

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

February 6, 2023
6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers
Bellevue, Washington

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

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

City Clerk Charmaine Arredondo called the roll. All Councilmembers were present. Councilmember Stokes led the flag salute.

(a) Black History Month Proclamation

Councilmember Barksdale read the proclamation recognizing February as Black History Month in Bellevue and urged everyone to reflect on the contributions of Black individuals to our community and beyond and to continue efforts to battle racism and discrimination.

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 7-0.

4. Oral Communications

- (a) Alex Zimmerman expressed concern regarding increased crime and encouraged the creation of a police commission. He spoke in favor of education and opposed to development and technology companies.
- (b) John Loman, a Woodridge resident, commented regarding House Bill 1110 before the state legislature. He acknowledged that affordable housing is an urgent need in the community and region. He said the impacts of HB 1110 will be irreversible and they will affect traffic, infrastructure, neighborhoods, the environment and pedestrian safety. He urged the City to take a data-driven approach to ensure that housing solutions are effective and the best solutions for Bellevue. He asked the City to request data from the sponsors of HB 1110 to validate whether the proposed approach will be effective. He asked the Council to review and share the data with the community for discussion.
- (c) Craig Spieziele said HB 1110 ignores the progress the City has taken toward the production of affordable housing. He said no data has been provided to support the bill's proposed approach. He said the bill appears to prioritize the interests of developers and fails to address the core issue of increasing the supply of affordable housing. He asked the Council to reconsider its previous vote and to provide residents with a written response to their concerns (e.g., risk of displacing renters in single-family homes, infrastructure capacity, parking, pedestrian safety, a focus on walking distance instead of radius from transit, and the prevention of short-term rentals).
- (d) Trudi Jackson spoke regarding the proposed development of the Isola property in the Lakemont area across from the Red Town trailhead. She said the City's Development Services Department (DSD) issued a staff report on January 25 recommending that the Isola housing proposal move forward toward eventual permitting. She said many residents, including the Save Coal Creek group, are opposed to the housing development. The area is one of the few undeveloped open spaces on the west side of Cougar Mountain and there are no urban amenities such as transit services and pedestrian/bike facilities. Ms. Jackson said that if the property is developed, the community will lose an important buffer protecting Coal Creek, a salmon creek for which the City has spent millions of dollars to address water quality and sediment issues. She said the property is the last remnant of a 100-year-old coal mining homestead with its distinctive red horse barn. She said residents will hold a rally at Newcastle Beach Park on February 11 to oppose the Isola proposal. She urged Councilmembers and residents to join them.
- (e) Bob Pond said he grew up in Bellevue and, after living elsewhere for 30 years, he has returned to live in the community. He expressed concern regarding 90-decibel, two-cycle leaf blowers and the pollution they generate. He asked the Council to ban the leaf blowers. He said there are battery powered leaf blowers that are non-polluting and produce half the noise level.
- (f) Cindy Galante, a Clyde Hill resident, described car break-ins in the neighborhood. She noted a friend who lives near Downtown Park whose car was broken into and items were stolen. She said car crimes are occurring in secure apartment parking garages as well. She expressed concern about shoplifting and overall public safety.

5. Reports of Community Councils, Boards, and Commissions: None.
6. Report of the City Manager
 - (a) Bellevue Parks and Community Services Department Summer 2023 Recreation and Programming

City Manager Brad Miyake introduced staff's update regarding summer parks and recreation programs.

Shelley Brittingham, Assistant Director, Parks and Community Services Department, commented on the City's goal to keep parks programs and facilities accessible, safe and inviting.

Jen Newton, Community Services Manager, said Bellevue has 2,700 acres of park land and 92 miles of trails, which is farther than the walking distance from Bellevue to Bellingham. She said hundreds of thousands of people will visit Bellevue's parks, natural areas and trails during the busy summer season, which typically starts around May 1. The City's full-time and seasonal park rangers provide educational outreach, fun walks and programs.

Bellevue has six beaches with lifeguards and more than 45,000 people visit the beaches each summer. When all of the beaches are open, 65-70 lifeguards are needed to help keep people safe when they visit. The lifeguarded beaches are open from late May to early September.

Ms. Brittingham said several day camps, half day and full day, are offered throughout the summer. In 2022, 2,500 participants representing 1,000 households were enrolled in the day camps and the City expects the number of participants to increase this year. Day camps include Kelsey Creek Farm, Bellevue Youth Theatre at Crossroads International Park, South Bellevue Community Center rock climbing, Highland Park skate park, and a number of other outdoor camps.

Ms. Newton highlighted special events throughout the year: Lake to Lake bike ride (June 10), Bellevue Family 4th of July, Movies in the Park at Downtown Park and Crossroads International Park, Bellevue Youth Theatre outdoor summer theater, Northwest Arts Center Theater in the Park, and Arts in the Garden at the Bellevue Botanical Garden. In 2022, more than 18,000 individuals attended the movies and more than 8,000 individuals attended Arts in the Garden. Also in 2022, the Ukraine festival and the Flavors of India festival were held at Crossroads International Park.

Ms. Brittingham invited the community to visit Bellevue parks and events this summer.

- (b) Fire Data and Systems Update – Advancing Data for Efficiency and Effectiveness at Work

City Manager Miyake introduced staff's briefing regarding efforts between the Fire Department and the Information Technology Department to increase efficiencies.

Deputy Chief Dave Beste introduced Jeff Hackmeister, supervisor of the new fire data and systems division in the Fire Department. He said tonight's update is for information only and no action is requested of the Council.

Deputy Chief Beste said the effort is consistent with the Smart City initiative and Council Priority 22: Leverage data and technology to enhance community engagement, equity and accountability. He said the Fire Department is able to measure and share interactive reports of key performance indicators across all of its divisions to inform future policies and to guide customer service. He noted that this effort is critical to continuing to remain an accredited agency.

Mr. Hackmeister said the three goals of the fire data and systems division are to: 1) improve data entry through training, 2) validate data for accuracy, and 3) share data to improve service to the community. He said there are more than 20 different data systems in the Fire Department. Working in partnership with the IT Department, staff identified three projects that could be tackled relatively quickly. Staff developed an internal ticketing system within the Fire Department to streamline and improve IT requests, established monthly coordination meetings of Fire Department and IT staff, and consolidated data from the 20 data systems through the PowerBI reporting platform.

Mr. Hackmeister said that better alignment of data staff has led to better service to frontline personnel, better access to performance data to inform improvements in operations, and more meaningful interactions between supervisors and staff. Accomplishments include the deployment of Operative IQ for apparatus checks and asset management, consolidated performance reporting in PowerBI and the development of technical training for company officers. The Operative IQ system identifies the locations of all Fire Department heavy apparatus as well as whether the equipment is in service. PowerBI reporting provides information regarding average turnout times, completion of daily checklists, incident counts, completion of inspections and other items.

Mayor Robinson thanked staff for the presentation.

- (c) Preview of Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Regional Transportation Construction Activities in Bellevue [*Written materials in meeting packet. No presentation.*]

7. Council Business and New Initiatives: None.

8. Consent Calendar

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to approve the Consent Calendar, and Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.

→ The motion to approve the Consent Calendar carried by a vote of 7-0, and the following items were approved:

- (a) Council Minutes
Minutes of January 17, 2023 Regular Meeting
Minutes of January 23, 2023 Regular Meeting
- (b) Ordinance No. 6721: 1) authorizing execution of a grant agreement (and supplements if necessary) with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to accept up to \$1,041,000 in federal Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funding to support the construction of the Main Street Off-Street Multipurpose Pathway (108th Avenue to 112th Avenue) Project (CIP Plan No. CD-30); 2) amending the 2023-2029 General Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan to increase the budget for the Station Area Planning Implementation (East Main/South Bellevue) Program (CIP Plan No. CD-30) by \$1,041,000; and, 3) amending the 2023-2024 General CIP Fund to increase the appropriation by \$1,041,000.
- (c) Ordinance No. 6722 authorizing the assumption of King County Water District No. 1; execution of an assumption and dissolution agreement with King County Water District No. 1; providing for severability; and establishing an effective date.
- (d) Ordinance No. 6723: 1) authorizing execution of a grant agreement with King County to accept \$100,000 in Parks Aquatic Facilities Grants Program funds; 2) amending the 2023-2024 General Capital Investment Program (CIP) Fund to increase the appropriation by \$100,000; and 3) amending the 2023-2029 CIP Plan to increase the budget for Aquatics Facility Design (P-AD-108) by \$100,000.
- (e) Resolution No. 10218 authorizing the purchase of a prefabricated restroom facility from Green Flush Technologies, LLC in the amount of \$168,797, plus all applicable taxes, for the new neighborhood park in the Bridle Trails neighborhood.
- (f) Resolution No. 10219 authorizing the execution of Amendment 2 of the ProjectCorps Professional Services Agreement to increase spending authority from a not to exceed amount of \$490,000 plus all applicable taxes to a not to exceed amount of \$1,000,000 plus all applicable taxes. The executed Amendment shall be substantially in the form of the Amendment in the Council Library.
- (g) Resolution No. 10220 authorizing the execution of a Professional Services Agreement with HDR Engineering, Inc. in the amount of \$590,217.65, plus all applicable taxes, to develop preliminary design and environmental documentation for the NE Spring Boulevard (Zone 3) - 124th Avenue NE to 130th Avenue NE Project (CIP Plan No. PW-R-210).

9. Public Hearing

(a) Public Hearing on the establishment of a Tourism Promotion Area (TPA) in Bellevue and Redmond

Lorie Hoffman, Arts Community Manager, said staff is seeking direction to bring back an ordinance on the consent calendar for adoption on February 13. A Tourism Promotion Area (TPA) is a way for local governments to generate additional revenues for tourism promotion through a per night charge on lodging in a defined area. In King County, two or more local governments are needed to create a TPA. Ms. Hoffman said the City received a petition from hoteliers in Bellevue and Redmond to form a TPA and staff in the two cities have been working together.

Ms. Hoffman recalled the TPA process to date. In January, the cities of Bellevue and Redmond adopted the interlocal agreement that outlines the framework for the TPA. Following Council action on January 17, the stakeholders submitted a petition to the City Clerk. On January 23, the Council approved a Resolution of Intent to form a TPA, and legal notice of tonight's public hearing was published on January 27, 2023. If directed by the Council, staff will return on February 13 for adoption of the ordinance establishing the TPA. Staff will then work with the Washington State Department of Revenue regarding the required contracts, and revenue collection is anticipated to begin on July 1, 2023.

- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to open the public hearing, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

City Clerk Charmaine Arredondo noted that the Council received seven written comments regarding the proposed action.

The following individuals came forward to comment:

1. Alex Zimmerman expressed concern that increased tourism and visitors will lead to increased criminal activity. He said Amazon is destroying Bellevue.
2. Carolyn Dermarkarian, General Manager of the Bellevue Marriott Hotel, thanked the City for its ongoing support of local hotels. She said hoteliers have been working together since 2020 to form a TPA for Bellevue and Redmond. She expressed support for the proposed TPA and urged the Council to support its implementation. Ms. Dermarkarian said travel business is starting to return to Bellevue following the pandemic and hoteliers are confident they can position local facilities for future conventions and business events. She said the TPA will have a strong economic impact on hotels, restaurants, arts and culture venues, retail activity and nightlife.
3. Dan Ullom, co-owner of Brick and Mortar Books in Redmond Town Center, expressed support for the TPA. He said stores do well when hotels are doing well. He said his business increases significantly when there are events and tourism activity, and hotel visitors are important customers for his store.

4. Jeff Eisenberg, General Manager for the Hilton Garden Inn in Redmond, said tourism is the fourth largest industry in Washington state. Studies indicate that for every \$100 spent on lodging, hotel guests spend an additional \$222 in local businesses. He said there is a need for more resources to promote tourism and the TPA will help Bellevue and Redmond remain competitive.
 5. David Nadelman, General Manager of the Hyatt Regency Bellevue, thanked the Council and the City's cultural and economic development team for their work on the TPA. He said the City worked with hoteliers to develop the Destination Development Plan, and the TPA will generate the resources needed to invest in the full implementation of that plan. Mr. Nadelman said the TPA is an ideal public-private partnership model that is working well in other cities throughout North America. He expressed strong support for the TPA.
 6. Heidi Dean expressed support for the formation of the TPA. She said Bellevue is well located for tourist activities throughout the region. She noted the need to address what is happening in Bellevue with short-term vacation rentals. She said there are many illegal Airbnbs and lodging that do not contribute tax revenues. She encouraged the City to increase its enforcement of short-term rentals, which will also address the housing shortage. She said there is no way to know how many illegal vacation rentals are in Bellevue.
- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to close the public hearing, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.
 - The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.
 - Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to direct staff to draft the necessary legislation formally establishing the Tourism Promotion Area (TPA) for adoption at a future meeting on the consent calendar. Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

Mayor Robinson recalled previous discussion by the Council regarding the proposed TPA.

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

At approximately 7:05 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared a short break. The meeting resumed at 7:15 p.m.

10. Study Session

- (a) Update on the 2023 Strategic Vision for Automated Vehicles

City Manager Miyake introduced staff's presentation regarding the 2023 Strategic Vision for Automated Vehicles report. He noted that the automated vehicle initiative is a component of the City's Smart Mobility program and one of the Council's 2021-2023 priorities.

Chris Long, Assistant Director, Transportation Department, recalled that the Smart Mobility Plan was prepared in 2018. One of the six initiatives of the plan is to advance autonomous and connected vehicle technology through further investigation into how autonomous vehicles could operate in Bellevue.

Daniel Lai, Senior ITS (Intelligent Transportation System) Engineer, said the 2023 strategic vision report was completed in collaboration with the City of Seattle to consider autonomous vehicles within the regional context. The regional goals were established based on Bellevue's 2018 Smart Mobility Plan, Seattle's 2017 New Mobility Playbook, and the Washington State Autonomous Vehicle Work Group's report. The six goals are to: 1) improve safety, 2) invest in innovation, 3) ensure transportation equity, 4) leverage strategic partnerships, 5) increase mobility options, and 6) enhance sustainability.

Additional stakeholders involved in the study included the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) and vehicle manufacturers (i.e., Motional, Cruise, Mobileye and Zoox). Key themes were to: 1) consider curb usage, 2) ensure road safety, 3) improve public awareness for the technology, and 4) develop streamlined permitting process. The top opportunities identified for autonomous vehicles are: 1) new mobility options, 2) reduced collisions, 3) transit network support, 4) decreased vehicle ownership, and 5) Big Data insights. Risks include: 1) increased congestion, 2) inequitable outcomes, 3) safety risks, 4) lack of infrastructure, and 5) technology obsolescence.

Mr. Lai highlighted the near-term actions identified in the strategic vision report. Under the category of leveraging strategic collaborations, one near-term action is to identify small-scale pilot programs that provide opportunities for public experience. Within the safety category, one near-term action is to establish permit requirements for testing and commercial operations. For investing in infrastructure, one near-term action is to designate autonomous vehicle testing areas.

To ensure transportation equity, the study suggests formalizing key performance indicators to be used to evaluate the effectiveness of automated vehicle deployments in meeting the City's goals. Under the category of increasing mobility options, near-term actions include: 1) partnering with the private sector to identify user groups that could benefit the most from autonomous vehicles, and 2) searching for commonalities in goals among neighboring jurisdictions and stakeholders to inform policy decisions. The goal to enhance sustainability emphasizes the need to reduce deadhead miles and emissions and suggests an assessment of curbside assets.

Mr. Long said that after initial testing in 2016 and 2017 in Bellevue, Waymo returned in October 2022 to begin inclement weather testing of autonomous vehicles that will extend through April 2023. Waymo is testing the vehicles in the fully autonomous mode with a safety driver. Mr. Long presented a graphic depicting the lidar, vision and radar systems on the Waymo vehicles, which allow the vehicles to see up to three football fields around them.

Mr. Long said that, in addition to the near-term actions described above, the next steps include pursuing a U.S. Department of Transportation SMART (Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation) grant and working with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to obtain funding for pilot programs.

Councilmember Zahn thanked staff for the update. She said she wants to ensure that the City is right-sizing what it focuses on locally versus statewide and federal advocacy and strategies. She said that includes understanding permitting for autonomous vehicles and helping to educate and prepare the community. She encouraged a focus on sustainability and equity in Bellevue's near-term actions. Responding to Ms. Zahn, Mr. Lai noted a successful program in Minnesota that focuses on accessibility and a program in the medical district in Las Vegas.

Councilmember Robertson asked whether state or local permits require companies to provide adequate insurance to indemnify governmental entities. Mr. Lai said the self-certification process in Washington state requires companies to provide the minimum insurance and indemnification protection. Ms. Robertson said it would be helpful if the autonomous vehicle companies would share their data with the City. Mr. Lai said he believes the companies see that as a challenging barrier due to proprietary concerns. He noted that companies would like to see statewide standards and rules to ensure uniformity across jurisdictions.

Councilmember Lee thanked staff for the comprehensive report. He expressed support for staff's ongoing efforts and encouraged them to continue pursuing grants and partnerships. Responding to Mr. Lee, Mr. Long said this region's technology is not quite ready for autonomous vehicles. Mr. Long said shuttles and circulators could be explored in the future within the context of the established goals.

Mayor Robinson said she is interested in seeing how autonomous vehicles can be implemented in Bellevue. She said senior adults would be well served by this transportation option. Responding to Ms. Robinson, Mr. Lai said the work with T-Mobile through their 5G innovation hub is closely connected to the operation of autonomous vehicles.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis thanked staff for the update and expressed his support for the work. He encouraged a close collaboration between transportation and economic development stakeholders in the community and the region regarding the City's approach and opportunities within Bellevue. Mr. Long said the City's economic development staff has been part of the core team since the beginning of the Smart Mobility Plan. Past smaller scale pilot projects include the video analytics effort and curb management study.

Councilmember Stokes observed that current efforts appear to focus on commercial vehicles (e.g., taxis, ride shares). Mr. Lai said the strategic vision acknowledges additional potential uses for automated vehicles including personal vehicles, freight operations and deliveries, specialized transit and mass transit. Responding to Mr. Stokes, Mr. Lai said the private sector has not been quite ready to implement autonomous vehicles in Bellevue and the region up to this point. Mr. Lai said the private sector and the City are now better prepared to select the types of uses and partners for implementing autonomous vehicles. He said projects in certain cities are not necessarily transferrable to Bellevue and other cities yet. Mr. Stokes encouraged a continued focus on local needs while collaborating in regional efforts as well.

Councilmember Barksdale thanked staff for their work on the strategic vision report. He expressed an interest in exploring how autonomous vehicles can be a seamless experience for

users of other transit modes. Mr. Lai said that integrating fare payment systems with mass transit could be a requirement of autonomous ride share operations. He noted the need to continue to work with state government to develop regional requirements and permitting processes. Responding to Councilmember Barksdale, Mr. Lai said the City of Seattle has an autonomous vehicle permitting process that includes several requirements.

Mayor Robinson suggested adding autonomous vehicle priorities to the Council's State Legislative Agenda when appropriate.

11. Land Use: None.
12. Other Ordinances, Resolutions, and Motions: None.
13. Unfinished Business: None.
14. New Business: None.
15. Executive Session: None.
16. Adjournment

At 8:00 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared the meeting adjourned.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC
City Clerk

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