

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

February 28, 2022
6:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Robinson, Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis, and Councilmembers Barksdale, Lee, Robertson¹, Stokes and Zahn

ABSENT: None.

1. Call to Order

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

Mayor Robinson voiced the City Council's support of the Ukrainian community during this time of international crisis. On February 24, Ukraine was invaded by Russia in an unprovoked and vicious attack that has created a massive humanitarian crisis. Ms. Robinson said it is important to note that the actions of the Russian government do not reflect the feelings or loyalties of many Russian-Americans who call Bellevue home.

2. Roll Call; Flag Salute

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

(a) Mary Kate Berens Commendation

Mayor Robinson noted that Deputy City Manager Mary Kate Berens would be leaving her employment with the City to move out of state.

Councilmember Robertson read the commendation recognizing Ms. Berens' 21 years of service to the community, including as Deputy City Attorney and Deputy City Manager. Ms. Berens led numerous strategic initiatives and complex projects that have improved services, including through her work related to ensuring that the Sound Transit light rail project would serve Bellevue's interests with limited impacts on neighborhoods.

¹ Councilmember Robertson left the meeting at approximately 6:30 p.m. due to illness.

Councilmember Robertson said she has worked with Ms. Berens since 2003 when she was appointed to the Planning Commission. She praised Ms. Berens as an advisor and friend who is well respected by the community and by everyone else who has worked with her. Ms. Robertson recalled her involvement with Ms. Berens and others while negotiating aspects of the Sound Transit light rail project to develop the best project for Bellevue. Councilmember Robertson praised Ms. Berens for her integrity, fairness and good humor and for her role in building public confidence in government.

Councilmember Stokes concurred with Councilmember Robertson's comments. Mr. Stokes praised Ms. Berens' ability to navigate complex issues and to make them understandable for others. He said he will miss working with her and wished her well.

Councilmember Barksdale thanked Ms. Berens for talking through policy issues with him and for her service and commitment to Bellevue.

Councilmember Zahn concurred with her colleagues and said she will miss Ms. Berens' thoughtfulness and pragmatism in solving problems and tackling difficult issues.

Councilmember Lee said he has worked with many staff members and Councilmembers throughout his career with the Council. He praised Ms. Berens' creativity, advice and leadership and wished her well.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis said he has always admired Ms. Berens' handling of complex and sometimes controversial issues as well as her communication skills. He praised her leadership, integrity, intelligence, commitment to public service and work with the Council.

Mayor Robinson expressed her deep appreciation for Ms. Berens' work with the City and the Council. Ms. Robinson commended Ms. Berens for her intelligence, commitment, trustworthiness, reliability and positive leadership.

City Manager Brad Miyake, speaking on behalf of the Leadership Team, thanked Ms. Berens for her many years of service and for advancing the One City culture and the Leadership Team's philosophy of unity and shared goals. Mr. Miyake noted Ms. Berens' ability to recognize strengths in others and to work with all types of people. He praised her intellect and leadership. Mr. Miyake recalled that she was the first person he hired after becoming City Manager. He thanked her for leaving Bellevue a better place.

Ms. Berens thanked everyone for the commendation. She reflected that democracy does not work without people who are willing to step forward as elected officials in a difficult and largely thankless role. She said she has always been impressed with the commitment of the City Council and she has enjoyed working in partnership with the Council to help move its vision forward. Ms. Berens praised her fellow staff members for their collaboration and support over her 21-year career. She said she has had great mentors at the City, including City Manager Miyake.

[At approximately 6:30 p.m., Councilmember Robertson disconnected from the meeting.]

3. Approval of Agenda

- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to approve the agenda, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

4. Oral Communications

- (a) Annie DiMartino, Director of Community Engagement, Performing Arts Center Eastside (PACE), expressed support for the proposed amendment to the Noise Control Code. Last April, PACE launched an initiative entitled Arts Without Barriers. The 10-week program allowed local busker-style musicians to play in public locations in Bellevue and other Eastside communities. PACE partnered with the KidsQuest Children's Museum, Marketplace at Factoria, Bellevue Regional Library and three locations within the Bellevue Collection to provide 73 live music experiences in Bellevue and additional performances throughout the Eastside. Ms. DiMartino said PACE looks forward to being able to offer opportunities for similar performances in the future seven days per week under the proposed Noise Control Code amendments.
- (b) Eden Helstein, owner of Evolution Studios, expressed support for the proposed amendment to the Noise Control Code. He said the changes will allow Bellevue to become a more vibrant community with more cultural events, busker musicians and other performances, including in the BelRed Arts District.
- (c) Colin May, a resident of the Woodridge neighborhood, expressed support for the proposed revisions to the Noise Control Code. However, he suggested removing sound "amplification" from the code language. He said the focus should be on the noise itself and its effects, not its source. He expressed support for removing the need for permits, removing the Sunday restriction, extending the 5:00 p.m. restriction, and designating certain locations as officially noise friendly (e.g., northeast corner of the Downtown Park, amphitheater at Crossroads Park).

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

6. Report of the City Manager

- (a) Written Report of Emergency Procurement for Demolition

City Manager Brad Miyake noted the management brief in the meeting packet regarding the landslide in the Somerset neighborhood that knocked a residence off its foundation. The City's Building Official determined that the residence was unstable and a dangerous building under the Bellevue City Code. The Building Official found that the residence could not be repaired and that a state of emergency existed that required the residence to be demolished as soon as possible. On January 27, 2022, pursuant to BCC 4.28.130.A.7, Mr. Miyake determined that an emergency existed requiring the waiver of the City's normal procedures related to public works

procurement. The City entered into an emergency public works contract with McBride Construction Resources in an amount not to exceed \$600,000 for the expedited demolition of the residence and any necessary site stabilization work.

7. Council Business and New Initiatives: None.

8. Consent Calendar

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

→ The motion to approve the Consent Calendar carried by a vote of 6-0, and the following items were approved:

(a) Council Minutes

Minutes of February 7, 2022 Regular Meeting

Minutes of February 14, 2022 Regular Meeting

(b) Resolution No. 10064 authorizing execution of a five-year Professional Services Contract with GeoEngineers for geotechnical and structural peer review services for shoring installations in an amount not to exceed a contract total of \$275,000, plus all applicable taxes.

(c) Motion to approve payment of claims and payroll for the period January 1, 2022 - January 31, 2022.

(d) Ordinance No. 6652 amending Ordinance No. 5272, which established parking restrictions in the downtown area in addition to other areas of the City, to establish time restricted parking on the east side of 105th Avenue SE adjacent to parcel 10505 Main Street.

(e) Resolution No. 10069 authorizing the execution of a Professional Services Agreement with David Evans and Associates in the amount of 1,369,544.75, plus all applicable taxes, to develop 60% Plans, Specifications and Estimate (PS&E) for congestion relief improvements on 150th Avenue SE between SE 38th Street and SE Eastgate Way.

(f) Resolution No. 10070 authorizing execution of a Turnback Agreement SR 405 S.E. 30th St. Vicinity to N.E. 40th St (TB1-0257) with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), leading to the transfer of right-of-way located within the southeast corner of the Main Street bridge crossing over I-405.

(g) Resolution No. 10071 authorizing the execution of a Professional Engineering Services Agreement with David Evans and Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$736,948.47 plus all applicable taxes to provide design support services for the Eastrail Trail Connection and Spring Boulevard Project (CIP Plan No. G-103).

- (h) Resolution No. 10072 n authorizing execution of a five-year Professional Services Contract with Reid Middleton, Inc. for structural plan review services in an amount not to exceed a contract total of \$275,000, plus all applicable taxes.
- (i) Resolution No. 10073 authorizing execution of a five-year Professional Services Contract with Lani O'Connor for plan review services in an amount not to exceed a contract total of \$275,000, plus all applicable taxes.
- (j) Resolution No. 10074 authorizing execution of a five-year Professional Services Contract with Haley & Aldrich, Inc. for geotechnical and structural peer review services for shoring installations, and other geotechnical investigations or designs, in an amount not to exceed a contract total of \$275,000, plus all applicable taxes.
- (k) Resolution No. 10075 authorizing Amendment 2 of the Interloc Solutions Technical Services agreement to increase spending authority from a not to exceed amount of \$380,000 plus all applicable taxes to a not to exceed amount of \$680,000 plus all applicable taxes.
- (l) Resolution No. 10076 authorizing an addendum to the Interlocal Agreement (Agreement) for the Watershed Basins within Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 8, for the purposes of allowing the City of Everett to become a member with full rights and obligations under the Agreement.

9. Public Hearings: None.

10. Study Session Items

(a) Regional Issues

Lacey Jane Wolfe, Assistant Director of Intergovernmental Relations, noted the legislative update provided in the meeting packet. She said the House and Senate transportation committee chairs released a joint transportation revenue package known as Move Ahead Washington. If adopted, the package will spend more than \$16 billion over the next 16 years. While it does not include direct funding allocations to cities, three of Bellevue's seven transportation priorities are funded through the proposed package: 1) completion of I-405 and SR 167 projects, 2) \$18 million for Eastrail I-90 steel bridge, and 3) full funding for Mountains to Sound Greenway extension to 150th Avenue. Ms. Wolfe said the City's joint outreach with the Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA) and the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce was effective in advocating for the transportation funding.

Ms. Wolfe said that Mayor Robinson, Councilmember Robertson and Councilmember Zahn spoke in support of the transportation package. She said the legislature is continuing to refine the details regarding revenues.

Ms. Wolfe said the housing missing middle bill, HB 1782, failed to advance through the legislative process. It would have required lots exceeding 4,500 square feet that are currently zoned for single-family housing within one-half mile of a major transit stop to be zoned for duplex, triplex, fourplex, detached accessory dwelling units (ADUs), townhouses and other missing middle housing types. In addition, the same size lot outside of the one-half mile radius of a major transit stop would have been required to allow duplexes and attached ADUs. The bill was intended to increase the availability of affordable housing, which Bellevue supports. However, it was inconsistent with the Council's adopted state legislative agenda, which opposes state mandates of this type.

Ms. Wolfe said that Bellevue and the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) raised concerns regarding increased density citywide and traffic, environmental, and infrastructure impacts. There was also concern about whether the bill would actually increase the availability of affordable housing given that similar laws in Oregon and California have not produced that result.

Ms. Wolfe said HB 1660 regulating ADUs continues to move forward. It would preempt local land use authority related to ADUs and is inconsistent with Bellevue's state legislative agenda. She said the bill authorizes one attached ADU and one detached ADU on lots of 4,500 square feet or larger with a primary home. The City currently authorizes one attached ADU and no detached ADUs. The bill eliminates owner-occupancy requirements unless the ADU is used as a short-term rental. Ms. Wolfe said the bill does not include any specific affordable housing requirements and there are concerns about the potential for a significant increase in density in single-family neighborhoods across Bellevue.

Mayor Robinson thanked Ms. Wolfe for the update and for her work with the state legislature.

(b) Cultural and Economic Development Quarterly Update

City Manager Miyake introduced the quarterly cultural and economic development update.

Jesse Canedo, Assistant Director, Community Development Department, said that tonight's presentation is for information only and no Council action is requested. He noted that tourism is a primary focus for 2022.

Philippa Marsh, Economic Development Manager, introduced Edward Butterfield, the new Public-Private Partnership Manager, and said the City will soon be hiring a workforce specialist to focus on implementing the workforce chapter of the Economic Development Plan.

Ms. Marsh said Bellevue's unemployment rate dropped to less than three percent at the end of 2021. She said staff is starting to hear about labor shortages affecting businesses across all sectors, which is creating challenges for recruiting and retaining workers. She highlighted findings from the recent business survey, including that 92 percent of the respondents indicated that Bellevue's economy is better than other Puget Sound cities and towns. She noted the importance of partnerships including with the Chamber of Commerce, Bellevue Downtown

Association (BDA), neighborhood liaison team, and community based organizations for the culturally competent delivery of business assistance.

Mr. Canedo commented on efforts to bring tourism and arts together with the development of the BelRed Arts District. Next steps include the market study phase 2 regarding the needs related to artist housing and creative commercial space, the mural pilot program, convening a stakeholder group and defining the boundaries of the district. He said there is currently no group in the BelRed area similar to the Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA), which helps to make the Downtown a great place. Mr. Canedo said the City hopes to see the stakeholder group evolve into a similar organization to help manage, market and provide additional support for the arts district. He said staff will pursue state and federal grant opportunities to help accelerate the work in the arts district.

Mr. Butterfield said staff hopes to launch the retail study this year, which is a key implementation step of the Economic Development Plan. The draft scope of work addresses a retail market analysis, district capacity building, land use code issues, equity and auto services. The retail study will focus on the impacts of the pandemic and existing gaps in retail services. The information will be used to consider land use code, marketing and recruitment issues and will be shared with brokers and the real estate community to understand what is viable for retailers going forward. Mr. Butterfield said that stakeholder engagement is scheduled for March and an update will be provided to the Council in May. Staff anticipates issuing a request for proposals (RFP) in June or July to identify a consultant to assist with the study.

Ms. Marsh said the tourism industry continues to struggle to recover from the pandemic restrictions. An increase in hotel occupancy in July was unfortunately followed by a decrease in occupancy with the introduction of two new COVID variants. She said many conventions scheduled for the first quarter of 2022 have been deferred to the second quarter. The Rock 'n' Roll half marathon will be held in Bellevue in September. Staff is also working on the proposed Tourism Promotion Area (TPA) and more than 80 percent of the petitions have been signed. Ms. Marsh noted amendments to the Noise Control Code to support small events and performances throughout Bellevue, including neighborhood block parties. She said rush hour activations of public spaces will encourage workers to stay in Bellevue after work to support small businesses as they continue to recover from the pandemic.

Mr. Canedo said staff will be engaging with the community over the next several months for planning related to the Rock 'n' Roll marathon and will launch the workforce program. Additional activities this year include the formation of the TPA interlocal agreement, issuing the retail study RFP and initiating the ArtSpace Phase 2 study.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis thanked staff for the presentation. Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Mr. Canedo said there are auto dealers in Bellevue who are looking for relocation sites as their current locations are being contemplated for vertical and/or mixed use development. In further response to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Ms. Marsh said approximately 8,000 individuals are anticipated to participate in the Rock 'n' Roll marathon. With that number of runners, 4,500 room nights are anticipated as well as approximately \$5 million in total economic impact.

In further response to Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis, Mr. Canedo said the Economic Development Plan includes creating additional districts in mixed use neighborhoods in the BelRed, Crossroads and Factoria areas focusing on retail and special events.

Councilmember Barksdale said he looks forward to generating more nightlife in Bellevue. He asked how the retail study will engage small family-owned businesses to address their challenges. Mr. Canedo said the scope of work will include looking at single-location establishments. He said staff has heard an interest in fostering those businesses from the Council and from the community. He said the consultant will help staff understand the challenges and barriers in the existing market. Mr. Butterfield said the retail study will include an equitable engagement plan to conduct outreach to underserved and underrepresented businesses. Mr. Canedo said the study will also solicit input from business owners who are not currently operating in Bellevue.

In further response to Mr. Barksdale, Ms. Marsh said there were 742 respondents to the business survey, which represents approximately 10 percent of the active business licenses in Bellevue. She said she would follow up with additional details.

Councilmember Stokes expressed support for the formation of a stakeholder group in the BelRed Arts District. He noted that a strong stakeholder group has been effective in moving Eastrail planning forward. He said he hopes to see arts and cultural activities citywide along with the focus on the BelRed Arts District.

Councilmember Zahn noted that the Small Business Development Center has exceeded its goals related to programming and providing assistance. She asked whether data has been collected regarding the retention of the businesses and the impact of the assistance on their revenue. She expressed an interest in understanding which businesses are here now and future needs. She said BIPOC businesses have indicated that access to opportunities and capital are often barriers to success. She would like to better understand the barriers related to equity and small businesses.

Referring to the BelRed Arts District stakeholder group and artist space needs, Ms. Zahn asked how the City can ensure that it is reaching out to businesses or organizations that are not currently in Bellevue because it is not affordable for them. She asked about outreach to the LGBTQ community. She encouraged more art related to the history of Japanese internment. She asked about efforts to help businesses with small profit margins, such as a seamstress or laundry service.

Mr. Canedo said the retail study will explore the ancillary services that contribute to overall quality of life and are available in neighborhoods. He said the City continues to be engaged with the Japanese-American commemoration project led by a community organization. He confirmed that the retail study will engage with businesses not currently located in Bellevue.

Regarding the impact of the Small Business Development Center, Ms. Marsh said the outcomes measured include the number of jobs supported and whether they are able to receive funding and contracts to expand and grow their businesses. She said the Startup 425 program provides an eight-week course in which entrepreneurs are paired with mentors.

Councilmember Lee expressed support for the Japanese-American commemoration project and suggested expanding that approach to recognize other minority groups, including the history of Chinese-Americans in Bellevue. He concurred with Councilmember Zahn's interest in measuring the effectiveness of small business assistance. He expressed support for efforts to develop the BelRed Arts District. He suggested exploring ways to encourage more economic development and diverse land uses. He would like to have a comprehensive development plan encompassing a variety of businesses and community amenities.

Mr. Canedo said staff's work continues to follow the BelRed Plan, which is largely guiding the transformation of the neighborhood. He said the creation of the arts district is one component of the broader BelRed Plan.

At 7:25 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared a short break. The meeting resumed at 7:35 p.m.

(c) Council Initiation of work on Bellevue City Code Amendments regarding Sound Amplification

City Manager Miyake introduced discussion regarding proposed amendments to the Noise Control Code.

Liz Stead, Interim Director, Development Services Department (DSD), said the proposed amendments respond to a request from economic development staff to review the Noise Control Code as it relates to events and performances.

Kristina Gallant, Senior Planner, said staff is seeking direction to initiate a Bellevue City Code amendment to the Noise Control Code to expand the exemption days and hours for amplified sound. She said the events eligible for a sound amplification permit must have fewer than 500 attendees and cannot be located in parks. The permit must provide the location, purpose, description of amplification equipment and proposed timeframe that the equipment will be in use. The current code does not allow sound amplification on Sundays or legal holidays and amplification is permitted only between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The permitted event is restricted to four days per week and the amplification is subject to decibel limits, quiet zone prohibitions and protections for schools and hospitals.

Ms. Gallant said the proposed amendment is intended to facilitate neighborhood events and after-work activations by addressing the most significant code barriers. The amendment removes the ban on Sunday and holiday sound amplification and extends the permitted hours. It does not apply to other sources of noise including construction equipment and leaf blowers.

The engagement process includes broad notification through the Neighborhood News Cultural and Economic Development Newsletter and direct engagement with representatives of residents, events, cultural organizations and the business community. Ms. Gallant noted that more information is available online at www.Bellevuewa.gov/noisecontrol-update.

Ms. Stead requested Council direction to initiate the proposed Noise Control Code amendment.

Mayor Robinson thanked staff for the presentation.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis expressed support for moving forward to amend the code. He noted the comment earlier in the meeting during oral communications suggesting that “amplification” be removed from the code language. Ms. Stead said staff is currently focused on expediting the amendment to expand the days and hours allowed for sound amplification as soon as possible. However, more analysis can be provided by staff if desired by the Council. Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Ms. Gallant said the list of legal holidays is provided in the code.

Responding to Councilmember Barksdale, Ms. Gallant said there is a separate permitting process for sound amplification in parks. The proposed code amendments apply to smaller events on private property. Mr. Barksdale suggested perhaps streamlining the code to make it easier for the public to understand permitting requirements.

Councilmember Zahn suggested developing frequently asked questions or other guidance for the public to apply the code. She suggested that staff consider additional improvements to the Noise Control Code as their analysis moves forward. Ms. Stead confirmed that staff will provide guidance for the public. She said this is one aspect of the Noise Control Code and other issues could be addressed in the future.

Mike Brennan, Interim Deputy City Manager, said the narrowly focused amendment was targeted to quickly advance the goal of allowing greater latitude for small community and neighborhood events. He concurred that additional Noise Control Code issues can be considered in the future, however.

Councilmember Lee expressed support for the goal of removing barriers. However, he expressed concern about the impact of sound in neighborhoods. Mr. Brennan acknowledged that the proposed amendment will expand the rules applicable to amplified sound in neighborhoods. He said the code currently does not allow amplified sound on weekends, which is when many neighborhood events, such as block parties, are held. He said staff will provide recommendations regarding the allowed hours for amplified sound for the Council’s consideration.

Councilmember Stokes expressed support for initiating the proposed work to amend the Noise Control Code. He spoke in favor of expediting the narrow review as proposed by staff and expressed support for considering other amendments as well in the future.

Mayor Robinson expressed support for initiating staff’s work on the Noise Control Code. She said she will be interested to hear the results of the community outreach and input. She suggested a discussion during the Council’s upcoming retreat regarding other sources of noise in neighborhoods (e.g., leaf blowers and modified mufflers) to determine whether the Council would like to make that part of its work plan.

Councilmember Barksdale encouraged removing barriers to neighborhood events. He asked staff to address decibel levels during the next discussion, including a comparison of decibel levels from everyday noises.

Councilmember Zahn concurred with Councilmember Barksdale and expressed support for moving the proposal forward.

- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to initiate a Bellevue City Code amendment related to the Noise Control Code to expand the exemption days and hours for amplified sound to better support smaller events and activations, consistent with economic development goals. Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

(d) Initiation of Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update

City Manager Miyake said the state Growth Management Act (GMA) directs counties and cities to periodically update their Comprehensive Plans. The next update to the Comprehensive Plan is due by June 2024.

Emil King, Assistant Director, Community Development Department, said the Comprehensive Plan update will involve a significant cross-departmental effort, community engagement and collaboration with the City's boards and commissions. The Comprehensive Plan update process is an opportunity to bring the community together to refine the vision for the community. The policy statements and vision drive Bellevue's quality of life, economic development initiatives, equity outcomes, jobs/housing balance, access to parks and open space, transportation and growth.

Mr. King said staff is seeking direction to initiate work on the Comprehensive Plan periodic update.

Thara Johnson, Comprehensive Planning Manager, said the Comprehensive Plan provides the vision for how the community grows with a 20-year horizon (2024-2044) and the policies to guide the City's actions, decisions and capital investments. The plan is separated into chapters or elements that have a corresponding series of goals and implementation policies and includes the neighborhood subarea plans. The GMA requires updates to the Comprehensive Plan every eight years. She noted, however, that this is a nine-year cycle as the plan was last updated in 2015. She said the Puget Sound Regional Council's Vision 2050 Plan and the King County countywide planning policies inform the update. Ms. Johnson said the update is an opportunity to ensure that the plan aligns with the community's priorities and the Council's updated vision regarding housing options and affordability, economic innovation and environmental protection.

Ms. Johnson said Bellevue is a designated metropolitan job center and Downtown Bellevue is an urban growth center. Bellevue's growth targets are set to achieve a 2:1 jobs/housing balance (70,000 jobs and 35,000 housing units). The housing capacity under current zoning is 26,859 units.

Ms. Johnson said the Comprehensive Plan update will be particularly focused on housing options, sustainability and climate resilience, and equity. Pursuant to the countywide planning

policies, the City will address housing sizes and affordability levels through a multi-pronged approach and community engagement strategy. The City will need to address how to incorporate additional density within growth centers and how to provide missing middle housing in different areas of Bellevue. The update could also include evaluating the City's existing system for land use designations and considering a change to broader categories that would require fewer Comprehensive Plan amendments over the long term.

Ms. Johnson said a unique feature of this plan update is that it includes an environmental impact statement (EIS). Phase 1 will update the vision and ensure that it aligns with the Council's vision and priorities. Phase 2a will involve the development of draft land use alternatives for study in the draft EIS, and Phase 2b will be a detailed analysis of issues that will inform the policy development. Phase 2c addresses growth-related policy updates and Phase 3 will revise and refine the updated language. Phase 1 is slated for March/April, Phase 2a is scheduled for May-July and Phase 2b will be addressed this fall. Phase 2c is scheduled for the first quarter of 2023 and the plan and policies will be refined as Phase 3 through next summer and early fall.

The methods of community engagement will include public engagement events, surveys, stakeholder discussions, and public comment during City Council, Board and Commission meetings. The Planning Commission will take the lead in providing policy recommendations to the Council and will consider input from the Boards and Commissions. Direct outreach will include mailed questionnaires to all households and other mailed announcements. Strategy teams will be established to focus on equity, sustainability, placemaking, mobility and land use. Information will be provided on www.engagingbellevue.com and community workshops and public meetings will provide additional opportunities for engagement. Cultural outreach ambassadors will be involved in addressing equity and materials will be provided in multiple languages.

Ms. Johnson requested Council direction to initiate work on the Comprehensive Plan periodic update.

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to direct staff to initiate work on the Comprehensive Plan periodic update, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

Councilmember Barksdale thanked staff for the presentation. He encouraged staff to engage people who are underserved in Bellevue and those who are not currently living in Bellevue but who might want to in the future. He wants to ensure that the survey is representative of the community and he would like to see the results based on race and other dimensions of diversity. He encouraged outreach to the Black and Indigenous community.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis observed that the presentation did not mention the East Bellevue Community Council (EBCC). He said the public will not necessarily know to look for engagingbellevue.com and he suggested adding a link from the City's website and through the MyBellevue app. He said he wants to make it as easy as possible for the public to learn about the update and to provide input.

Ms. Johnson said the EBCC will be involved throughout the process and will have decision authority for their jurisdiction.

Councilmember Stokes thanked staff for outlining the City's thorough and transparent process. He expressed support for moving forward with initiating the update.

Councilmember Lee complimented staff for establishing a good process for updating the Comprehensive Plan and asked about the Council's role. Mr. King said the purpose tonight is to develop a common understanding of the body of work over the next two years. Staff will return with a briefing this summer to discuss the updated vision and growth strategies, and the Council will ultimately take action on the final plan update.

Mr. Lee said the Council has a role in providing the foundation for the vision. He would like to review the vision before engaging the community. He questioned whether March-April is adequate time to refine the vision.

Mayor Robinson noted that the motion at this point is to direct staff to initiate the work.

Councilmember Lee expressed support for moving forward to initiate the Comprehensive Plan update. However, he reiterated his interest in discussing the vision.

Mr. King said staff will use the existing vision in the Comprehensive Plan and the Council Vision, which is typically updated annually, as a starting point. He said there will be adequate time to discuss the vision with the community before the next update to the Council in June or July.

Mayor Robinson said the Council will review its vision statement during the retreat in late March.

Councilmember Zahn thanked staff for the thoughtful approach. She noted that the Puget Sound Regional Council's 2050 Vision includes certain commitments related to growth targets that should be reflected in the Comprehensive Plan. She said it is important to ensure that all voices are heard, and that housing types and affordable housing are addressed. She encouraged outreach to the LGBTQ community and diverse populations. She encouraged continued investments in Smart City programs and initiatives.

Mayor Robinson expressed support for moving forward to initiate the Comprehensive Plan update. She noted that this is a great opportunity for the Council and the community. She said the Council Vision includes statements regarding equity and sustainability, and she looks forward to incorporating those concepts into the Comprehensive Plan.

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

11. Land Use: None.

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

13. Unfinished Business: None.

14. New Business: None.

15. Executive Session: None.

16. Adjournment

At 8:49 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared the meeting adjourned.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC
City Clerk

/kaw