970s. Bellevue's four units are at Overlake Hospital, Fire Station 2 (Eastgate), Issaquah Highlands and North Bend. The Medic One program provides ALS services to Bellevue, five contract cities, Eastside Fire and Rescue, Fall City Fire, City of Snoqualmie Fire, Snoqualmie Pass Fire, portions of Kirkland and Redmond, and throughout King and Kittitas County as needed.

Chief Burrow said all Bellevue firefighters are trained as EMTs and paramedic training is offered through the University of Washington Harborview Medical Center program. He noted that the Community Advocates for Referral and Education Services (CARES) social workers program has been funded through the levy.

Chief Burrow said the levy package provides \$4 million per ALS unit, for a total of \$16 million for Bellevue. BLS funding totals approximately \$6.1 million. The levy focuses on maintaining the exceptional public service provided through the Medic One program. The current 2020-2025 levy package reflects total funding of \$107 million.

Chief Burrow said the King County task force unanimously supported the proposed levy recommended by the subcommittees. He requested direction to staff to prepare a resolution for a future consent calendar in support of placing the 2026-2031 EMS levy on the November ballot.

Mayor Robinson said she felt fortunate to be a part of this process and to review the data. She said there is a clear need for the funding to continue to serve the community. She described the levy recommendation as moderate and expressed support for placing it on the ballot. She thanked everyone who worked on this effort.

→ Deputy Mayor Malakoutian moved to direct staff to prepare a resolution for action on a future consent calendar in support of placing the proposed 2026-2031 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) levy on the November 2025 ballot. Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

Councilmember Lee expressed support for Medic One's regional approach. Responding to Mr. Lee, Ms. Plorde said that nine of the 11 King County cities/agencies are needed to approve placing the measure on the ballot. She said this was her first presentation. Mr. Lee expressed support for the motion.

Responding to Mr. Lee regarding diversity, Ms. Plorde said local and regional staff work together to plan how to best serve their communities. She said one of the initiatives of the King County Fire Chiefs is to make the workforce look more like the community. She said there are regular recruitment workshops to help people learn how to apply.

Councilmember Hamilton said the regional approach to emergency medical care ensures that Bellevue residents and workers receive the best possible care and that the cost of the care is shared throughout the county. He commended Fire Department personnel for their response to a

fire recently in his neighborhood. Councilmember Hamilton said he appreciated the BLS subcommittee and the King County Fire Chiefs Association's support for mental wellness and diversity and inclusion efforts. Mr. Hamilton expressed support for the CARES program.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis thanked everyone for their work. He said the levy development process has been well managed and transparent. He thanked Mayor Robinson for her leadership in this effort. He expressed support for placing the levy on the ballot.

Deputy Mayor Malakoutian thanked staff for the presentation and thanked everyone who has been involved in this process. He expressed support for the motion. For follow-up, he requested specific, quantifiable data to demonstrate the impact of EMS services (e.g., lives saved, reduction in transfers to hospitals). Ms. Plorde said Medic One tracks numerous metrics including the percentage of cardiac arrest survivals and bystander CPR.

Councilmember Stokes commented on the collaborative effort of the Fire Department and the community. He expressed support for the motion and thanked everyone for their work.

Councilmember Zahn expressed support for the motion and thanked Mayor Robinson for her work on the task force. Ms. Zahn said she wants to ensure that personnel continue to be well trained and have the tools they need to be successful.

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

At 7:09 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared a break. The meeting resumed at 7:23 p.m.

(b) King County Metro RapidRide K Line – Transit Priority Lanes and Public Engagement

City Manager Carlson introduced staff's update regarding King County Metro's RapidRide K Line project.

Andrew Singelakis, Director, Transportation Department, said the RapidRide K Line project aligns with the Council's priorities and the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update. In June 2024, the Council adopted the RapidRide K Line guiding principles.

Ryan Whitney, RapidRide K Line Lead, King County Metro, said the RapidRide network investments have had a positive impact on ridership. The K Line is the second RapidRide route on the Eastside. The 16-mile route has 35 station pairs that provide frequent service (every 10-15 minutes) to regional transit connections.

Mr. Whitney said staff would like to return in March requesting a letter of support for the locally preferred alternative. Staff will revise the project vision and submit it to the King County Council for adoption in June. Metro will submit the Small Starts grant application in August and preliminary design of the K Line will begin in Fall 2025.

Lluvia Ellison-Morales, Sr. Community Engagement Planner, Metro, said a preferred concept was defined last summer and the final concept was adopted early this year. She said Metro has been working with communities, including to conduct the needs assessment. An online survey launched on January 16 and will close on February 13. It is available in multiple languages. Additional community engagement includes briefings, open house meetings, tabling events, virtual office hours, email and community events. Ms. Morales said more information is available on the project web site.

Mr. Whitney recalled that staff presented initial information regarding the project on November 26, 2024. That included an update on the project vision and schedule, community engagement feedback, downtown routing recommendation and speed and reliability projects. Mr. Whitney said the locally preferred alternative includes nine transit access improvements including sidewalks, bike lanes, shared use paths and enhanced crossing treatments along Main Street and SE 1st Street and through the Lake Hills Connector Corridor.

The K Line project provides 26 proposed speed and reliability improvements including BAT (Business Access and Transit) lanes, transit signal priority and intersection improvements. Mr. Whitney said eleven possible sites for BAT lanes were studied. Implementing BAT lanes saves seven minutes of travel time for the K Line in Downtown Bellevue. There are also benefits to person throughput. Mr. Whitney said NE 12th Street and NE 8th Street both observed eastbound travel time increases of 54 seconds and 90 seconds respectively.

The next presentation to the Council is scheduled for March 25, when staff will provide the results of the Phase 3 community engagement. Mr. Whitney said staff will request a letter of support for the project vision. Adoption of the locally preferred alternative by the King County Council is anticipated in June.

Councilmember Zahn said she was pleased to see the annual savings in operations costs for the K Line project. She said the route will connect jobs, housing and activity centers, including medical and social services. Responding to Ms. Zahn, Mr. Whitney commented on the analysis of travel time savings.

In further response to Councilmember Zahn, Amanda Pleasant-Brown, Government Relations Jurisdictional Lead, said state law does not currently allow employer shuttles in BAT lanes. However, they will continue to monitor the law for changes. Ms. Zahn noted that she is now serving in the state legislature and asked whether Metro is planning to advocate for employer shuttles usage in BAT lanes. Ms. Brown said they do not currently have a way to understand the impact of employer shuttles in BAT lanes on Metro's service.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis concurred with Ms. Zahn's suggestion to advocate for allowing the use of employer shuttles in BAT lanes. He commented on the importance of speed and reliability for RapidRide services.

Mr. Nieuwenhuis asked about the bike corridor on Main Street between 110th Avenue NE and 112th Avenue NE. Olivia Aikala, Senior Engineer, Transportation Department, said the current

plan for Main Street bike facilities are set at the back of the curb. If a K Line station is planned for Main Street, there is a plan to accommodate existing bike facilities.

Responding to Councilmember Nieuwenhuis, Mr. Singelakis said that speed and reliability projects will be identified after the preferred alternative is selected and an analysis is conducted. In further response to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Mr. Whitney said there are methodologies for anticipating traffic growth but not traffic mode choice.

Mr. Nieuwenhuis expressed an interest in more information about how impacts will be mitigated and whether the City or Metro will be responsible for the mitigation.

Councilmember Stokes complimented staff on their work. He encouraged continued community engagement efforts to increase public interest in using transit. He looks forward to continuing to work with Metro.

Deputy Mayor Malakoutian thanked staff for the presentation. Responding to Mr. Malakoutian, Mr. Whitney clarified the travel time reductions through the downtown. Mr. Malakoutian expressed support for allowing employer shuttles to use the BAT lanes. He said he shared Mr. Nieuwenhuis's interest in mitigating the impacts of the K Line, including the increased travel times on NE 8th Street and NE 12th Street, and who would be responsible for the mitigation. Mr. Singelakis said the City monitors intersections on an ongoing basis and will conduct a more in-depth analysis for the K Line project. Mr. Whitney said parallel route roadway improvements could not be included in the project using federal funding.

Councilmember Hamilton expressed strong support for the K Line project and thanked City and Metro staff for their work. He concurred with Councilmember Zahn that connections to regional transit are critically important. He said the K Line will provide needed service connecting the Eastgate area to the Downtown and North Bellevue. He expressed support for continued robust community engagement. He expressed support for allowing employer shuttles to use the BAT lanes.

Councilmember Lee thanked staff for the presentation. He said the RapidRide network has been a significant improvement to the overall transit system. He encouraged using the experience of the B Line to study what has worked well in Bellevue. He asked about the possibility of extending the K Line to the Factoria area. Mr. Whitney said the routing decisions were made in 2019 based on a number of criteria.

Mayor Robinson noted that a number of Councilmembers would like to add allowing employer shuttles to use BAT lanes to the Council's state legislative agenda. Deputy City Manager Adkins said staff has been in conversation with proponents of potential legislation.

Councilmember Zahn asked about Metro's position on the topic. Christina O'Claire, Metro Mobility Division Director, said she appreciated everyone's comments and questions. She said Metro realizes there is an opportunity to look at maximizing the use of its right-of-way. She noted the need to study safety and operations issues related to sharing the BAT lanes with

employer shuttles. Ms. O’Claire said most large employers already support public transit. She said the City of Seattle has a shared bus stop program.

11. Land Use: None.
12. Other Ordinances, Resolutions, and Motions: None.
13. Written Reports
 - (a) Intergovernmental Affairs Monthly Update

Mayor Robinson said that she and Deputy Mayor Malakoutian spent time at the state legislature the previous week meeting with Bellevue’s state senators and representatives.

14. Unfinished Business: None.
15. New Business

Councilmember Zahn thanked Mayor Robinson and Deputy Mayor Malakoutian for coming to Olympia. Ms. Zahn said her last Council meeting will be March 25 and her resignation date is March 28.

Mayor Robinson announced that the February 18 Council meeting was canceled.

16. Executive Session: None.
17. Adjournment

At 8:20 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared the meeting adjourned.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC
City Clerk

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