

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

April 1, 2025
6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Robinson, Deputy Mayor Malakoutian¹ and Councilmembers Hamilton, Lee, Nieuwenhuis, Stokes and Sumadiwirya

ABSENT: None.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m., with Mayor Robinson presiding.

2. Roll Call; Flag Salute

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis led the flag salute.

(a) Swearing in of Newly Appointed Councilmember Claire Sumadiwirya

City Clerk Charmaine Arredondo conducted the swearing in of newly appointed Councilmember Claire Sumadiwirya.

Ms. Arredondo called the roll and all Councilmembers except Deputy Mayor Malakoutian were present. She noted that Mr. Malakoutian would join the meeting soon via remote participation.

3. Approval of Agenda

→ Councilmember 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 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

¹ Deputy Mayor Malakoutian joined the meeting remotely at approximately 8:20 p.m.

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) Ben Mickle said he is a downtown resident speaking on behalf of Eastside Urbanism, an organization that is passionate about street safety. He said they conducted a survey for three weeks in March to ask which strategies the City should prioritize in its Vision Zero action plan, and 234 people responded and rated 51 strategies. Mr. Mickle said the City of Redmond's new city streets action plan includes four of the top six strategies prioritized in the survey. He said the City of Seattle's Vision Zero plan includes six of the top 10 strategies identified in the survey. He noted that the City of Bellevue's 2025 Vision Zero action plan, including the speed management plan, does not include any of the top 13 strategies identified in the Eastside Urbanism survey. He said Bellevue's plan includes six of the lowest rated strategies. Mr. Mickle acknowledged that the City is broadly implementing some of Eastside Urbanism's recommended strategies including mixed use zoning and adjusting pedestrian intervals. The top priorities identified in the survey included protected bike lanes and pedestrian streets.
- (b) Valentina Vaneeva, a Crossroads area resident, said she travels almost entirely by bike and transit and the Vision Zero program is important to her because accidents occur frequently in the Crossroads area. She said the top third priority from the survey referenced by the previous speaker is more transit service. She expressed concern that vehicles parked too close to corners block the views of drivers and pedestrians. She said signage is not sufficient and she suggested large rocks and planters to address the problem. The next top priority is adjusting pedestrian intervals at intersections. She encouraged pedestrian streets for community events.
- (c) Cameron Kast, a Bridle Trails resident, said he lives, works and commutes within Bellevue. He acknowledged the benefits of the protected bike lanes on 108th Avenue and additions to transit service. He expressed concern about high vehicle speeds, poor visibility and lack of viable protection for cyclists. He said another top priority from the Eastside Urbanism survey is to create intersections that separate cars and bikes. Additional priorities identified included neighborhood greenways, road diets, curb extensions, raised crosswalks, narrow travel lanes, no right on red and pedestrian scrambles. Mr. Kast said the Vision Zero program addresses vehicle safety and the prevention of accidents as well as bike and pedestrian safety. He said the 51st rated item was self-driving cars, which are designed for corporate profit and not safety. He said they do not belong in the Vision Zero plan.
- (d) Connor Johnson said he was representing the Bracket family, which owns more than eight acres of undeveloped land in the Cougar Mountain potential annexation area (PAA). He said they have partnered with the Alexander family, which owns five acres of undeveloped land, related to the Notice of Intent to Petition for Annexation. He said both property owners have signed pre-annexation agreements with the City to confirm service and will work with the City to extend utilities at some point in the future. He urged the Council to follow staff's recommendation to accept the NOI. He recalled that a NOI was previously submitted and voted on in August 2022. At that time, City staff recommended

that the Council reject the NOI as resources were constrained during the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update process. He said the Council followed staff's recommendation and encouraged the Bracket and Alexander families to resubmit a NOI after the Comprehensive Plan Update was adopted in 2024. Mr. Johnson encouraged the City to comprehensively annex Bellevue's remaining PAA. He said this provides an opportunity to address critical housing needs in the region. He encouraged the Council to accept the current NOI.

- (e) Dan Becker said a City water main broke in front of his Medina home approximately 18 months ago and caused substantial damage to the house. He said the City indicated verbally and in writing that it was taking responsibility for the damage caused by the ruptured line. He said that, as of today, the City has not taken responsibility for any expenses including hundreds of thousands of dollars for temporary living costs and home repairs. He noted damage to his yard and flooding in the home and backyard. He said they were forced to move out due to the hazards created by the flood water and contaminants. He said the flooding resulted in the loss of two cars and personal property. Mr. Becker said the City instructed him to work with a consultant to help repair the home. He said the consultant initially came to their home to determine the extent of the damage. However, since that time, their employee has rarely returned phone calls or attended scheduled meetings. Approximately two weeks ago, the City offered him 20 cents on the dollar for the damage without an explanation. He asked the Council to work with him to develop a settlement to cover their temporary living expenses and to repair the damage. He thanked Councilmembers for their consideration of his situation.

Mayor Robinson asked City Manager Carlson to reach out to Mr. Becker.

- (f) Anne Rittenhouse commented regarding the importance of community outreach. She said she chairs the Bellevue Network on Aging, which recently received a presentation regarding the City's curb pricing study. She said this is a relatively minor issue with little or no impact to neighborhoods. However, that group and the Newport Hills Community Club have not received a presentation on the Newport Hills LUCA. She said the Newport Neighborhood Area Plan, which will have minor impacts on the neighborhood, has been presented twice to residents. She said City staff has walked the neighborhood with her, scheduled three pop-up events and produced a 38-page compilation of community input. She expressed concern that residents have received little information about the Newport Hills LUCA, which will have a big impact on the neighborhood. She encouraged more robust community outreach regarding proposed Land Use Code amendments.

5. Reports of Community Councils, Boards, and Commissions: None.
6. Report of the City Manager: None.
7. Council Business and New Initiative: None.
8. Consent Calendar

- Councilmember 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) Council Minutes
Minutes of January 30, 2025 Special Meeting
Minutes of February 11, 2025 Regular Meeting
 - (b) Motion to award Bid No. 25013, South Bellevue Station Neighborhood Improvement Project to Kamins Construction, Inc. as the lowest responsible and responsive bidder, in the amount of \$2,913,359.18, plus all applicable taxes. This project is funded by Neighborhood Sidewalks (CIP Plan No. PW-WB-76), the Neighborhood Safety and Connectivity Levy (CIP Plan No. PW-R-199) and the Bridge/Pavement Preservation Program (General Fund). This project is partially funded by the Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity and Congestion Levy.
 - (c) Resolution No. 10493 authorizing execution of an agreement with Owen Equipment Company for the purchase of two new street sweepers, in the amount to not exceed \$850,177.48, plus applicable taxes.

9. Public Hearings: None.

10. Study Session

- (a) 2026-2030 Sustainable Bellevue Plan Update and Quarterly Progress Report

City Manager Diane Carlson introduced staff's update regarding the development of the 2026-2030 Sustainable Bellevue Plan and overall environmental stewardship activities.

Thara Johnson, Assistant Director, Community Development Department, recalled that the Council directed staff in late October 2024 to initiate the Sustainable Bellevue Plan update.

Jennifer Ewing, Planning Manager, Community Development Department, recalled the input from the Council on October 29, 2024 to study the lessons learned through the implementation of the current plan, describe how staff measures progress and the effectiveness of actions, illustrate how actions achieve 2030 and 2050 goals and to engage youth in the planning process. She recalled the beginning of the Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) in 2007 and the subsequent development of the 2013-2018 ESI Strategic Plan leading to the 2021-2025 Sustainable Bellevue Plan, which staff is currently updating. The plan is a One City interdepartmental effort encompassing both community wide and municipal operations actions. The Sustainable Bellevue Plan focuses on five key areas: 1) climate change, 2) energy, 3) land use and mobility, 4) materials management and waste, and 5) natural systems.

Ms. Ewing highlighted accomplishments to date. She said the Clean Buildings incentive program has helped commercial buildings comply with the State Clean Buildings Act. More than 200 buildings have been benchmarked to measure their energy use and the City has provided technical assistance. To address residential energy use, the City launched the Energy Smart Eastside program to incentivize the installation of 156 heat pumps to date. Ms. Ewing said the heat pump program supports different income levels. The Solarize Eastside program launched recently to support businesses and residents interested in rooftop solar energy installations.

Accomplishments in the area of mobility and land use include the completion of significant planning efforts (e.g., Mobility Implementation Plan, Curb Management Plan, Electric Vehicle Roadmap and 2024 Comprehensive Plan update), investments in transit-oriented development (TOD) and a reduction in per capita vehicle miles traveled of 25 percent. She noted that 11 percent of vehicles in Bellevue are EVs, which is one of the highest rates in the country. Accomplishments related to natural systems include completing the Tree Code update, distributing more than 3,200 free trees over four years, achieving the 40 percent tree canopy goal, conducting stream health assessments, and reviewing and updating the Watershed Management Plan.

Ms. Ewing highlighted the 2023 community greenhouse gas emissions inventory noting an eight percent decrease in emissions since 2011, a 26 percent decrease in per capita emissions, and a four percent increase from 2022. The community GHG emissions are generated primarily from transportation, commercial energy usage and residential energy usage. Ms. Ewing said there has been a 25 percent increase in the population and a 26 percent increase in jobs since 2011. Staff will begin working on the 2024 inventory this fall and is reliant on data from a number of sources.

Ana Hagerup, Sustainability Planning Manager, Finance and Asset Management Department, described the 2023 municipal GHG inventory which reflects a 54 percent decrease in emissions since 2011 and a four percent decrease since 2022. The City achieved the 2030 target of a 50 percent reduction in GHG emissions earlier than anticipated. The primary sources of emissions are fleet and equipment, streetlights and traffic signals, and buildings and facilities. Emissions from buildings and facilities have decreased significantly since 2020.

Ms. Hagerup said municipal energy related GHG emissions decreased by 67 percent due to the use of renewable energy, building energy retrofits and 100-percent LED streetlights and traffic signals. She said 78 percent of the energy used for municipal operations is renewable energy and there are three solar installations on City-owned buildings. Mobility GHG emissions decreased by 16 percent due to fleet electrification, a reduction or change in employee commute trips and the purchase of the electric fire engine. In the area of materials and waste management, GHG emissions decreased by three percent due to impacts related to the recycling rate, construction and demolition waste, reuse and surplus. The City's operations have a 51-percent recycling rate and a 13-percent composting rate.

Ms. Ewing said the objectives of the Sustainable Bellevue Plan update are to: 1) implement the new Comprehensive Plan policies, 2) identify cost-effective and high-impact actions to achieve

2030 and 2050 goals, 3) scale existing actions, 4) identify new actions, and 5) build community support. She noted the long-term goal of net zero emissions by 2050.

Ms. Ewing highlighted the plan timeline. Phase 1 to update goals and targets, will continue and Phase 2 will launch this month to begin developing actions. Phase 3 will be the development of the draft plan with Council adoption anticipated in November. The next Council updates are targeted for July and September. A consultant will assist with outreach and engagement and the technical analysis that will inform the plan update.

Ms. Ewing summarized the outreach process to date including the participation of more than 250 Bellevue students, 110 workshop and town hall attendees, and more than 50 conversations with community members. More than 1,000 individuals have visited the online engagement hub and 470 people responded to the City's survey. The City partnered with two community based organizations to engage underrepresented populations. The survey was translated into five languages and the input indicated that 74 percent of respondents have experienced climate impacts in Bellevue. The survey highlighted that more preparation is needed to address climate impacts and to improve access to sustainability benefits for low-income residents and renters. There was strong support for high-impact actions to achieve GHG reduction goals. Ms. Ewing said that 30 percent of emissions reductions must come from local actions related to electricity, natural gas, transportation, propane and fuel oil, and waste management.

Ms. Ewing said the second annual EarthFest will be held at the Bellevue Botanical Garden on April 19. A panel discussion regarding climate resilience will be held on April 23 and an event will be held this month with the Little Masters Club, an environmental organization for youth.

Mayor Robinson thanked staff for the presentation. She asked whether the City will achieve its citywide goals for 2030. She asked whether the plan will include recommendations regarding Wilburton redevelopment. She said water drains from 120th Avenue down to 116th Avenue and it would be great to be able to harness some of that as energy. Ms. Ewing said it was difficult to predict at this point about meeting the 2030 goals. She said the City is reliant on Puget Sound Energy (PSE) transitioning to clean and renewable energy before 2030. She said there has been an assessment of the potential for creating a sustainable district in the Wilburton area, and a number of green building incentives have been incorporated into the Wilburton LUCA.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis thanked staff for their many accomplishments. He asked about the main driver in reducing or increasing the tree canopy. Referring to middle housing, he asked how the City will balance the increase in density with trying to achieve 2030 and 2050 goals. Ms. Ewing said the tree canopy assessment is more of a micro-assessment. However, the data indicates that while there might be reductions in the tree canopy in certain areas, the overall canopy continues to increase.

Referring to middle housing versus the tree canopy, Ms. Johnson said the intent, once the tree code has been in effect for a couple of years, is for the City to assess the results and make adjustments if necessary. She said the work on the BelRed Look Forward LUCA will explore opportunities for stream daylighting, creating park space and similar projects. The City is also currently updating the Critical Areas Ordinance.

Mr. Nieuwenhuis encouraged considering revisions to the Tree Code to develop a plan for streamlining and expediting needed tree removals following a severe storm.

Councilmember Hamilton thanked staff for the presentation and for the achievements related to reducing GHG emissions. Noting the projection that the City will not achieve its 2030 community GHG inventory goal, he said this indicates the need for adjustments to review and update our goals. He said the Sustainable Bellevue Plan will help guide investments to achieve sustainability goals. He said he looks forward to discussing possible additional investments during the mid-biennium budget process later this year.

Ms. Johnson said the consultant will provide a detailed analysis, and staff will be able to provide more information regarding that work in July and September. The consultant is looking at existing actions, assessing the economic impacts, and considering new actions.

Councilmember Stokes commended staff for their work over the past several years. He asked how new actions and strategies can be woven into ongoing plans. Ms. Ewing said staff looks for opportunities to incorporate environmental stewardship practices into other planning documents. She said Wilburton was identified as a good candidate for a sustainable district. Ms. Hagerup provided additional details regarding the potential sustainable district. Mr. Stokes agreed that the Wilburton area provides a number of opportunities. He complimented staff on their ongoing efforts.

Councilmember Lee expressed support for staff's environmental stewardship work. He said it is important to be able to measure performance outcomes and to explore best practices. He acknowledged the challenge of balancing increased housing density with preserving the tree canopy.

Councilmember Sumadiwirya thanked staff for the comprehensive and clear presentation. She praised staff for engaging youth in the outreach process. Responding to Ms. Sumadiwirya, Ms. Ewing said staff is engaging with community based organizations to connect with different populations in Bellevue. Ms. Ewing said the City's cultural outreach assistants speak a number of languages and provide coordination with diverse communities as well.

Mayor Robinson recognized Matt Larson, Puget Sound Energy, in the audience and asked him to comment on their clean energy goals. Mr. Larson said he sent the Council a presentation earlier in the day for future reference. He said they are approaching 60 percent clean energy by 2030 and 100 percent by 2045. He commented briefly regarding wind and hydropower projects.

At 7:30 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared a short break. The meeting resumed at 7:44 p.m.

(b) Update on Vision Zero Program

City Manager Carlson introduced staff's update regarding the Vision Zero program.

Chris Long, Assistant Director, Transportation Department, said tonight's presentation is to provide information and solicit the Council's feedback. He reported an increase in fatal and serious injuries from 27 in 2023 to 36 in 2024 involving pedestrians, cyclists and drivers. Since 2015, 232 people experienced serious injuries and there were 22 fatalities. Mr. Long presented a graph comparing Bellevue's number of collisions with Washington State and with the five largest cities in the state. Bellevue averaged approximately 20 fatal or serious crashes over a 10-year period, which was significantly below the number of collisions in other cities (approximately 27) and statewide (more than 40). Mr. Long said that from 2015 to 2024, 65 percent of all fatal and serious injury crashes involving pedestrians occurred at traffic signals. He said vehicle speed is a top contributing factor in the seriousness of injuries.

Franz Loewenherz, Mobility Planning and Solutions Manager, recalled that the Council adopted the Safe System approach to Vision Zero goals in 2020 to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries on city streets by 2030. Since that time, the city manager approved Bellevue's Vision Zero Strategic Plan, which established this interdepartmental One City initiative.

Mr. Loewenherz highlighted elements of the 2024 Vision Zero Action Plan including securing \$15.7 million in grant funding for safe transportation projects, adopting a 20 mile-per-hour speed limit citywide and approving new Vision Zero funding in the Capital Investment Program (CIP).

Mr. Loewenherz described the physical infrastructure added in 2024 including 2.3 miles of sidewalk, .58 miles of multi-use path, .64 miles of bike facilities, more than 25 road safety projects and more than 30 signal operation changes. He said 31 percent of the 348 RSA (Road Safety Audit) recommendations and improvements have been completed.

Daniel Lai, Smart Mobility Manager, said the 2024 digital infrastructure projects included implementation of the Real-Time Traffic Signal Safety Interventions (RTSSI) Project, testing of LiDAR sensor technology at signalized intersections, new connected vehicles technology at 47 school zone and crosswalk locations, and launching the next generation transit signal priority project with King County Metro. He described a pilot program with T-Mobile involving driver alerts regarding safety and the surrounding environment.

Mr. Loewenherz said the 2025 Vision Zero Action Plan identifies the following actions: 1) test signal technology for real-time safety interventions, 2) assess existing automated speed enforcement camera program to inform potential expansion, 3) evaluate current 30 mile-per-hour roadways to determine the recommended target speeds, and 4) conduct two RSAs that include video analytics data collection.

Mr. Loewenherz said Bellevue has three automated speed enforcement cameras. The state legislature recently passed automated speed enforcement legislation that provides opportunities to update local programs. This includes expanding enforcement locations and the number of cameras allowed. The new law broadens the authority to administer infractions and involves an equity analysis to determine appropriate locations. Mr. Loewenherz said there will be extensive public outreach beginning in May. Council actions anticipated in 2026 include code changes, approval of new camera locations, and contract approval. RSAs will be completed in the BelRed area and in the Downtown.

Mayor Robinson expressed concern about the number of injury crashes and commended staff's focus on intersections based on data. She commented on the need for safe routes for pedestrians and bikes. Mr. Long said the City built a meaningful amount of infrastructure early in the levy implementation. He noted the constraints on squeezing in a buffered bike lane on city streets. He said the arterial sidewalk program was added during the last budget process.

Mayor Robinson suggested accelerating the Vision Zero work. She suggested a comparison of fatal and serious injury crashes with the City of Redmond.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis thanked staff for the presentation and commended the digital and physical infrastructure projects. He requested more frequent, detailed updates regarding Vision Zero projects. He asked how to ensure whether certain measures, such as reducing the speed limit, actually reduce the number of incidents. Mr. Long said they completed their speed management plan in 2024, which looks at speed mitigation options for arterials. He noted the use of new signage for Coal Creek Parkway to attempt to slow traffic speeds.

Councilmember Hamilton concurred with his colleagues' comments and expressed concern about the number of fatalities and serious injury accidents. He commended staff's accomplishments in 2024 but suggested that the City needs to do more. He expressed support for robust community engagement and for considering more funding for pedestrian and bike facilities. Responding to Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Long described a number of sidewalk projects.

Councilmember Stokes acknowledged that Bellevue has fewer fatal and serious injuries than statewide or the five largest cities in the state. However, he said the City still needs to do better to eliminate fatalities and serious injuries. He expressed concern regarding traffic speeds. He thanked staff for their work.

Councilmember Lee expressed support for the Vision Zero program and concern about the increase in accidents. He noted his longtime involvement with the Transportation Commission and expressed confidence that transportation staff will be able to fully achieve Vision Zero goals. He thanked staff for their hard work.

Councilmember Sumadiwirya asked whether there is data regarding the number of adults and children injured in accidents. Mr. Long said staff would follow up with more information regarding pedestrian safety and speeding. He said there are some encouraging trends as DUI and distraction-related accidents have decreased. The primary focus now is speeding and intersections. Ms. Sumadiwirya commended the digital infrastructure projects and innovation. Responding to Ms. Sumadiwirya, Mr. Long noted staff's analysis of wheelchair users and pedestrians with a walking device. He said staff will apply for the Stage 2 grant this summer.

Mayor Robinson noted a consensus that the Council is willing to do more, if possible, to expedite Vision Zero actions.

City Clerk Arredondo said Deputy Mayor Malakoutian had joined the meeting.

At 8:30 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared a short break. The meeting resumed at 8:35 p.m.

11. Land Use: None.

12. Other Ordinances, Resolutions, and Motions

- (a) Take action to accept, geographically modify, or reject the Notice of Intent to Petition for Annexation by property owners in Bellevue's Potential Annexation Area adjacent to the Cougar Mountain/Lakemont neighborhood.

City Manager Carlson said staff is seeking Council direction regarding the receipt of the Notice of Intent to Petition for Annexation of the Cougar Mountain 2 annexation area.

Thara Johnson, Assistant Director, Community Development Department, introduced staff's presentation regarding the proposed annexation in the Lakemont neighborhood. She said staff is seeking direction about whether to accept the Notice of Intent. Acceptance of the notice does not obligate the Council to annex the parcels, however.

Kate Nesse, Planning Manager, said the process covers 12 to 18 months and began on February 19, 2025, when two property owners submitted the Notice of Intent. The Council has 60 days to accept or reject the notice. If the Council chooses to accept it, staff will work with the property owners to make a petition for annexation available to them. If 60 percent of property owners, based on valuation, sign a petition for annexation, it would come back to the Council for a hearing. If the Council votes to annex, the petition will be reviewed by the Boundary Review Board.

Dr. Nesse said the parcels are the last of Bellevue's potential annexation areas. The Notice of Intent included 27 parcels. Staff recommended adding one last parcel and retaining the equivalent zoning (R-4) for the parcels. Dr. Nesse said the same property owners filed a Notice of Intent in 2022 and the Council chose to reject the notice, primarily due to staffing capacity during the Comprehensive Plan Update. She said both property owners have signed a pre-annexation agreement that will allow them to extend utilities. She said the City owns one parcel with two water reservoirs. The Comprehensive Plan supports the comprehensive annexation of the remaining PAAs.

Dr. Nesse said the Council's acceptance of the Notice of Intent will allow staff to begin the analysis to inform the Council's decision about whether to annex the area.

Ms. Johnson said a fiscal impact analysis will be conducted to study: 1) existing and potential property tax collection, 2) capital, maintenance and operating costs (Transportation and Utilities), 3) service impacts (i.e., Police, Fire and Development Services), 4) impact of middle housing, and 5) coordination with school districts. The analysis will be led by the Community Development Department with significant analytical contributions by Finance and Asset Management, Utilities, Transportation and the City Attorney's Office.

Ms. Johnson said reasons to accept the Notice of Intent include: 1) consistent with long-term vision to annex the area, 2) aligns with City policy to annex the area before development occurs, 3) improved operations and maintenance efficiency for water reservoirs, and 4) motivated property owners. She said if the Council chooses to accept the Notice of Intent, staff will work with King County and the community as the annexation petition moves forward. She reiterated that accepting the Notice of Intent does not obligate the Council to approve the annexation.

Mayor Robinson thanked staff for the presentation and expressed support for including the remaining parcel.

Deputy Mayor Malakoutian spoke in favor of moving forward with the analysis. He asked how it might affect the City's infrastructure planning and capacity needs. He thanked staff for the presentation.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis expressed support for accepting the Notice of Intent and adding the last PAA parcel. He asked whether the zoning evaluation could be initiated immediately while the analysis moves forward. Ms. Johnson said the Council can provide direction to staff to conduct a zoning analysis. She acknowledged the potential for increased density. Once the annexation process is complete, staff would need to amend the Comprehensive Plan to incorporate the new area of the city.

Councilmember Hamilton thanked staff for the presentation and said he was ready to move forward.

Councilmember Lee expressed support for accepting the Notice of Intent and moving forward with the analysis. He noted that annexation provides opportunities for more housing.

→ Councilmember Nieuwenhuis moved to geographically modify the Notice of Intent to Petition for Annexation to include the additional parcel in the Potential Annexation Area (PAA), to include an early zoning evaluation and to accept the Notice of Intent with the modification requiring that all properties will receive their proportionate share of the City's bonded indebtedness upon annexation, and to maintain the equivalent zoning category in Bellevue's Land Use Code. Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

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

13. Written Reports: None.

14. Unfinished Business: None.

15. New Business

(a) Council Announcement

Councilmember Stokes announced his resignation as of May 2, 2025, noting that he will be 88 years old. He said his intent when he ran for his fourth term was to serve until December 31,

2027. However, his life has changed, he has a new grandchild and he has decided to move to Seattle to live with his daughter. Mr. Stokes noted that his wife passed away due to Alzheimer's disease during the COVID pandemic. He said it has been 14 great years with the City Council and serving on regional forums.

Mayor Robinson said she was happy for Councilmember Stokes but that the Council would miss him. Ms. Robinson noted Mr. Stokes legacy with the Eastrail, the arts, Bellevue schools and other initiatives.

City Clerk Arredondo said the Council's options going forward include appointing a Councilmember from the four finalists of the recent recruitment or conducting another recruitment process.

Councilmember Hamilton spoke in favor of appointing one of the individuals who has already been interviewed.

Councilmember Sumadiwiryra concurred.

Deputy Mayor Malakoutian congratulated Councilmember Stokes on his retirement decision. Mr. Malakoutian expressed support for appointing a Councilmember from the recently interviewed candidates.

Mayor Robinson said the person chosen for the seat will have to run for election this November if they are interested in continuing on the Council.

Responding to Councilmember Nieuwenhuis, Ms. Arredondo said that if the Council chooses a new recruitment, the candidates will be discussed on April 15 and interviews will be conducted on April 22. The Council could vote on the appointment as early as April 22. There is no Council meeting on April 29.

Mr. Nieuwenhuis expressed support for making a direct appointment from the existing four candidates.

Responding to Mayor Robinson, Ms. Arredondo said if an individual is chosen without additional recruiting, the Council can hold an Executive Session and discuss the candidates' qualifications on April 15 and could make its decision as early as that evening.

Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Ms. Arredondo said the Council has 90 days to appoint a new Councilmember.

Councilmember Lee said he would concur with the majority.

Ms. Arredondo said she would add an Executive Session for the April 15 meeting.

16. Executive Session: None.

17. Adjournment

Mayor Robinson noted that the April 8 meeting has been canceled.

At 9:09 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared the meeting adjourned.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC
City Clerk

/kaw