

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Special Meeting  
(Council Retreat)

June 9-11, 2022  
3:30 p.m.

The Majestic Inn  
Anacortes, Washington

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

ABSENT: None.

**Thursday, June 9 [3:30-6:30 p.m.] - Council Rules, Desk Manual and Procedural Issues, Peer Accountability**

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

Council reviewed and discussed Council Rules and Chapter Two of the Desk Manual and reviewed topics of interest to individuals, as well as the following items: quasi-judicial decisions, alternate regular days for Council meetings, and remote participation of Councilmembers.

Council discussed its rules and necessary changes. Staff will bring back sections that have been discussed for future Council consideration.

Participants discussed how Councilmembers will hold themselves accountable for abiding by the Council Rules and operating procedures outlined in the Desk Manual.

**Friday, June 10 [9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.] - Major Initiatives Timeline, Looking to the Future, Re-examining the City's Regional Role, Priorities**

Staff shared a visual timeline of the transformational initiatives and future opportunities as well as other core work in the City to highlight the level of activity occurring in 2022-2024. This set the stage for a conversation about focusing on building strategies to support existing initiatives and identifying future initiatives to keep moving towards the Council's vision.

The major initiatives identified were: 5G, East Link opening, housing and affordable housing, homelessness, Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) Advancement, Parks funding/levy,

homelessness prevention as a separate strategy, translation services and other resources for immigrants, Comprehensive Plan, Grand Connection, arts, DEI (diversity, equity, inclusion) and budget.

The Council then moved into a discussion regarding the City's regional role. The way Bellevue "shows up" is more important than ever. As staff pursues the adopted 21-23 priorities and looks around the corner toward future-facing initiatives, the City must also think critically about regional relationships and how the City engages. With limited Councilmember and staff resources, there must be a strategic role for establishing and reinforcing relationships, when coalitions need to be built, and how to manage the City's presence on various committees, both in the present but particularly in laying the groundwork for longer-term efforts.

Following the regional role conversation, the Council moved into discussion related to specific priorities, including Adopt-a-Street, Park Naming, Graffiti, Apprenticeship Program, Environmental Stewardship Initiative, Staff Support for Councilmember Activities, Diversity in Contracting, Community Education on Housing, Quarterly Bi-Annual Retreats, Freeing up Council Meeting Agenda Time, and Council Calendaring.

**Saturday, June 11 [8:30 a.m.-Noon] - Unfinished Business, Values Overlay**

The Council had a discussion around respect, accountability, and how to move forward more effectively as a council.

The Council then moved into discussion about next steps following the retreat. The City Manager shared with the Council what they can expect as he works with the staff to develop workplans that align with outcomes.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC  
City Clerk

/kaw