

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

June 9, 2026
6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers
Bellevue, Washington

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

ABSENT: None.

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 were present. Councilmember Nieuwenhuis led the flag salute.

(a) World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Proclamation

Councilmember Bhargava read the proclamation recognizing June 15, 2026, as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Bellevue and urged everyone to commit to preventing elder abuse and ensuring that all older adults are treated with dignity and care.

Elaine White, Bellevue Network on Aging, accepted and thanked the Council for the proclamation. She said approximately one quarter of Bellevue residents are older adults. She said elder abuse includes physical abuse, emotional or psychological abuse, sexual abuse, financial exploitation, neglect and abandonment.

(b) Juneteenth Proclamation

Councilmember Briar read the proclamation recognizing June 19, 2026, as Juneteenth in Bellevue to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States. She encouraged everyone to reflect on the significance of the holiday and to continue to build a community where all people are treated with respect, equity and opportunity.

Apsara Chowdhary, a teacher at The Eton School, thanked the Council for the proclamation. She said this holiday is the celebration of Black struggle, the will to overcome and the excellence that has been ignored for generations. She thanked the Council for its commitment to making Bellevue a welcoming community.

3. Approval of Agenda

- Deputy Mayor Hamilton moved to approve the agenda, and Councilmember Nieuwenhuis seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

4. Oral Communications

City Clerk Arredondo said the Council appreciates public comments and supports everyone's right to express themselves. 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) Royce Yuen, a pastor at a local church, expressed support for Ordinance No. 6926 imposing a one-year moratorium on the processing of applications for the development of detention centers. He said local residents are living in fear due to enhanced federal immigration enforcement.
- (b) Heidi Dean recalled previous testimony to the Council by her and Loretta Lopez regarding sign code provisions applicable to neighborhood associations. She said they represented a coalition of nine neighborhood associations and are not asking for special treatment. However, they are asking the City to assist in community building. She said the code revision causes a time and cost burden on associations.
- (c) Randy Bannecker, Seattle-King County Realtors, encouraged the Council to support the proposed sign code update. He thanked City staff for their robust community engagement effort.
- (d) Hannah Floss, a member of the steering committee for Indivisible Eastside, commented on the group's efforts in response to immigration enforcement. She noted the group's constitutional observer training to educate community members about what to do that is legally appropriate if they observe an immigration-related abduction. She expressed support for the proposed moratorium on detention centers.
- (e) Joseph Ostheller expressed support for the proposed moratorium on the development of detention centers. He encouraged a permanent ban if possible.

- (f) Khoudia Sow said she attended Interlake High School and is now involved in social work with the immigrant community. She encouraged the City to expand its engagement efforts to ensure that immigrants' representation reflects the full diversity of Bellevue.
- (g) Robert Champoux said he lives near Sammamish High School and expressed concern regarding the continued increase in vehicle noise pollution. He said he has documented decibel levels above the legal limit. He said the Bellevue noise code seems to address only construction noise.
- (h) David Spanier, a resident of the Greenwich Crest neighborhood, expressed concern regarding a proposed safe parking program location and the analysis of the site. He said the church hosting the program is not involving or notifying residents about their plan.
- (i) Alex Tsimerman expressed his dissatisfaction with the Council and with Sound Transit.
- (j) Mon Wig, owner of the Red Lion Hotel property, asked that East Main regulations include a fee-in-lieu option for the affordable housing requirement. He said the unintended consequence of prohibiting that option could result in a lower number of housing units.

5. Reports of Community Councils, Boards, and Commissions

- (a) Parks and Community Services Board Q1 2026 Report and Communication
[Written information only. No presentation.]

6. Report of the City Manager

- (a) Mid-Year Public Safety Update

City Manager Diane Carlson introduced the mid-year public safety update.

Wendell Shirley, Chief of Police, said the Bellevue Police Department continues to focus on prevention, intervention and enforcement (PIE). He presented crime statistics for the past year, noting that overall crime has decreased by 28 percent (739 fewer reported crimes). He commented on the downward trend in the crime rate since 2022.

Andrew Popochock, Assistant Chief of Police, reported that calls for service decreased by 1,283 calls from 2025 to 2026. The average response time for priority 1 calls was three minutes and 14 seconds. Mr. Popochock presented statistics for property crimes and person crimes. He described enhanced efforts to address traffic speeding and modified exhaust citations.

Chief Shirley provided an update regarding the Community Crisis Assistance Team (CCAT) and the Bellevue Light Rail Unit (BLU). He commented on the City's coordination with regional law enforcement partners related to the 2026 FIFA World Cup activities.

Assistant Chief Popochock commented on the police department's interest in a drones-as-first-responders program.

Chief Shirley commended the members of the police department and thanked the Council for their ongoing support.

(b) Keep Bellevue Beautiful Briefing

Ms. Carlson introduced staff's update regarding the Keep Bellevue Beautiful program, which was launched in 2023.

David Isaak, Neighborhood Outreach Manager, thanked the Council and everyone in the community who has supported the program.

Evan Reed, Keep Bellevue Beautiful Coordinator, said the program has three primary areas: Adopt-a-Street program, abandoned shopping cart retrieval and signature streets community cleanups. He said there were 14 corporate cleanup teams for Earth Day 2026. The Adopt-a-Street program has 60 total adopters (i.e., individual households, businesses, organizations) and has removed 311 bags of garbage. Mr. Reed said 1,185 abandoned shopping carts were retrieved in 2026. The signature streets cleanups removed 279 bags of garbage with 137 volunteers.

Mr. Reed said the program's goals include expanding cleanup participation, including youth, and strengthening neighborhood and retailer coordination related to abandoned shopping carts.

(c) Cougar Mountain Annexation

Ms. Carlson highlighted the Cougar Mountain annexation report in the meeting packet. The annexation effort began in 2025 and was initiated by two property owners in the potential annexation area (PAA). The Council accepted the Notice of Intent in April 2025, which began staff's process to analyze the proposal and conduct community outreach. Ms. Carlson said the threshold of support has not been met so the annexation cannot proceed under the direct petition method.

7. Council Business and New Initiatives

Councilmember Briar, liaison to the Parks and Community Services Board, said there were many strong applicants for the board vacancy. She recommended the appointment of Stephan Hobe.

→ Councilmember Briar moved to appoint Stephan Hobe to serve a full term on the Parks and Community Services Board, expiring on May 31, 2030. Councilmember Robinson seconded the motion.

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

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 7-0, and the following items were approved:
 - (a) Council Minutes
Minutes of May 19, 2026 Regular Meeting
Minutes of May 20, 2026 Special Meeting
 - (b) Ordinance No. 6921 amending Chapter 4.32 of the Bellevue City Code to provide for administrative approval for the sale or other disposition of city real property, and to make minor clarifying amendments; providing for severability; and setting an effective date.
 - (c) Ordinance No. 6922 renewing the non-exclusive franchise granted by Ordinance No. 6275 to Olympic Pipe Line Company, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company for an additional ten (10) years; making minor updates and clarifications; providing for severability, and establishing an effective date.
 - (d) Ordinance No. 6923: 1) authorizing execution of an Interlocal Agreement (and supplements if necessary) with King County Metro (KCM) for an agreement totaling \$607,731, which includes a contribution of \$467,485 in pass-through federal grant funds from KCM for the 2026-2027 Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Implementation Program; and 2) amending the 2025-2026 Operating Grants, Donations and Special Reserves Fund by increasing the appropriation by \$233,743.
 - (e) Ordinance No. 6924 amending the hearing examiner code in chapter 3.68 of the Bellevue City Code to authorize the hearing examiner to conduct any required public hearing for real property disposition and to make improvements to clarity and implementation; providing for severability; and setting an effective date.
 - (f) Resolution No. 10642 adopting the City of Bellevue 2027-2032 Transportation Improvement Program.
 - (g) Resolution No. 10643 authorizing the execution of a contract amendment to the agreement with MacDonald Miller for the additional engineering and HVAC components at the Bellevue Aquatic Center in the amount of \$161,088 plus all applicable taxes.
 - (h) Resolution No. 10644 authorizing the execution of Supplemental Agreement No. 1 to the Professional Services Agreement (PO# 2450012) with Applied Research Associates Inc. in an amount up to \$262,800, plus all applicable taxes.

9. Public Hearing: None.

10. Study Session Items

- (a) Recommended Omnibus Land Use Code Amendment and proposed Bellevue City Code Amendments to address clean-up amendments in the Land Use Code, amendments required for compliance with state law, and minor amendments which require limited policy consideration and clearly advance established priorities.

City Manager Carlson introduced discussion regarding the Omnibus Land Use Code Amendment (LUCA) and proposed Bellevue City Code Amendment (BCCA) to comply with state law and clearly advance established priorities.

Nick Whipple, Code and Policy Director, Development Services Department, said staff is requesting Council direction to finalize the LUCA and BCCA ordinances for final action at a future meeting. He said 60 percent of the changes in the Omnibus LUCA are related to state law (primarily seven newly approved bills), 30 percent are cleanup amendments (e.g., clarifications, formatting, correcting references, etc.) and 10 percent relate to other policy considerations (e.g., tree code adjustments, process changes and the fee-in-lieu option for East Main affordable housing).

Negin Khanloo, Chair, Planning Commission, said the commission held its study session on April 8, followed by a public hearing and adoption of a recommendation on May 13. Ms. Khanloo said the commission recommended adoption of the LUCA and BCCA without modifications.

Mr. Whipple said the BCCA updates cross references, aligns local definitions with Washington state law, allows the immediate removal of hazardous trees without delay when public safety is at risk and simplifies utility connection requirements for middle housing. He highlighted elements of the community engagement approach.

Mr. Whipple requested Council feedback to finalize the LUCA and BCCA ordinances.

Mayor Malakoutian thanked Mr. Whipple and Chair Khanloo for the presentation.

Councilmember Bhargava, liaison to the Planning Commission, thanked the commission for their work. He expressed support for the fee-in-lieu option in East Main and other elements. Responding to Mr. Bhargava, Mr. Whipple said staff works on an ongoing basis to improve the administration of the code. In further response, Mr. Whipple commented on how staff determines whether to handle an issue as part of an omnibus package or as a standalone LUCA.

Councilmember Briar thanked everyone for their work. She commented it would be helpful to have data or metrics to demonstrate the outcomes of the LUCA and BCCA.

Councilmember Robinson thanked staff, the Planning Commission and Councilmember Bhargava for their involvement in the LUCA and BCCA. Responding to Ms. Robinson, Mr. Whipple said that housing growth could affect the ability to achieve tree canopy goals. In further response, Mr. Whipple said if a person wants to declare a tree dangerous in order to remove it, there must be an assessment by a licensed arborist.

Responding to Councilmember Robinson, Mr. Whipple commented on plans for housing development in the East Main transit-oriented development (TOD) area near the light rail station and the issues related to the fee-in-lieu option for affordable housing.

Councilmember Sumadiwirya thanked staff and the Planning Commission for their work.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis thanked everyone for their deliberate and thorough review and recommendation. Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Mr. Whipple provided additional details regarding the removal of hazardous trees. Mr. Nieuwenhuis expressed support for the fee-in-lieu option in East Main.

Deputy Mayor Hamilton said he appreciated his colleagues' questions and comments and expressed support for moving forward with future action on the LUCA and BCCA.

Councilmember Robinson reiterated that she supports the LUCA and BCCA except for the East Main fee-in-lieu option for affordable housing.

- Deputy Mayor Hamilton moved to direct staff to finalize the Omnibus LUCA and BCCA for final action at a future meeting. Councilmember Nieuwenhuis seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 6-1, with Councilmember Robinson dissenting.

At 7:42 p.m., Mayor Malakoutian declared a break. The meeting resumed at 7:55 p.m.

11. Land Use Reports: None.

12. Other Ordinances, Resolutions and Motions

- (a) Ordinance No. 6925 relating to signs; repealing Chapter 22B.10 BCC; Adopting a new Chapter 22.10 BCC; Amending Chapter 14.30.070 BCC; Providing for severability; and setting an effective date.

City Manager Carlson introduced discussion regarding proposed Ordinance No. 6925 relating to the sign code.

Mr. Whipple said staff is seeking formal action on the sign code update reflecting an extensive rewrite of Bellevue City Code 22B.10.

Charlie Engel, Senior Planner, Development Services Department, said the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that jurisdictions cannot regulate signs based on the content but can continue to regulate for

form, timing, lighting and other factors. Ms. Engel said the goals of the sign code update are to balance business needs and aesthetics, encourage contemporary design and technology, and to simplify and streamline the regulations.

Ms. Engel described the community outreach activities regarding the sign code update since August 2024. She said the Phase 1 draft report was recently completed and the community provided feedback on the recommended code changes. Phase 3 will be action and implementation through the first quarter of 2027.

The new sign code is organized into four sections: General, Dimensional Standards, Special Cases, and Administration and Permitting. Ms. Engel noted context-specific standards to accommodate unique signage needs including support for the pole banner program, Dick's Drive-In iconic signage, adequate signage for hospitals, digital kiosk signage for wayfinding and tourism, and area-specific standards (e.g., Old Bellevue).

Ms. Engel recalled the Council's discussion with staff on April 14 and commented on three issues: 1) simplify temporary sign registration form, 2) exempt temporary signage on private property from registration requirements, and 3) exempt neighborhood associations from the registration requirement. She said the City cannot regulate signs based on their content or treat signage differently. She said the code now removes the registration requirement for yard signs on private property and for signs displayed up to 48 hours in the right-of-way.

Ms. Engel requested Council adoption of the sign code update.

Mayor Malakoutian thanked staff for the presentation. He said he appreciated staff's work with the community and the revisions made based on Council and community input.

Councilmember Robinson said she hears the most complaints about political campaign signs. Ms. Engel said they require registration if they are placed in the right-of-way for more than 48 hours and there is a required distance between the signs.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis thanked staff for their work. Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Mr. Whipple said free speech issues related to the sign regulations have been reviewed. In further response, Mr. Whipple said political signs may be posted for up to 120 days before the registration must be renewed.

Mr. Whipple said staff will continue to work on the implementation of the sign code changes. He noted an idea to require registration stickers on signs and Mr. Nieuwenhuis expressed concern that renewing the stickers would be a burden for individuals, especially for campaign signs. Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Mr. Whipple said the City will enforce code complaints based on staffing capacity and other resources.

Responding to Councilmember Sumadiwirya, Ms. Engel said that during Phase 3, the project team will coordinate with land use staff to design and carry out implementation of the code changes.

Councilmember Bhargava expressed appreciation for staff's work, including the revisions related to temporary signage and wayfinding. Following up on Councilmember Nieuwenhuis' comments, Mr. Bhargava expressed concern regarding some of the registration requirements, including the potential to require stickers on each sign.

Councilmember Briar thanked everyone for their work. She said she shared Councilmember Nieuwenhuis' concerns regarding enforcement of the sign code. She said she wished there was a way for the sign code to better support neighborhood associations.

Deputy Mayor Hamilton thanked staff for their response to the issues and questions raised previously by the Council. He expressed appreciation for the robust community engagement.

→ Deputy Mayor Hamilton moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6925, and Councilmember Nieuwenhuis seconded the motion.

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

- (b) Ordinance No. 6926 imposing one-year moratorium on the acceptance or processing of applications for the establishment, expansion, or development of detention centers in the City of Bellevue; establishing a work plan; declaring an emergency; providing for severability; and establishing an immediate effective date.

Ms. Carlson introduced Council discussion and consideration of Ordinance No. 6926 imposing a one-year moratorium on the acceptance of applications to develop detention centers.

Mr. Whipple said staff is requesting Council direction to: 1) consider adoption of an emergency moratorium ordinance on detention centers in Bellevue, and 2) establish a work plan to study and evaluate updates to the zoning and land use controls regulating detention center uses. He said several jurisdictions in the region have recently adopted moratoria on detention centers and related uses.

Matt McFarland, Assistant City Attorney, said the current Land Use Code does not regulate detention centers. Without specific zoning and land use regulations, detention centers could adversely affect surrounding land uses, transportation, environment and public health and safety. The proposed moratorium would provide time to evaluate and develop zoning and land use regulations to address and mitigate potential impacts. The proposed moratorium declares an emergency allowing it to take effect immediately.

Mr. Whipple said the work plan will: 1) identify gaps in current zoning, land use districts, development regulations and permitting processes, 2) evaluate whether potential amendments can be incorporated into the Council's work programs, 3) develop findings and recommendations for Council consideration, and 4) integrate the proposed work plan and schedule into code and policy initiatives.

Mr. Whipple said that if the ordinance is adopted tonight, the public hearing must be held before August 7.

Mayor Malakoutian thanked staff for their work.

Councilmember Bhargava thanked the public for their input regarding detention centers. He said it is appropriate to ensure there are clear, consistent goals and standards before moving forward.

Responding to Councilmember Robinson, Mr. McFarland said the moratorium could be extended by six months after the first year. Each extension would require an additional public hearing.

Councilmember Briar expressed support for the proposed ordinance and noted that her mother came to this country as a refugee, fled an authoritarian regime and raised a proud American.

Deputy Mayor Hamilton thanked staff for the presentation and for prioritizing this gap in the Land Use Code. He acknowledged that other cities have already begun addressing the issue. He said a detention center would have significant impacts on neighboring land uses, the transportation system and the environment. He noted reports by the media of substandard conditions in existing detention centers, including in Tacoma.

Responding to Councilmember Nieuwenhuis, Mr. Whipple said the City has not received any application, inquiry, pre-application meeting request or informal outreach regarding a detention center in Bellevue. In further response, Mr. Whipple said the federal government has not identified Bellevue as a potential site for a detention center. Mr. Nieuwenhuis expressed concern about whether the City would be able to stop the federal government from building a detention center. Mr. McFarland said that having a moratorium in place would strengthen the City's position.

→ Deputy Mayor Hamilton moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6926, and Councilmember Robinson seconded the motion.

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

13. Written Reports

(a) Cougar Mountain Annexation Petition Status

(b) Intergovernmental Affairs Monthly Update as of May 31, 2026

14. Unfinished Business: None.

15. New Business: None.

16. Executive Session: None.

17. Adjournment

At 8:58 p.m., Mayor Malakoutian declared the meeting adjourned.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC
City Clerk

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