

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

April 28, 2026
6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Malakoutian, Deputy Mayor Hamilton and Councilmembers Bhargava, Nieuwenhuis, Robinson¹ and Sumadiwirya

ABSENT: Councilmember Briar

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call; Flag Salute

City Clerk Charmaine Arredondo called the roll and all Councilmembers except Councilmember Briar and Councilmember Robinson were present. Ms. Arredondo noted that Ms. Robinson would join the meeting later. Councilmember Bhargava led the flag salute.

(a) International Firefighters' Day Proclamation

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis read the proclamation recognizing May 4, 2026, as International Firefighters' Day in Bellevue and encouraged residents to show appreciation for the courage and dedication of Bellevue Fire Department firefighters and personnel.

A group of Bellevue Fire Department firefighters and staff accepted and thanked the Council for the proclamation.

(b) Therapeutic Court Month Proclamation

Councilmember Bhargava read the proclamation recognizing May 2026 as Therapeutic Court Month in Bellevue and encouraged everyone to recognize the value of these programs and to support efforts that promote recovery, stability and public safety in the community.

King County District Court Judge Lisa O'Toole thanked the Council for the proclamation and highlighted the new community court in the Bellevue Regional Library providing an alternative and assistance for certain non-violent offenders.

¹ Councilmember Robinson arrived at 6:57 p.m.

Craig Fritz, Probation Manager, Parks and Community Services Department, commented on the City's involvement with the community court and the community service component of the program.

(c) Public Service Recognition Week Proclamation

Deputy Mayor Hamilton read the proclamation recognizing May 3-9, 2026, as Public Service Recognition Week in Bellevue and encouraged everyone to recognize and thank our public employees for their outstanding contributions to the community.

Deputy City Manager Nathan McCommon thanked the Council for the proclamation and commented on the City's commitment to excellent customer service.

3. Approval of Agenda

- Deputy Mayor Hamilton moved to excuse Councilmember Briar's absence from the meeting, and Councilmember Nieuwenhuis seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.
- Deputy Mayor Hamilton moved to approve the agenda, and Councilmember Nieuwenhuis 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. Individuals 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. Each speaker is allowed up to three minutes to speak and a maximum of three speakers are allowed to speak to any one side of a particular topic. In compliance with Washington state campaign laws regarding the use of public facilities, no speaker may support or oppose a ballot measure or candidate.

- (a) Maria Hudson expressed concerns regarding child sex trafficking and urged the Council to order a third party investigation of the Bellevue Police Department.

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

6. Report of the City Manager: None.

7. Council Business and New Initiatives: None.

8. Consent Calendar

→ Deputy Mayor Hamilton moved to approve the Consent Calendar, and Councilmember Nieuwenhuis 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 April 14, 2026 Regular Meeting
- (b) Motion to reject bid protest and award Bid No. 26013, Urban Core Bike Network Connections Phase 1 (CIP Plan No. PW-WB-85) to Always Active Services, LLC, as the lowest responsible and responsive bidder, in an amount up to \$747,890.50, plus all applicable taxes.
- (c) Motion to award Bid No. 26011, 2026 Overlay Program to Lakeside Industries, Inc. as the lowest responsible and responsive bidder, in an amount up to \$957,437.45, plus all applicable taxes.
- (d) Resolution No. 10620 authorizing execution of an Interagency Agreement K6819 Amendment 8 and Funding Approval, and all documents necessary, with the Washington State Department of Enterprise Services (DES) to perform construction of electric vehicle infrastructure and charging stations at Bellevue City Hall to support fleet electrification, in an amount not to exceed \$5,993,412, plus all applicable taxes.
- (e) Resolution No. 10621 authorizing the conveyance of a gas easement to Puget Sound Energy Inc. (PSE) located at 700 148th Ave SE, known as Lake Hills Greenbelt.
- (f) Resolution No. 10622 adopting the 2026-2032 Affordable Housing Strategy.
- (g) Resolution No. 10623 adopting the 2026-2031 Economic Development Plan.
- (h) Resolution No. 10624 authorizing the execution of a contract for a Professional Services Agreement with MacLeod Record Architects, PLLC in the amount not to exceed \$1,112,379, plus all applicable taxes, to provide the construction design, permitting support, and construction administration for the development of Ashwood Park.
- (i) Ordinance No. 6913 amending the ethics code in chapters 3.90 and 3.92 of the Bellevue City Code to improve clarity, consistency and implementation; providing for severability; and setting an effective date.

- (j) Resolution No. 10625 authorizing execution of a three-year agreement with Cornerstone OnDemand for licensing, ongoing maintenance, hosting, and upgrades of Software as a Service (Saas) products and services to support a city-wide learning management and performance evaluation system, in the amount of \$388,902.66, plus all applicable taxes.
- (k) Resolution No. 10626 authorizing additional funds in the amount of \$139,014.32 plus applicable taxes to continue a 5-year Software as a Service agreement with Freshworks Inc., to continue to provide a cloud-based platform for IT Service Management and Customer Service Management, in an amount not to exceed \$757,107.87 plus all applicable taxes.

9. Public Hearings: None.

10. Study Session Items

- (a) SeattleFWC26 Local Organizing Committee – Global Soccer Tournament Update

Deputy City Manager McCommon introduced the update regarding planning for the FIFA World Cup games in this region in June and July.

Dylan Ordonez, Senior Vice President of External Affairs, SeattleFWC26 local organizing committee, said the tournament involves 48 teams and 104 matches in 16 host cities. He noted the United States team will play in Seattle. He provided information regarding transportation and parking at the stadium and across King County. A portion of Pioneer Square in Seattle will be a designated pedestrian-only zone.

Mr. Ordonez said Bellevue is easily accessible from Seattle via transit and a number of activities are planned in Bellevue and other cities including watch parties, exhibits and sporting events that will be free and open to the public. Fan zones have been established in cities statewide to host events as well. Mr. Ordonez referred everyone to seattlefwc26.org/event-calendar for more information.

Responding to Councilmember Nieuwenhuis, Mr. Ordonez said the organization is partnering with BEST (Businesses Ending Slavery and Trafficking) to provide training on identifying and responding to signs of trafficking. He said training slots are still available for businesses and organizations.

Deputy Mayor Hamilton said he appreciated all of the efforts focused on security and public safety. Responding to Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Ordonez said FIFA is in charge of the tournament and everything inside the secure perimeter of the stadium. Mr. Ordonez said all host cities have worked with the federal government in safety and security preparedness.

Mayor Malakoutian thanked Mr. Ordonez for the update.

(b) Preserving Equitable Sewer Rates

Mr. McCommon introduced staff's update regarding the Environmental Services Commission's sewer rate recommendations as part of the overall utility rates to be considered for the upcoming biennial budget.

Lucy Liu, Director, Utilities Department, said staff is seeking Council direction regarding how to move forward with improving fairness in the City's sewer rates, supporting affordability and simplifying billings.

Scott Edwards, Deputy Director, described the rate equity analysis conducted by staff focused on the three customer types: single family (32,600 accounts), multifamily (700 accounts/33,000 dwelling units) and non-residential (1,600 accounts). He noted that multifamily residential customers are paying 23 percent more than what it costs to serve them and, as a result, they are unintentionally subsidizing single family residential and non-residential customers. Mr. Edwards said multifamily average sewer usage has declined since 2005. For overall sewer rates, annual rate adjustments of 9 percent to 11 percent are anticipated through 2032, with wholesale costs from King County as the major rate driver.

Mr. Edwards described recommendations to adjust rates for different customer types and smooth rate adjustments over five years to achieve rate equity. The five-year strategy reflects slightly higher rate adjustments for single family and non-residential customers and smaller increases for multifamily customers. The City anticipates achieving full cost recovery by 2031 so that all customers will have the same percentage rate adjustments in 2032.

Matt Hobson, Fiscal Manager, said the Environmental Services Commission supports the five-year phasing proposal. This approach will simplify the rate structure for single family customers, align multifamily and single family rate structures, and lower the non-residential minimum rate and multifamily fixed rate. Mr. Hobson presented the estimated sewer rates, with and without the equity adjustment, for all customer types through 2032. The rates include a fixed rate plus a charge based on usage.

Ken Wan, Chair of the Environmental Services Commission, commented on the commission's efforts to balance cost and fairness for all customer types. The commission recommends approval of the proposed five-year strategy to enhance equity and affordability.

Ms. Liu requested Council direction regarding the recommended rate strategy.

Mayor Malakoutian thanked staff and the commission for their work.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis thanked staff for the analysis and expressed support for the commission's recommendation. He expressed concern, however, about the rate increases, noting that they apply only to the sewer component of the utilities bill.

Councilmember Sumadiwirya expressed support for the recommendation. Responding to Ms. Sumadiwirya, Ms. Liu provided additional information regarding the City's bill assistance

program for individuals based on income, disability and age. Ms. Liu said customers are now able to contribute to a fund for assistance to low-income customers.

Councilmember Robinson thanked Chair Wan and the commission for their review and recommendation. Ms. Robinson said she was astounded by King County's rate increases. She suggested robust public education to encourage water conservation. She suggested exploring potential federal grants and said she would like to consider creating a local treatment plant if the City was able to receive a substantial grant.

Councilmember Bhargava expressed support for the commission's recommendation. Responding to Mr. Bhargava, Mr. Hobson said the City's rate design for multifamily customers was established in the early 1990s. In further response, Ms. Liu confirmed that the rate adjustments are shifting toward the variable portion of the bill versus the fixed rate. Mr. Bhargava expressed an interest in additional ways to address affordability for customers.

Deputy Mayor Hamilton expressed support for the recommended five-year plan and rate structure.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis said he liked Councilmember Robinson's idea about establishing a local treatment plant. However, he said the City of North Bend created its own plant and it has not reduced rates because it still ties into the King County system.

→ Deputy Mayor Hamilton moved to direct staff to incorporate the Environmental Services Commission's sewer rate recommendations into the overall utility rates to be considered by the City Council for the upcoming biennial budget. Councilmember Nieuwenhuis seconded the motion.

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

At 7:51 p.m., Mayor Malakoutian declared a short break. The meeting resumed at 8:05 p.m.

- (c) Recommended Amendments to BCC 11.23 and 11.80 to establish Paid On-Street Parking Program as part of the Curb Management Plan

Deputy City Manager McCommon introduced discussion regarding a proposal to establish a paid on-street parking program.

Andrew Singelakis, Director, Transportation Department, said staff is seeking direction to finalize the code amendment and to prepare an ordinance to allow for the establishment and administration of a paid on-street parking program.

Chris Long, Assistant Director, recalled that the Curb Management Plan was adopted by the Council in 2023 and included 28 curb practices or initiatives for consideration. The purpose of a paid on-street parking program is to improve access to street-level businesses that rely on street parking for their customers. Mr. Long described the City's extensive outreach to businesses and the public. He recalled that the curb implementation strategy included staff's recommendation to

implement paid on-street parking and the Council's approval on December 2, 2025, to move forward with code changes.

Mr. Long said the curb pricing program will be structured as a dynamic pricing approach, where the curb pricing could be adjusted by Director Singelakis after evaluating the impacts of the use of the curb. He said the goal is to create one to two open parking spaces on every block face within the study area. The program will include enhanced enforcement and multiple payment options for parking. Mr. Long noted plans to establish a Curb Pricing Advisory Committee (CPAC) to evaluate and inform the program.

Mr. Long said the key performance indicators include parking occupancy, turnover rate and traffic and curb activity monitoring. Staff will gather feedback generated through CPAC meetings, collect input from local businesses, and develop public surveys to evaluate the program as well. Mr. Long said staff researched the concept of offering free 30-minute parking but recommends against a free parking component due to the impact on revenue and confusion for drivers.

Mr. Long described the proposed code changes in which the City Council establishes the payment rate range for paid parking and curb pricing and the transportation director has the administrative authority to adjust rates for the Curb Pricing Zone within the established range. The City's traffic engineer defines curbside uses including parking and no parking zones, loading zones, time-limited zones and paid parking zones.

Mr. Long presented a map of the Curb Pricing Zone. The net program revenue will be used to support the Curb Management Plan including parking studies, traffic safety improvements, street activation and investments supporting access to transit and microtransit services. He noted the potential for late-night Bellhop service in the downtown.

If directed by the Council to move forward, Mr. Long said staff will solicit payment vendors, design new signage and pay stations, hire staff to oversee the program and establish the advisory committee this year. Public notification and outreach will occur in early 2027 before the paid parking program and enhanced enforcement are implemented during the second quarter of 2027.

Mayor Malakoutian thanked staff for their work.

Deputy Mayor Hamilton thanked staff for the presentation and expressed support for the proposed program and code changes. Responding to Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Long provided additional comments regarding the potential uses of the program revenue, including bus stop enhancements and upgrades to ADA parking.

Responding to Councilmember Nieuwenhuis, Mr. Singelakis said the parking rates could be adjusted based on usage of the parking. Mr. Long said any changes would be shared with businesses and the public.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis said that while he loves street activations, he did not understand how that fits into curb management. Mr. Long said that was included in the code revisions based

on the street dining that emerged during the pandemic. In further response, Mr. Singelakis said one goal of the curb management plan is to mitigate traffic congestion.

Councilmember Robinson said she is not a fan of paid parking. However, she understands the need to try this approach and she appreciates all of the thoughtful analysis and public engagement. She wants to ensure that the program benefits businesses. She encouraged signage that fits well with the adjacent development. She would like to see increased street dining citywide.

Councilmember Sumadiwiryra said parking is important for both businesses and safety. Responding to Ms. Sumadiwiryra, Mr. Long said the recommended price range for parking is \$1 to \$8 per hour. Ms. Sumadiwiryra expressed support for potential street activations. Responding to Ms. Sumadiwiryra, Mr. Long said staff met with the Old Bellevue Merchants Association several times as they were developing the code amendments. He said the Bellevue Downtown Association provided input as well. Mr. Singelakis said staff will continue to work with businesses on an ongoing basis.

Responding to Councilmember Bhargava, Mr. Long said the paid on-street parking program will affect one percent of downtown parking. Mr. Long said the objective of the program is to increase access to businesses and to avoid drivers parking all day because it is free.

Councilmember Robinson encouraged exploring options for more affordable employee parking, especially in the evenings.

Responding to Mayor Malakoutian, Mr. Long said that offering 30 minutes of free parking would result in the loss of revenue for reinvestment into items in the Curb Management Plan.

→ Deputy Mayor Hamilton moved to direct staff to finalize the Bellevue City Code amendment and to prepare an ordinance to allow for the establishment and administration of a paid on-street parking program. Councilmember Nieuwenhuis seconded the motion.

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

11. Land Use Reports: 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 9:07 p.m., Mayor Malakoutian declared the meeting adjourned.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC
City Clerk

/kaw