

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

January 22, 2024
6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers
Bellevue, Washington

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

ABSENT: None.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m., with Mayor Robinson presiding.

2. Roll Call; Flag Salute

City Clerk Charmaine Arredondo called the roll and all Councilmembers were present.

Mayor Robinson noted Councilmember Lee's service on the Council since 1994, which was the year of the opening of the Bellevue skate park and Mini City Hall and the first Garden d'Lights event at the Bellevue Botanical Garden.

Deputy Mayor Malakoutian said Bellevue's population increased from 90,000 to a diverse population of 154,000 since 1994. He noted the expansion of the park system and emphasis on growth planning since that time.

Councilmember Stokes noted that the Council has taken thousands of votes on policies and projects over the past 30 years while Mr. Lee has served on the Council.

Councilmember Zahn said Councilmember Lee served as Deputy Mayor in 2010 and 2011 and as Mayor in 2012 and 2013. Ms. Zahn said Mr. Lee is passionate about public service and a familiar face at many park openings and events, cultural celebrations and activities at City Hall.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis recalled that Councilmember Lee was a former regional administrator for the U.S. Small Business Administration and has consistently supported the City's economic development efforts. As the first Councilmember of Asian descent, Mr. Lee continues to support efforts to bring equity and cross-cultural connections throughout the City.

Councilmember Hamilton said everyone on the dais recognizes the long hours of preparation and deliberation required to serve on the Council of a growing community. Mr. Hamilton said that

Councilmember Lee's willingness to continue spending his time working on behalf of Bellevue is inspiring and remarkable.

Mayor Robinson congratulated Councilmember Lee on his 30th anniversary with the Council.

Councilmember Lee thanked everyone for the comments. He said Bellevue is a great community due to the many people who have made it their home. He first came to Bellevue 58 years ago because it is a great place for families with excellent schools. He thanked his colleagues, past and present, for their commitment and teamwork. He welcomed the new Councilmembers and said it is important to continue to move forward and to embrace change. He said Bellevue was made up of 10 percent minorities when he moved here and minorities now exceed 50 percent of the population. Councilmember Lee said we are a nation of immigrants. He thanked City staff for their forward-thinking, hard work. He noted the diversity in the community and spoke to the importance of everyone working together toward common goals and growth.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis led the flag salute.

(a) Black History Month Proclamation

Councilmember Stokes read the proclamation recognizing February 2024 as Black History Month in Bellevue and urged all citizens to reflect on our shared history, the contributions of Black people in our community and continued efforts to battle racism and to build a society that is more just, peaceful and prosperous. He encouraged everyone to visit the Elevated Voices art exhibit at City Hall during the month of February including a reception on February 1 at 6:00 p.m.

Anthony Austin, Chair, and Yvonne Adagala, Secretary, representing the Bellevue Diversity Advisory Network (BDAN), accepted and thanked the Council for the proclamation. Ms. Adagala said she is an immigrant from East Africa, a place that is called the Heart of Humankind. She said Africans view all of the enslaved bodies taken to the United States in the past as family. She said it is important to recognize all of our history, both the uncomfortable and the joyous, to build a society that welcomes the world.

Chair Austin said BDAN members appreciate the work and support of the City Council.

(b) Americans of Chinese Descent History Month Proclamation

Councilmember Lee read the proclamation recognizing January as Americans of Chinese Descent History Month in Bellevue and encouraged all residents to recognize the hard work, accomplishments and influences of generations of Chinese Americans, including recent immigrants, in our community.

Kan Qiu, a member of the American Coalition for Equality, shared excerpts of a letter from Washington State Senator Patty Kuderer thanking Bellevue for recognizing Americans of Chinese Descent History Month. Senator Kuderer co-sponsored SB 5000 last year to declare January as Americans of Chinese Descent History Month statewide. She encouraged everyone to

reflect on the positive impact of Chinese Americans and to take this as an opportunity to learn more about our shared history. Senator Kuderer's letter said this proclamation made her even prouder to be a resident of Bellevue.

Mr. Qiu said they look forward to working with the City to promote awareness of the history of Americans of Chinese descent. He thanked the Council for the proclamation.

Christopher Yu, a student at Interlake High School, said he participated in leading research for an informational project and learned about the great history and contributions of Chinese Americans in the growth of this country. He said the canal between Lake Union and Lake Washington was initially constructed by Chinese laborers. He said the more he has learned about the contributions and struggles of the Chinese community, the more he appreciates the hard work and dedication of all Chinese descendants. He hopes more people will take the time to learn about the history of Chinese Americans in the United States.

(c) Human Trafficking Prevention Month Proclamation

Councilmember Zahn read the proclamation recognizing January as Human Trafficking Prevention Month in Bellevue and urged residents to learn about the ways to help combat human trafficking at www.humantraffickinghotline.org. The public is urged to call the national hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or to text HELP to 233733 if they or someone they know is a victim of trafficking.

Claire Sumadiwirya, owner of Belldon Café, thanked the Council for addressing this critical issue. She said human trafficking is a brutal violation of human rights that strips away the freedom and dignity of individuals who do not have a voice in society. She issued a call to action to eradicate human trafficking and to continue to build a community where every individual life matters.

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) Elisa Petersen, Executive Director of the Eastside Human Services Forum, introduced herself and said she will be meeting soon with Councilmember Zahn, liaison to that

group. Ms. Petersen noted her interest in intergovernmental affairs, the upcoming state legislative session, human services and healthcare.

- (b) Alexa Nieuwenhuis, an eight-year-old resident of the Lake Hills neighborhood, said she recently learned about the planned redevelopment of Eastgate Sunset Village, which includes the removal of local small businesses that she likes and would like to preserve. She said her family and friends frequently go to the shopping center to support Dairy Queen. She encouraged the Council to help retain small businesses that serve the community and help build wonderful memories. She strongly encouraged the City to deny the land use amendment for that area. She said it is vital that development in Bellevue reflects the needs and values of neighborhood residents.
- (c) Maggie, an eight-year-old resident of Renton, said she learned about the Eastgate redevelopment effort from the previous speaker. She opined that tearing down the existing buildings and businesses tears down memories, while preserving the businesses makes more opportunities for memories for the community.
- (d) Craig Spiegle recalled that he has previously spoken about the effectiveness, objectivity and inclusiveness of community engagement efforts. He expressed appreciation for several actions the City has taken to address those concerns. He thanked the City for embracing the recommendation to record all commission and board meetings and for moving the start time for signing up for oral communications to noon on the day of Council meetings. He said the City recently hosted two community meetings to address tree canopy code development and the Comprehensive Plan periodic update. He attended both events and was pleased to see the level of attendance, dialogue and two-way engagement with staff. He thanked the City for the coordination of strategies to create a toolkit for best practices across all departments, which is an important step to promote objectivity, inclusiveness and transparency. He urged the Council to go farther and to embrace what is recognized nationally as the key pillars of community spectrum engagement. He said he distributed a handout to the Council outlining the framework developed by the International Association for Public Participation.
- (e) Paul Quinn, a Sammamish resident, thanked Councilmember Nieuwenhuis for his support of recycling. Mr. Quinn said he learned through public records requests that two-thirds of what is sent to the landfill in King County could be composted or recycled. He described three handouts regarding the tonnage sent to the landfill. He expressed concern that only 45 percent of what is disposed of in Bellevue is diverted to recycling and composting. He said commercial and multifamily locations divert 27 percent and 21 percent respectively. He said most Bellevue businesses do not have food scraps and yard waste containers. Mr. Quinn encouraged the Council to solicit public feedback regarding recycling and composting efforts.
- (f) Alex Tsimerman commented about individual Councilmembers and antisemitism.

Mayor Robinson asked Mr. Tsimerman to speak to an item on the agenda.

At 6:44 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared a break. The meeting resumed at 6:46 p.m.

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

6. Report of the City Manager

(a) American Public Works Association (APWA) Re-Accreditation

Acting City Manager Diane Carlson introduced staff's update regarding the re-accreditation of the Transportation Department and the Utilities Department.

Tina Nelson, Region 9 Director, said the American Public Works Association (APWA) has more than 32,000 member agencies involved in public works. The organization promotes professional excellence and public awareness through education, advocacy and the exchange of knowledge. Ms. Nelson said the accreditation process is the mark of professionalism indicating that an agency has made a commitment to continuous improvement in the delivery of public works operations and services. Accreditation recognizes an agency's policies, procedures and practices, which have been evaluated against nationally recognized management practices.

Ms. Nelson said the Transportation Department and the Utilities Department were evaluated by a team of experienced public works professionals from California. They reviewed 123 practices to confirm that both departments were in compliance with nationally recognized management practices. Both departments received 100-percent compliance with all applicable practices.

Ms. Nelson said this is the sixth accreditation for the Utilities Department, which was the first department to be accredited in Washington state, and the fifth accreditation for the Transportation Department. The evaluation team recognized six model practices within the City of Bellevue that will be shared with other agencies throughout North America in the areas of communications and media relations, emergency management and employee contact information, traffic operations policies and procedures manual, and traffic operations and traffic calming. The City of Bellevue is one of 201 accredited agencies in North America.

Ms. Nelson thanked the City Council for supporting public works staff and for providing high-quality services the community can count on. She presented the APWA plaque to the department directors and noted the efforts of Kristi Oosterveen, Accreditation Manager for the Transportation Department, and Chad Beck, Accreditation Manager for the Utilities Department.

Andrew Singelakis, Director, Transportation Department, thanked Ms. Nelson for attending the meeting to present the award. He said this is the fifth accreditation for the Transportation Department and he thanked the staff for the extensive work involved in the process. He said the accreditation validates that the City's practices are meeting or exceeding national standards. He said a number of new employees participated in the most recent process, which provided the opportunity to educate them about policies and procedures as well.

Lucy Liu, Director, Utilities Department, thanked APWA and Ms. Nelson for the recognition. She thanked the staff who spent hours preparing for the accreditation evaluation. The

accreditation process demonstrates the City's commitment to efficiency and quality in public works and verifies a set of practices and procedures that are consistent with industry best practices. Ms. Liu said the Utilities Department and the Transportation Department participate in the accreditation process every four years.

7. Council Business and New Initiatives: None.

8. Consent Calendar

→ Deputy Mayor Malakoutian moved to approve the Consent Calendar, and Councilmember Lee 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
January 2, 2024 Regular Meeting
January 8, 2024 Regular Meeting
- (b) Ordinance No. 6772 amending chapter 24.10 of the Bellevue City Code to establish an assistance program to help low-income customers with delinquent accounts; to authorize the Utilities Department to receive donations to help fund said program and other similar programs; to provide for severability; and to establish an effective date.
- (c) Ordinance No. 6773 amending Ordinance No. 6764, adopting the 2023-2024 Biennium Budget, as previously amended, to increase appropriations to the General Fund by \$756,400 to allow the City of Bellevue to pay expenses incurred by the Eastside Climate Partnership cities (Bellevue, Issaquah, Kirkland, Mercer Island, and Redmond) for the Energy Smart Eastside Heat Pump Program and other shared initiatives.
- (d) Resolution No. 10338 authorizing the execution of Amendment No. 1 to GCB 2505, Design-Build Coordinator and City Staff Review Agreement between the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and the City of Bellevue (City).
- (e) Ordinance No. 6774: 1) authorizing execution of a grant agreement (and supplements if necessary) with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to accept up to \$2,500,000 in federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant funding to support construction of the Eastrail-Mountains to Sound Greenway Regional Trails Connection as part of the larger Eastrail Project (CIP Plan No. G-103); and, 2) amending the 2023-2029 General Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan to decrease the budget for the Transportation Grant Match Program (CIP Plan No. PW-R-206) by \$781,200 and increase the budget for the Eastrail Project (CIP Plan No. G-103) by \$3,281,200.

- (f) Ordinance No. 6775: 1) authorizing execution of a grant agreement (and supplements if necessary) with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to accept grant funds up to \$704,000 in Local Bridge Program funding to support construction of the Bundle - Deck Repair Project; and, 2) amending the 2023-2029 CIP Plan to increase the budget for Bridge and Pavement Preservation (Overlay) Program (CIP Plan No PW-M-1) by \$704,000.
- (g) Resolution No. 10339 authorizing execution of all documents necessary to implement settlement of the claim brought by Seth Raddue in the amount of \$350,000.
- (h) Resolution No. 10340 authorizing execution of all documents necessary to implement settlement of the claim brought by Bo Wu in the amount of \$421,202.13.
- (i) Resolution No. 10341 authorizing execution of all documents necessary to implement settlement of the claim brought by Brett Blasingame in the amount of \$260,000.
- (j) Resolution No. 10342 granting authority to the Finance & Asset Management Director or their designee to approve annual purchase orders for various vendors for small goods and routine services used by City departments, for amounts not to exceed the estimated values for the specified vendors set forth in Attachment A, plus applicable taxes.
- (k) Motion to approve the payment of claims and payroll for the period December 1 - December 31, 2023.

9. Public Hearing: None.

10. Study Session

- (a) Fall 2023 Housing Trust Fund Allocation Recommendations by A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH) Executive Board

Acting City Manager Carlson introduced staff's presentation regarding five projects recommended for funding by the ARCH (A Regional Coalition for Housing) Board.

Emil King, Assistant Director, Community Development Department, introduced Hannah Bahnmler, a new Senior Affordable Housing Planner who previously worked for the City of Renton.

Mr. King recalled the City of Bellevue's 30-year partnership with ARCH and noted that the ongoing efforts of the ARCH Housing Trust Fund to provide affordable housing is consistent with the City's Affordable Housing Strategy. He said staff is seeking direction to prepare

legislation for future Council action to authorize the application of Bellevue funding of \$1,379,200 for the Fall 2023 ARCH Housing Trust Fund round of five recommended projects.

Lindsay Masters, ARCH Executive Manager, said that member jurisdictions of ARCH have contributed more than \$90 million in local resources to the affordable housing program over its 30-year history. She said ARCH is committed to providing housing projects across the region to serve a diverse range of populations (e.g., families, senior adults, special needs individuals, and individuals experiencing homelessness). She said member cities contributed approximately \$4 million for 2023, including \$1.4 million from the City of Bellevue. An additional \$2 million was contributed by the City of Redmond for two projects in their community. She said ARCH has typically relied on municipal general funds. However, there have been discussions about identifying additional funding options and tools.

Ms. Masters said the funding requests totaling \$12.85 million are estimated to produce 853 units of affordable housing. The requested dollar amount exceeds available funding and the ARCH Board recommends funding five of the seven requests. The majority of the housing will be affordable for households earning up to 50 percent of the area median income (AMI) and there is a significant share of family housing with two or three bedrooms.

Ms. Masters said ARCH has historically leveraged \$10 in other public and private funding for every \$1 of local funds invested in projects. She said ARCH recently received an investment from the Amazon Housing Equity Fund.

Elsa Kings, ARCH Housing Trust Fund Program Manager, described the five projects recommended for funding. The first is the Spring District transit-oriented development (TOD) project by BRIDGE Housing, which will provide 234 housing units serving 30 percent AMI to 60 percent AMI households. The project is located on surplus property that Sound Transit is transferring at a deeply discounted rate for affordable housing and a parcel donated by the City of Bellevue. Ms. Kings said ARCH awarded \$350,000 toward the project last year and proposes an additional contribution of \$650,000. The project has received funding from King County and is expected to receive funding from the State of Washington as well as the allocation of tax credits and bonds over the next few months.

The Larus Senior Housing development is a TOD project located within one-quarter mile of the Kenmore Park and Ride and Sound Transit station. The project is a partnership with TWG, a private affordable housing developer, and Imagine Housing and will provide 175 studio and one-bedroom units for senior adults earning 40 percent AMI to 60 percent AMI. The project is recommended for \$250,000 in funding from ARCH and is expected to receive significant TOD funding from King County.

The Aventine project is a 68-unit apartment building in downtown Bellevue. The Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) is under contract to purchase the building and plans to preserve the existing affordable units and to convert the market-rate units to affordable housing. The populations to be served are families and individuals exiting homelessness, veterans, people with disabilities and workforce housing, with the units priced to serve households earning 30 percent AMI to 80 percent AMI. The recommended contribution of \$600,000 is an early commitment

with the expectation that an additional application will be submitted to ARCH in 2024. Ms. Kings noted that funding from Bellevue's Housing Stability Program will be critical for the acquisition of this project.

The fourth project recommended for funding is Emma McRedmond Manor in downtown Redmond. The project will preserve 32 one-bedroom units for senior adult households earning 50 percent AMI. Catholic Housing Services of Western Washington proposes a substantial rehabilitation of the building to improve energy efficiency and to extend the useful life of the existing structure. The project is permit-ready and has received U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding. The ARCH Board recommends funding of \$1.1 million (\$500,000 from the Housing Trust Fund and \$600,000 in supplemental funding from the City of Redmond).

Ms. Kings said the fifth project recommended for funding is the Overlake Village TOD development with Bellwether Housing. It is located on Sound Transit surplus property across the street from the future Overlake light rail station. The project will provide 333 units of all sizes for households earning 30 percent AMI to 80 percent AMI. Many of the units will have two or three bedrooms for families and 10 units will be set aside for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Programming for the ground floor space includes small business incubation, nonprofit organization support, culturally informed community services, and City of Redmond services. King County has made a significant investment in the project. ARCH recommends funding of \$3.5 million (\$2 million from the Housing Trust Fund and \$1.5 million in supplemental funding from the City of Redmond).

Mayor Robinson thanked staff for the presentation.

→ Councilmember Stokes moved to direct staff to prepare legislation for future Council action to authorize application of Bellevue funding of \$1,379,200 for the Fall 2023 ARCH Housing Trust Fund round of five recommended projects. Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.

Councilmember Lee suggested exploring non-traditional funding sources because government alone cannot solve the housing problem.

Ms. Masters commented on ARCH's interest in federal legislation to expand the low-income housing tax credit program. She said the program is a public-private partnership that allocates tax credits to private entities that invest in low-income housing projects.

Mayor Robinson said that in considering the Larus Senior Housing project, she is reminded about what happened recently with the Plymouth Housing project in Kenmore that would have provided supportive services. She said the Kenmore City Council voted against constructing the project, which was fully funded. She questioned providing funding to the Larus project in Kenmore when that city is not participating as a regional partner.

Ms. Masters said ARCH had committed some funding to the Plymouth Housing project. However, no money would have been used until the project was ready for construction. She said ARCH is hoping to preserve most of the work that was invested in that development in

determining how to move forward. Ms. Masters noted that the Plymouth Housing project was dependent on a property donation from the City of Kenmore.

Mayor Robinson said she hopes the City of Bellevue can share its work related to the Eastgate supportive housing project, including the work with adjacent neighborhoods to make that project successful. Ms. Masters confirmed that they have offered that information and assistance to the City of Kenmore.

Councilmember Zahn said she was pleased to see so many projects underway. Responding to Ms. Zahn, Ms. Masters said ARCH anticipates that a number of the projects will request additional funding in the next opportunity. Ms. Zahn said it is great to see projects in Bellevue.

Deputy Mayor Malakoutian concurred with Mayor Robinson's concern about how cities should work together as a region. Mr. Malakoutian said he was pleased to see all of the different types of housing projects.

Councilmember Stokes expressed support for ARCH's work and said he looks forward to the groundbreaking for the Bellevue project.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis thanked staff for the presentation and recommendations. He noted that the applicant for the Aventine project is LIHI, which primarily has expertise with tiny home villages. Ms. Masters said LIHI is a housing development organization. Their other project in Bellevue is August Wilson Place. Ms. Masters said she and others toured the Aventine building and researched its history with the city before recommending the project. Mr. Nieuwenhuis said he hopes LIHI will have a great relationship with the City and with the surrounding neighborhood.

Councilmember Hamilton thanked staff for the presentation. He said there is clearly a regional need for housing and more funding is needed. He expressed support for the recommendations.

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

- (b) Housing Stability Program Affordable and Supportive Housing Funding Allocations

Ms. Carlson introduced staff's update regarding the Housing Stability Program.

Assistant Director King introduced Patrick Tippy, a new employee with ARCH, and Sabrina Velarde, a new employee in the Community Development Department.

Mr. King said staff is requesting direction to return with legislation approving the funding allocation for the Fall 2023 Housing Stability Program capital, operating and maintenance funding recommendations. He said this discussion focuses on the capital requests, which also include operations and maintenance funding.

Mr. King highlighted the Housing Stability Program framework and said the program is in its third capital funding round. Up to 40 percent of the funding is allocated to bonding for affordable housing partnership projects and land acquisition. Approximately 40 percent is targeted for capital projects, operations and maintenance, 15 percent is directed to behavioral health and housing-related services, and five percent funds staff support.

Ms. Masters outlined the Housing Stability Program's award cycle for capital, operations and maintenance funding, including the release of the request for proposals (RFP) and pre-application meetings this summer, the development of staff's recommendations in the fall and Council approval next winter. She said this is a separate process from the ongoing RFP for behavioral health and housing-related services.

Ms. Masters said the Housing Stability Program is based on state law that enabled Bellevue to take advantage of a specific funding source for acquisition and construction and for operations, maintenance and services for new units of affordable housing serving eligible populations. She said the annual RFP process is coordinated with other funding partners. Ms. Masters described projects funded to date including LifeWire's Hope Starts Here, Spring District BRIDGE Housing, and Plymouth Crossing.

Mr. Tippy said all three of the applicants recommended for funding met the eligibility criteria and the projects are located in different geographic areas. Two of the projects will have units available this year. The first funding recommendation is a second allocation for the Spring District BRIDGE Housing project. The 234-unit development includes 40 units for households with an individual experiencing intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.

The LIHI Aventine Apartments project preserves 66 affordable housing apartments, serves vulnerable populations, partners with the Bellevue School District, leverages 32 project-based vouchers from the King County Housing Authority, and provides on-site case management and behavioral health services. The third project recommended for funding is the Catholic Housing Services Maurice Elbert House, which preserves U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) senior housing in the Crossroads area. The funding will add one housing unit as well as staff offices for resident support services.

Mr. Tippy compared the ARCH Housing Trust Fund regional investments by member cities with the City's Housing Stability Program investments supported by HB 1590 tax revenues. The combined ARCH and City investments total \$20.3 million and will produce 890 units, including 350 units in Bellevue.

At 7:44 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared a momentary break. The meeting resumed at 7:45 p.m.

Councilmember Zahn expressed support for the funding recommendations and projects. She said she was pleased to see the variety of housing and the range of affordability. Responding to Ms. Zahn, Mr. Tippy said that if the Council adopts the 2023 funding recommendations, there will be a remaining \$1.9 million.

Councilmember Lee expressed support for the Aventine Apartments project. Responding to Mr. Lee, Ms. Masters said the operations and maintenance funding provides supportive staff and services for residents.

Mr. Lee asked about the diversity of existing developers. Mr. King said staff will be reaching out to potential developers and study a range of options. Mr. Lee said it would be great to attract a diverse pool of developers.

Councilmember Hamilton expressed support for the projects and concurred with Councilmember Zahn's comments. He asked about the possibility of using the \$1.9 million now. Mr. King said the funds will be rolled over to the next funding round, which will begin this summer.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis thanked staff for their work and expressed support for the recommendations.

Deputy Mayor Malakoutian concurred with his colleagues' comments. He said this is not just funding projects but it is an investment in the community's resiliency.

Mayor Robinson said she is excited to be using the HB 1590 money, which is intended to create housing to fill the unmet needs.

→ Councilmember Zahn moved to direct staff to return with legislation approving the funding recommendations for the Fall 2023 Housing Stability Program Capital, Operations and Maintenance/Services allocations, and to bring the item back on the consent calendar. Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

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

(c) 2023 City Council Priorities Status Update

Acting City Manager Carlson introduced staff's briefing regarding the implementation of the City Council Priorities.

Bianca Siegl, Assistant Director, City Manager's Office (CMO), said the presentation was informational only and would provide an update on the implementation of the 2021-2023 Council priorities and how this work will continue into the future.

Danielle Verwahren, Special Projects Program Manager, CMO, said the 2021-2023 Council priorities include seven strategic target areas and 22 priorities. To implement the priorities, staff designed a work plan with more than 100 actions over a three-year period. More than 95 percent of the work items have been completed or on track for timely completion.

Ms. Verwahren highlighted priorities within the strategic target areas. Under economic development, she recalled that the Council approved the creation of the Tourism Promotion Area (TPA) last year to add resources to support tourism, marketing and urban incubation. She said the citywide retail survey is underway and the Council will receive an update later this year. In

the area of transportation and mobility, Ms. Verwahren said the City will continue to execute transportation capital plans, advocate for the acceleration of the I-405 Corridor Program and SR 520 improvements, and provide oversight of light rail construction and mitigation for neighborhoods, traffic and businesses.

Referring to the high quality built and natural environment target area, Ms. Verwahren highlighted a number of priorities including the execution of the Affordable Housing Strategy, completion of Meydenbauer Bay Park Phase 1 and the Downtown Park Gateway, advancement of the Smart City Strategy, implementation of the Environmental Sustainability Plan, parks funding strategies, and efforts to create a major aquatic center.

Under the target area of great places where you want to be, work on the Grand Connection continues to move forward as does work with partners related to the continued development of the Eastrail through Bellevue. In the area of regional leadership and influence, the City continues to be an active regional partner and to pursue funding and partnership opportunities. Ms. Verwahren said the City secured four Sound Cities Association (SCA) appointments and two appointments through the Association of Washington Cities (AWC). She said staff is implementing a \$120,000 economic development partnership grant from the Port of Seattle.

Priorities under the achieving human potential target area included leveraging higher education institutions to benefit residents and businesses, continuing to implement the Diversity Advantage Plan, finding a permanent location for the men's homeless shelter and exploring a safe parking program. Ms. Verwahren said the City recently identified an operator for the safe parking program and a contract will be presented to the Council for consideration during the first quarter of this year.

Ms. Verwahren highlighted priorities under high-performance government including a comprehensive communications plan, technology solutions that improve customer service, long-range financial strategy, new City brand identity and leveraging data and technology to enhance community engagement, equity and accountability. The communications plan has been drafted and staff hopes to finalize it this year.

Ms. Verwahren said the current priorities were integrated into department work plans and budgets and will continue to be implemented.

Mayor Robinson thanked staff for the update.

Responding to Councilmember Stokes, Ms. Verwahren said strategies for long-range financial sustainability were built into the last budget. Staff will continue to address long-range strategies throughout the biennial budget process this year.

Councilmember Zahn thanked staff for their work and for tracking the priorities. She said she looked forward to further discussion of the priorities during the Council retreat.

Councilmember Hamilton said he appreciated the presentation. He said he has enjoyed working with the City's impressive staff since he joined the Council.

11. Land Use: None.
12. Other Ordinances, Resolutions, and Motions: None.
13. Written Reports
 - (a) Intergovernmental Affairs Monthly Update
14. Unfinished Business: None.
15. New Business: None.
16. Executive Session: None.
17. Adjournment

At 8:14 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared the meeting adjourned.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC
City Clerk

/kaw