

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

September 18, 2023
6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers
Bellevue, Washington

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

ABSENT: Councilmember Robertson

1. Call to Order

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

Mayor Robinson thanked everyone, including City staff, who worked to organize the recent Old Bellevue Fall Wine Walk on Main Street sponsored by the Old Bellevue Merchants Association and Seattle Uncorked.

2. Roll Call; Flag Salute

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

(a) National Hispanic Heritage Month Proclamation

Councilmember Lee read the proclamation recognizing September 15 through October 15, 2023, as National Hispanic Heritage Month in Bellevue and called on everyone to celebrate the contributions of our Hispanic neighbors with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.

Representatives of Latino HEAT (Hispanos En Accion Together) and Youth Eastside Services accepted the proclamation and invited everyone to a public performance of Living Voices: La Causa in City Hall on October 12 at 6:30 p.m.

(b) World Alzheimer's Day Proclamation

Councilmember Barksdale read the proclamation recognizing September 21, 2023, as World Alzheimer's Day in Bellevue. He urged residents to learn about ways to get involved or to

donate in support of the research and care that helps our neighbors and family members facing Alzheimer's disease by visiting ALZWA.org.

Abigail Brown, representing The Bellevue Network on Aging, said she was a longtime caregiver of a parent who had Alzheimer's disease for more than a decade. She thanked the Council for the proclamation.

Mayor Robinson thanked Ms. Brown for her work with The Bellevue Network on Aging.

Councilmember Stokes said he appreciated the proclamation and noted that his wife passed away with Alzheimer's disease two years ago. He said it is great to see the community working together to support families and caregivers.

(c) National Service Dog Month Proclamation

Councilmember Stokes read the proclamation recognizing September 2023 as National Service Dog Month in Bellevue and encouraged everyone to celebrate these task-trained service animals who enable adults and children to lead more independent lives.

Naomi Marteeny, her service dog Windsor, and others representing the Puget Sound Chapter of Canine Companions for Independence thanked the Council for the proclamation.

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 6-0.

4. Oral Communications

City Clerk Arredondo said the total time for oral communications is for a period not to exceed 30 minutes. Pursuant to Council rules, persons speaking to items on tonight's 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. She reminded the public that no election-related topics may be discussed during oral communications, including promoting or opposing a ballot measure or candidate.

(a) Craig Spiegle said he was speaking on behalf of a group of citizens who are opposed to the formation of the Transportation Benefit District (TBD). He thanked Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis, Councilmember Lee and Councilmember Zahn for raising issues and concerns regarding the TBD. He thanked Mayor Robinson and Councilmember Robertson for engaging with the public, noting it is important to have a community dialogue. He said there is widespread opposition to the TBD. He expressed concern regarding the process, lack of data, budget prioritization and lack of transparency. Mr.

Spiezle noted the upcoming election and suggested that the issue should be deferred until new Councilmembers are seated. He requested voter approval of any future tax or fee to be used to fund the TBD. He suggested a sunset clause of no more than two years for any tax. Mr. Spiezle urged the Council to require the Transportation Department to seek the Council's approval for any capital projects anticipated for funding through the TBD.

- (b) Don Marsh, representing the Sierra Club's Washington State Energy Committee, expressed concern regarding a Puget Sound Energy (PSE) project that will cause higher electric bills for decades. PSE is pursuing a permit to build the north segment of its Energize Eastside transmission line. The permit application cites an environmental impact statement (EIS) that is eight years old. Mr. Marsh said the EIS evaluated conditions for an Eastside grid with much less emergency capacity than exists today. The study generally dismissed technology alternatives that have become less expensive and more capable over the past decade. Mr. Marsh said the EIS assumed state and federal government policies that have since been changed to address climate change. He said the north segment of the Energize Eastside project is an obsolete proposal that does not increase reliability, capacity or access to clean energy. He expressed concern that PSE plans to remove hundreds of trees in central Bellevue for the project. Mr. Marsh asked the Council to join the Sierra Club in asking for a supplemental EIS to specifically address the organization's questions.
- (c) Bill Hirt recalled his concerns 10 years ago about the Sound Transit light rail project. He said the starter line will open next March with two-car trains between South Bellevue and Redmond. He expressed concern about noise and other impacts along the route. He said Sound Transit provided better sound mitigation for certain areas. He urged the Council to limit the speed limit for light rail trains to 15-20 miles per hour.
- (d) Alex Tsimmerman expressed concern about government spending, partisan politics and Democrats.

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

6. Report of the City Manager

- (a) Carnegie Hero Fund Award Presentation

City Manager Brad Miyake said the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission was created to recognize outstanding acts of selfless heroism performed in the United States and Canada. The awards are given to those who risk their lives to an extraordinary degree while saving or attempting to save the lives of others. Mr. Miyake said the event that led Mr. Carnegie to establish the fund was the Harwick Mine disaster near Pittsburgh in January 1904. The victims included an engineer and a miner who went into the mine in a valiant attempt to rescue others. The tragedies and sacrifices moved Mr. Carnegie so much that he created an award to recognize the ideal of honoring heroes.

Wendell Shirley, Chief of Police, described the heroism of Officer Kealii Akahane in saving the life of a 17-year-old juvenile who was drowning in Phantom Lake on June 6, 2022. Chief Shirley

said Officer Akahane jumped into the 50-degree water in full uniform and submerged three times before finding the young man in the murky water. Officer Akahane was able to move the youth to the pier and he was later taken to the hospital and survived. Officers Sebars and Worthington assisted in the rescue as well.

Mayor Robinson thanked everyone for their willingness to risk their lives every day when they go to work. She thanked police department employees for their hard work and dedication. On behalf of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, Mayor Robinson presented Officer Kealii Akahane with the Carnegie Medal honoring his selflessness and heroism on June 6, 2022.

7. Council Business and New Initiatives: None.

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 6-0, and the following items were approved:

- (a) Motion to approve payment of claims and payroll for the period August 1, 2023 - August 31, 2023
- (b) Resolution No. 10299 authorizing the write-off of six uncollectible accounts totaling \$10,540.00, as described in Attachment A.
- (c) Resolution No. 10300 authorizing the City Manager to execute Amendment No. 1 to the Interlocal Agreement establishing a cooperative effort to support Regional Economic Development (Startup 425).
- (d) Resolution No. 10301 authorizing execution of a professional services contract with Consor North America, Inc (Conсор), for Utilities On-Call Professional Services for Water, Sewer, and Stormwater (2023-2026), in an amount not to exceed \$9,000,000, plus all applicable taxes.
- (e) Resolution No. 10302 authorizing execution of a professional services contract with Parametrix, Inc. (Parametrix), for Utilities On-Call Professional Services for Water, Sewer, and Stormwater (2023-2026), in an amount not to exceed \$9,000,000, plus all applicable taxes.
- (f) Resolution No. 10303 authorizing execution of a professional services contract with Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. (Jacobs), for Utilities On-Call Professional Services for Water, Sewer, and Stormwater (2023-2026), in an amount not to exceed \$9,000,000, plus all applicable taxes.

- (g) Resolution No. 10304 authorizing execution of a professional services contract with Stantec Consulting Services Inc. (Stantec), for Utilities On-Call Professional Services for Water, Sewer, and Stormwater (2023-2026), in an amount not to exceed \$6,000,000, plus all applicable taxes.
- (h) Resolution No. 10305 authorizing execution of a professional services contract with Hazen and Sawyer for Utilities On-Call Professional Services for Water, Sewer, and Stormwater (2023-2026), in an amount not to exceed \$6,000,000, plus all applicable taxes.
- (i) Resolution No. 10306 authorizing execution of a professional services contract with HDR Engineering, Inc. (HDR), for Utilities On-Call Professional Services for Water, Sewer, and Stormwater (2023-2026), in an amount not to exceed \$6,000,000, plus all applicable taxes.

9. Public Hearing: None.

10. Study Session Items

- (a) Update on City Partnership with Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA)

City Manager Miyake introduced an update regarding the City's partnership with the Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA) to support public space management and activation in the downtown.

Anthony Gill, Interim Grand Connection Manager, said the BDA is a key partner of the City's cultural and economic development team. The City and the BDA have hosted place management activities to encourage people to stay downtown longer and to come back more often. Mr. Gill says those activities align with the City's goal to support small businesses and retailers as they continue to recover following the pandemic.

Patrick Bannon, BDA President and CEO, said the downtown is the economic and cultural heart of the community and it should provide a range of opportunities. He said the BDA will celebrate its 50th anniversary in February 2024. He said Downtown Bellevue is a vital and welcoming community, creative center, thriving retail and entertainment center, growing and diverse residential neighborhood and a supportive partner to surrounding neighborhoods and cities.

Mr. Bannon commented on the changes in the downtown over the past 12 months. He said the number of visits to the downtown has increased significantly over the past few years. However, there are still fewer visitors than in 2019. Mr. Bannon said that Bellevue overall has experienced a strong economic rebound since the pandemic. However, he acknowledged the high cost of living and owning a business in Bellevue.

Mr. Bannon described the BDA's seven fundamental concepts for the downtown: 1) economic and cultural impact, 2) creative hub, 3) catalyst effect of retail, dining and entertainment options, 4) connectivity, 5) social spaces, 6) 18-hour community, and 7) innovation and quality. He noted

the BDA's work with the City in planning the Grand Connection including the activation of public spaces, wayfinding and outdoor dining. He highlighted downtown activities including the Bellevue Beats and Bites music series and Heart of Bellevue campaign. He said there is an abundance of parking in downtown Bellevue, which provides a competitive advantage.

Mr. Bannon said the BDA is excited for the future and recently updated its strategic plan. He noted a local survey indicating that people are concerned and excited about growth, and highly interested in the quality of the downtown experience and in building and celebrating the diverse community. He commented on the importance of the Grand Connection project. He noted the community's interest in celebrations, live music, festivals, public art and other activities. However, he acknowledged that more resources are needed to help sponsor events.

Mr. Bannon highlighted the six core goals of the BDA's five-year strategic plan: 1) create safe and attractive spaces, 2) celebrate community, 3) champion mobility, 4) engage with data-driven advocacy, 5) support retail and storefront economy, and 6) enhance the BDA's capabilities. He provided additional comments regarding the BDA's vision for the future and thanked the City for its collaboration.

Mayor Robinson thanked Mr. Bannon for the presentation.

Councilmember Lee thanked Mr. Bannon for the presentation and for his comments on the history, challenges and opportunities of Downtown Bellevue. Mr. Lee commented on the significant increase in the number of downtown residents. He expressed support for the BDA's six core goals, especially to create safe and attractive spaces and to champion mobility.

Mr. Lee asked about the BDA's position regarding the changing nature of work and empty office space. Mr. Bannon said local brokers are working hard to fill the space to provide opportunities for new businesses. Mr. Lee encouraged continued partnerships with Visit Bellevue, Bellevue Chamber of Commerce and other community organizations.

Councilmember Barksdale said he was pleased to hear about work underway to help small businesses find more affordable space. He commended the BDA's efforts to create a DEI (Diversity/Equity/Inclusion) framework. He encouraged efforts to create more evening entertainment options in Downtown Bellevue.

Mr. Bannon commented that placemaking should be informed by the users of the space, including residents. Responding to Mr. Barksdale's suggestion for digital wayfinding, Mr. Bannon said the equipment requires a significant investment. However, it is worth exploring.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis said the parking complaints he hears the most are generally related to parking in Old Bellevue. He expressed support for the BDA's goal to create more events throughout the diverse community. He concurred with Councilmember Lee's comment about the importance of safety. Mr. Nieuwenhuis expressed appreciation for the City's partnership with the BDA.

Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Mr. Bannon said the BDA is conducting an inventory of available parking, paid or unpaid, and the hours of availability.

Councilmember Zahn thanked the BDA for its partnership and expressed support for the importance of creating human-centered places and celebrating community. She encouraged more space activations, pop-up events, games and music. She commented regarding the importance of pedestrian safety in the downtown. She expressed support for enhanced wayfinding and thanked the BDA for its efforts to identify parking facilities.

Ms. Zahn said she would like the City to be able to do more to help small businesses, especially those displaced by redevelopment or by increasing rental rates. She asked whether the Transportation Promotion Area (TPA) funds could be used to help finance certain events. She encouraged a robust emphasis on incorporating diversity and inclusion concepts into business operations. She encouraged continued and new partnerships throughout the community.

Responding to Councilmember Zahn, Mr. Bannon said that most North American downtown organizations have a component called a business improvement district or area. The BDA has been membership-driven throughout its 50 years and has made excellent use of the available resources. Mr. Bannon commented on the potential for new funding opportunities as the business community continues to grow and as events and activities in the downtown are expanded.

Councilmember Stokes thanked the BDA for its work in the community, noting that the BDA's efforts provide benefits beyond the downtown. He commended the current strong collaboration between the BDA and the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Stokes summarized some of the highlights of the downtown including Downtown Park, public art, trails, the Grand Connection and the variety of businesses.

Mayor Robinson said she looks forward to continued collaboration with the BDA.

At 7:27 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared a short break. The meeting resumed at 7:40 p.m.

(b) Emergency Water Supply Master Plan

City Manager Miyake said the Emergency Water Supply Master Plan provides information regarding the vulnerability of the City's water system in the event of a major earthquake. It includes recommended policies as well as actions to mitigate the impacts on the water system if an earthquake occurs. Mr. Miyake said staff is seeking Council direction to prepare a resolution to adopt the plan for formal action during a future meeting.

Lucy Liu, Director, Utilities Department, said the Emergency Water Supply Master Plan will increase the resiliency of Bellevue's water supply by mitigating the risks associated with a major earthquake. She said Utilities staff has been working on this planning effort over the past five years. The proposed investments make financial sense and will result in a water system that provides a level of service more closely aligned with Bellevue residents' expectations related to responding to the disruption of an earthquake.

Ms. Liu said the Emergency Water Supply Master Plan supplements the City's Water System Plan and Council adoption is required by City Code. Additionally, adoption of a post-earthquake level-of-service goal is required by state law. The plan includes new policies to guide the prioritization of restoring water service should it be interrupted due to an earthquake. The plan also guides future capital investments. Ms. Liu said that formal adoption of the plan will enhance the City's ability to secure grants for continued system resiliency efforts.

Eric LaFrance, Planning Manager, said the 2016 Water System Plan identified the need to address the reliability of the water supply, with the largest threat to the system being an earthquake. Under current conditions, it would take 2-3 months to fully restore service following a major disaster. The emergency plan seeks to improve the resiliency of the water system.

Mr. LaFrance said an earthquake could limit the City's ability to deliver water if the regional water supply is interrupted and Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) and/or the Cascade Water Alliance are unable to deliver water to Bellevue customers. He said the City conducted an emergency well evaluation to determine whether the City could drill wells and supply its own water. The second way water delivery could be interrupted is if the City's infrastructure is damaged. Mr. LaFrance said staff completed a seismic vulnerability assessment and resiliency plan and incorporated both of those studies into the Emergency Water Supply Master Plan. He said the plan was discussed by the Environmental Services Commission (ESC) during nine meetings over five years.

Mr. LaFrance said state law requires that the City establish a post-earthquake level-of-service goal. The purpose of the master plan is to improve the water system's resiliency through the technical evaluation of risks and mitigation options, increased awareness and public support, and through the documentation of policies and recommendations.

There are two types of earthquakes in this area: Cascadia Subduction Zone and Seattle Fault Zone. Mr. LaFrance said a shallow earthquake along the Seattle Fault, which roughly follows I-90, could potentially cause the most damage. He described the scenarios for earthquakes in both zones. An earthquake in the Cascadia Subduction Zone could result in more than 200 system breaks and \$2.3 billion in economic damage. An earthquake on the Seattle Fault could result in \$8.3 billion in economic damage.

Mr. LaFrance said the plan's proposed policies: 1) establish post-earthquake level-of-service goals, 2) identify emergency mitigation investments, 3) develop new groundwater supplies, 4) encourage the public to prepare for 14 days of water reserves, and 5) recommend coordination with other utility providers. Three timeline options for implementing the plan were analyzed, and the more aggressive approach is likely unaffordable and possibly unattainable. Under the current renewal and replacement schedule, it will take more than 100 years to complete the needed work. Mr. LaFrance said staff's preferred option is a risk-based approach that would complete the needed work over 50 years. He said the timeline is similar to other agencies.

Mr. LaFrance said the recommendations in the plan address maintaining a resilient water supply (i.e., install emergency wells, partner with Cascade and SPU to prioritize water transmission), backbone piping (i.e., install resilient pipe to key points and connect priority customers), and

distribution system renewal and replacement (i.e., continue main replacement and prioritize pump stations and reservoirs).

The level-of-service goals identify the targeted recovery periods for restoring 80-90 percent of water service following an earthquake: 1) 2020, 2-3 months, 2) 2035, 1-2 months, 3) 2050, 1-4 weeks, and 4) 2070, 1-21 days. By 2070, critical customers (e.g., hospitals and recovery centers) will regain water service within seven days.

Mr. LaFrance described the cumulative spending of programmed renewal and replacement dollars and new spending over the 50-year plan. New spending totals \$125 million over a period of 50 years. The new spending will be focused on emergency supply wells and establishing that backbone of emergency resilience. Mr. LaFrance said he has worked for a number of utilities and Bellevue is unique in its long-term financial forecasting.

Mr. LaFrance said public engagement was an important component in developing the Emergency Water Supply Master Plan. The City received 1,079 survey responses from 5,000 solicited individuals. City staff reached out to residents and community-based organizations (e.g., Hopelink) and learned there is strong support for emergency planning and preparation. Mr. LaFrance said the survey found that less than 10 percent of residents have a 14-day emergency water supply.

Ms. Liu said the implementation of the emergency plan will reduce the risk for the City by 95 percent from \$9.5 million to \$0.5 million annually. The plan will reduce service interruptions for critical customers from potentially three months to one week. Ms. Liu said staff recommends adoption of the plan.

Ken Wan, Vice Chair, Environmental Services Commission, said the commission's charge was to review and provide input regarding short- and long-term planning and policy development for the Utilities Department. The commission worked with staff since 2018 to review and shape the development of the Emergency Water Supply Master Plan. The commission held nine working sessions over the past five years to develop the plan.

Vice Chair Wan said the ESC recommends adoption of the proposed policies and level-of-service goals in the master plan. He said the ESC found it is important to invest in water system improvements to meet established earthquake mitigation goals. The commission recommended outreach to residents and businesses to provide information about how to prepare for water service interruptions in the event of a major earthquake.

Responding to Mayor Robinson, Vice Chair Wan said the ESC voted unanimously to recommend adoption of the Emergency Water Supply Master Plan.

Councilmember Lee, liaison to the ESC, expressed strong support for the recommendation of staff and the commission. He commended the City for having the foresight long ago to plan for renewal and replacement needs. He said the delivery of water is critical for fire fighting, hospitals, sanitation and essential businesses. Councilmember Lee thanked staff and the

commission for the time they spent developing the emergency plan. He expressed support for adoption of the plan.

Councilmember Stokes expressed support for the plan to increase the resiliency of Bellevue's extensive water system over the next 50 years. He thanked staff and the commission for their work on the plan.

Councilmember Zahn thanked everyone for their persistence in developing the emergency plan. She suggested enhanced public education regarding the recommendation that residents maintain a 14-day emergency water supply. She said she appreciated the prioritization of critical infrastructure and acknowledged that 50 years is typical for plans in other agencies. She suggested that the recovery periods might be longer than estimated because others in the region will be repairing their systems as well. Ms. Zahn expressed support for the emergency plan.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis congratulated Ms. Liu on her new role as Director and expressed support for the Emergency Water Supply Master Plan.

Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Mr. LaFrance said the highest risks were prioritized based on a number of factors, including geography and the condition of facilities.

In further response to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Ms. Liu said rate increases will eventually be needed to fund the proposed new investments. Rates will be addressed through future budget discussions and will be structured to increase as gradually as possible into the future.

Mr. LaFrance said he would follow up regarding outreach to specific neighborhood associations.

Councilmember Barksdale thanked staff and Vice Chair Wan for the presentation and their work. Responding to Mr. Barksdale, Mr. LaFrance said a pump station or reservoir can indicate whether there is a problem. However, pipes do not have sensors. In further response to Mr. Barksdale, Mr. LaFrance said staff's analysis assigns a risk to every length of pipe, which is based on the pipe's age, material and seismic vulnerability. Mr. Barksdale expressed support for the emergency water plan.

Mayor Robinson thanked staff for the comprehensive presentation and packet information. She said she appreciated the extensive work over the past five years.

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to direct staff to return with a resolution to adopt the Emergency Water Supply Master Plan on the consent calendar for a future meeting. Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

11. Land Use: None.

12. Other Ordinances, Resolutions, and Motions: None.

13. Written Reports: None.
14. Unfinished Business: None.
15. New Business: None.
16. Executive Session: None.
17. Adjournment

At 8:13 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared the meeting adjourned.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC
City Clerk

/kaw