

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

September 26, 2022
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 6:00 p.m., with Mayor Robinson presiding.

2. Roll Call; Flag Salute

City Clerk Charmaine Arredondo called the roll and all Councilmembers were present. Councilmember Zahn led the flag salute.

(a) Childhood Cancer Awareness Week Proclamation

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis read the proclamation recognizing September 25-October 1, 2022, as Childhood Cancer Awareness Week in Bellevue. He encouraged ongoing efforts to acknowledge, treat, alleviate and ultimately eliminate childhood cancer.

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) Adria Pouban expressed support for the recommendations reflected in the report prepared by the Trees 4 Livability group. She noted that trees provide shade and support wildlife habitats. She spoke to the importance of saving mature trees given the current development in the community.

- (b) Sandra Grace expressed concern regarding development and the removal of trees in Bellevue. She said trees provide beauty and privacy and help to screen noise. She said trees provide shade, support wildlife and have a healing effect on humans. She asked the Council to adopt the recommendations of the Trees 4 Livability report and to develop stricter tree codes.
- (c) Billy Hetherington, a member of Laborers Local Union 242, thanked the City for advancing programs in public safety, clean streets, affordable housing, equity and inclusion in its preliminary budget. He encouraged the Council and City Manager to work together to establish an apprenticeship program, which is consistent with the City's goals related to economic and workforce development. He suggested that the City's infrastructure work should be an extension of the K-12 education system through registered apprenticeship opportunities. Mr. Hetherington said that Interlake High School created a path to opportunities through its state-registered, pre-apprenticeship program. He said statistics demonstrate that nine months after the completion of an apprenticeship program, 91 percent of those who graduated are still employed. He asked the Council to allocate resources in the budget for an apprenticeship program.
- (d) David Bowling, Congregations for the Homeless, thanked the Council for all they have done to provide shelter and services to help the residents in the men's shelter maintain stability until the permanent shelter opens. He said he looks forward to celebrating the opening of the new shelter with City officials next year.
- (e) Thomas Doe spoke regarding the Save Coal Creek group and the Isola planned unit development (PUD) in the Lakemont area. He thanked City staff for their work on trail maintenance and excellent informational signage in the Coal Creek area. He expressed appreciation for the activists who worked with the City of Bellevue and King County 40 years ago to develop those parks. He urged the Council to protect the Isola property for recreational uses while preserving its historic and natural ambience. He expressed concern regarding the erosion affecting North Fork Falls.
- (f) David Kappler, Vice President of Advocacy for the Issaquah Alps Trails Club, said the club was formed in 1979 and the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park was created by King County in the early 1980s. He said 3,000 acres adjacent to the Issaquah transit center were recently preserved as open space. He encouraged safer access to the park from both Bellevue and Issaquah.
- (g) Teri Burnett spoke in favor of the code recommendations proposed in the Trees 4 Livability report. She moved to Bellevue from Seattle in recent years and loves living in a forest with a variety of wildlife. She urged the Council to preserve Bellevue as the City in a Park.
- (h) Sally Lawrence expressed concern regarding the planned Isola PUD on Lakemont Boulevard. During the past five years while the development proposal was undergoing review, more than 4,600 residents signed the Save Coal Creek petition opposing the development. Instead of 35 homes isolated from City services, the property could become

a City park or perhaps part of the adjacent King County park. The Isola property, if acquired, would widen and improve the existing wildlife corridor between Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park and the Coal Creek Natural Area and could provide space for additional trails and improved access. Ms. Lawrence referred to the upcoming parks ballot measure and noted the levy's priorities to preserve open space and wildlife corridors and to develop trails. She said the developer of Isola Homes has not volunteered to sell the property, and she encouraged the Council to meet with the developer. She said the Save Coal Creek group has heard strong interest in its proposal from the King County Council.

- (i) Marguerite Richard identified herself as a Black Indigenous female and described an encounter between her and a friend and someone in Seattle City Hall. She noted that the friend, Michael Fuller, occasionally spoke during Bellevue City Council meetings and recently passed away due to cancer. Ms. Richard expressed concern about whether City Hall is a safe place based on the encounter and being treated with suspicion, especially while seated next to a Black Lives Matter poster.
- (j) Alex Zimmerman expressed concern about development in Bellevue, the Sound Transit light rail project and Democrats.

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 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 7-0, and the following items were approved:

- (a) Resolution No. 10141 authorizing execution of an amendment to the Utility Construction Agreement (UTB 1294), between the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and the City of Bellevue (City), to increase the amount the City will reimburse WSDOT for the actual cost of utility work by \$265,716 for a total contracted amount of \$1,891,716, plus all applicable taxes.
- (b) Resolution No. 10142 authorizing execution of a four-year professional services agreement with Piper Sandler & Co. to provide financial advisory services, with a one-year renewal option, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$300,000, plus all applicable taxes.

- (c) Resolution No. 10143 authorizing execution of an agreement (and supplements if necessary) with the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) to contribute up to \$100,000 for additional Bellevue samples in the 2023 Puget Sound Regional Household Travel Survey, in support of the City's traffic modeling and transportation demand management (TDM) programs.
- (d) Resolution No. 10144 authorizing execution of all documents necessary to implement settlement of the claim brought by Phil deMarne and Claire Hagan in the amount of \$468,289.48.

9. Public Hearings

- (a) Public Hearing and Action on Ordinance No. 6676 amending section 20.20.850 of the City of Bellevue Land Use Code (LUC) to provide additional extension periods for Temporary Public Safety Facilities during a declared natural disaster or emergency circumstance; providing for severability; and establishing an effective date.

City Manager Brad Miyake introduced the public hearing regarding a Land Use Code Amendment (LUCA) to provide additional extension periods for Temporary Public Safety Facilities permits.

Nick Whipple, Planning Manager, said staff is requesting approval of Ordinance No. 6676 following the public hearing.

Mathieu Menard, Senior Planner, said Temporary Public Safety Facilities are permitted under a declared natural disaster or other unforeseen emergency circumstance. The current code allows one 24-month approval and one 12-month extension period, and the facilities are exempt from discretionary land use approvals.

Mr. Menard said the proposed LUCA is administrative only and ensures the continuity of services at the men's homeless shelter throughout the current emergency circumstance. It will allow Congregations for the Homeless (CFH) to continue operating in Lincoln Center until the permanent housing and shelter in the Eastgate area is completed early next year. The LUCA revises the permit start period to begin at the date of approval instead of the date of the beginning of operations. It allows multiple 12-month extensions where appropriate and supported by an ongoing emergency situation.

Mr. Menard recalled a previous question by the Council about allowing multiple extensions. He said staff determined that there are safeguards in the code to ensure that there will not be a significant negative impact to residents. The Director of the Development Services Department (DSD) may extend a TPSF permit during a declared emergency and extensions cannot be granted beyond the emergency circumstance. The LUCA is subject to Process IV requirements regarding notice of application and public hearing prior to the City Council's decision.

Mr. Menard said the LUCA meets the decision criteria in the Land Use Code: 1) consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, 2) enhances the public health, safety or welfare, and 3) is not contrary to the best interest of the citizens and property owners in Bellevue.

Mr. Menard said staff is requesting Council action on Ordinance No. 6676 following the public hearing.

Mayor Robinson thanked staff for the presentation.

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

Betsi Hummer said that construction of the Eastgate shelter is progressing well. She thanked the Council, including former Councilmember Kevin Wallace, for providing the Lincoln Center temporary men's shelter. Ms. Hummer asked the Council to take a second look at potential restrictions with an eye to the future. She referred to the Homeless Services Uses Land Use Code [20.20.455] and recalled that CFH previously stated that the good neighbor agreement was the most impactful and important aspect in planning for the shelter. She suggested that the good neighborhood agreement should be applied to temporary services for vulnerable populations. She thanked the Council for their work and City staff for their public outreach on social media. She said she has been recommending the MyBellevue app to other residents.

- 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 adopt Ordinance No. 6676, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.
- (b) Public Hearing and Action on Ordinance No. 6677 amending chapters 20.20 and 20.50 of the City of Bellevue Land Use Code (LUC) to conform family child care home provisions to allow more than 12 children as authorized by the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) and pursuant to RCW 43.216.692 and WAC 110-300-0358; providing for severability; and establishing an effective date.

Mr. Miyake introduced the public hearing regarding Ordinance No. 6677 and noted that the purpose is to conform with state law.

Mr. Whipple recalled that this item was discussed with the Council on September 6.

Caleb Miller, Senior Planner, said the Family Child Care Home LUCA responds to Senate Bill 5237, which is intended to expand capacity and access related to child care. Multiple provisions of the bill address child care and early learning. The bill grants authority to the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) to establish a waiver program to allow more than 12 children in a home-based child care business. The criteria to be considered before granting a waiver include floor area and staff-child ratio.

Family child care homes are defined as home-based daycare under Land Use Code 20.50.020. The businesses must be licensed by DCYF, which determines the capacity for licenses. Mr. Miller said the LUCA removes the conflict between the Land Use Code and state definitions and complies with the state Growth Management Act (GMA) [RCW 36.70A.450]. Family child care homes must be regulated as single-family dwellings. The LUCA removes the 24-hour time limit on home-based child care, updates references to state agencies and laws and cleans up references to other codes.

Mr. Miller said the LUCA process follows Process IV requirements regarding notice of application and public hearing. The City's website provides information about staff contacts, the LUCA schedule and updates, and how the public may comment.

Mr. Miller said staff determined that the LUCA meets the decision criteria under LUC 20.30J.135 in that the amendment is: 1) consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, 2) enhances public health, safety or welfare, and 3) is not contrary to the interest of citizens and property owners.

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to open the Public Hearing, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

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

No one came forward to comment.

→ 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 adopt Ordinance No. 6677, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

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

10. Study Session Items

(a) Regional Issues

City Manager Miyake referred the Council to written materials in the meeting packet and introduced staff's update regarding the state legislative agenda process.

Genesee Adkins, Chief of External Affairs, said staff is currently gathering input from department leadership and other staff regarding the Council's state legislative agenda. Staff will provide individual briefings to Councilmembers during the second half of October to gather input and feedback. Council adoption of the agenda is anticipated for mid-November and the legislative session begins on January 9, 2023.

Responding to Councilmember Zahn, Ms. Adkins confirmed that the state legislature's assembly days occur around Thanksgiving or early December. In further response, Ms. Adkins said the federal legislative agenda adopted by the Council in April is a two-year agenda. However, since there will be a new Congress, staff will update the federal legislative agenda next spring. Ms. Adkins said staff will begin working on updates in January while waiting to see what is included in the president's budget proposal. Staff will return to the Council in February for an update.

Councilmember Lee said the Council has an important role with the National League of Cities and the development of its legislative agenda. He believes there is a range of ways the NLC could help cities pursue grant funding. He spoke to the importance of continuing to work with the NLC and federal agencies. He expressed concern that February will be too late in the process.

At 7:02 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared a short break. The meeting resumed at 7:15 p.m.

(b) Introduction of the Preliminary 2023-2024 Operating Budget and 2023-2029 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan

City Manager Miyake introduced discussion regarding the Preliminary 2023-2024 Operating Budget and 2023-2029 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan. He thanked staff for all of their hard work and noted that this is the most complex budget he has worked on over the past 20 years. Current challenges include unprecedented growth in Bellevue, inflation, rising interest rates and continued uncertainty related to economic recovery following the pandemic.

Mr. Miyake said that surveys of residents and businesses continue to reflect very positive satisfaction ratings for City programs and services. He thanked residents, Bellevue Chamber of Commerce, Bellevue Downtown Association and community leaders for their active engagement in the budget process. He noted that all of the City's Leadership Team staff were in attendance. He thanked all staff for their dedication and patience during Bellevue's unprecedented growth. Mr. Miyake said his preliminary budget adds staffing to continue to deliver exceptional public service.

Toni Call, Director of Finance and Asset Management (FAM), thanked Mr. Miyake for his leadership throughout the budget process. She noted that the full budget document was posted on the City's website earlier in the day. She recalled that the Council held its budget workshop on March 7 and public hearings were held on May 23 and August 1. Council discussion will continue through October and the final public hearing is scheduled for November 7. Council adoption of the budget is anticipated on November 21.

Ms. Call said staff will track a memory bank of questions and suggestions for follow up during future Council discussions. Council adoption of the budget includes approval of the development services fee ordinance, utility rates ordinances, Human Services Commission and block grant ordinances, business and occupation tax ordinance, property tax banked capacity resolution, property tax levy ordinance and the overall biennial budget ordinance. Ms. Call said budget, performance and business surveys indicate that 97 percent of Bellevue residents report that Bellevue is a good to excellent place to live. The top concerns are affordability/cost of living, public safety and homelessness.

Ms. Call presented a graphic depicting how the operating budget responds to key priorities and critical needs: public safety, growth and urbanization, homelessness, environmental stewardship, affordable housing and equity, inclusion and access. She said the budget will bring in \$12 million related to the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act, with \$10 million going to human services and \$2 million for small business relief. The City received a total of \$20 million, and \$8 million was appropriated in 2021 for rental assistance and small business assistance. The budget addresses homelessness in a number of ways, including the addition of a safe parking program and enhanced community outreach.

Ms. Call said investments targeted to address equity, inclusion and access include an apprenticeship program, cross-cultural programming and enhancements to the minority women disadvantaged business program. The budget advances environmental stewardship efforts with \$500,000 in the operating budget and \$1.8 million in the CIP Plan, the latter to be directed toward work on the Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) and electric vehicle infrastructure for all City facilities.

In the area of affordable housing, in addition to the existing revenue streams provided by HB 1590 and HB 1406, the City is investing one-time funding to accelerate the next right work focused on eliminating barriers to the development of housing options. Ms. Call said the budget maintains funding for the Fire and Police departments including for the Community Crisis Assistance Team (CCAT), equipment for Fire Station 10, and body worn cameras.

Evan Phillips, Budget Manager, said the 2023-2024 Preliminary Budget totals \$2.2 billion: General Fund, \$592 million; Internal service and other operating funds, \$261 million; Enterprise Funds, \$568 million; Special Purpose Funds, \$139 million; and Capital Investment Funds, \$679 million. He said the \$679 million reflects the first two years of the CIP Plan and includes \$426 million for utilities funding (including reserves) and \$253 million in the General CIP Plan (including reserves). The Enterprise Funds represent the City services that are operated like a private enterprise, including development services and utilities funds.

Moving to total resources for 2023-2024, Mr. Phillips said that of the budget's total \$2.2 billion, \$630 million are generated by taxes (sales, business and occupation, property, utility and others). The 2023-2024 Preliminary Budget maintains the cost containment measures adopted during the pandemic. While those ongoing measures help the City's revenue-expenditure imbalance, they do not fully offset the needs and services related to growth and urbanization.

Mr. Phillips said the budget proposes modest adjustments to tax revenues. For the property tax, a two percent property tax adjustment is proposed for 2023 using one percent of the City's banked tax capacity and one percent from a Councilmanic action. The resulting increase is \$18 annually for a home valued at \$1 million. An additional one percent Councilmanic adjustment is proposed for 2024, resulting in an increase of \$9 annually for a \$1 million property owner. The budget proposes adjusting the business and occupation tax for taxable gross receipts from 0.1496 percent to 0.1596 percent. The budget also adjusts land use permit recovery from 50 percent to 100 percent. Mr. Phillips noted that more information on the last item would be provided on October 24.

Mr. Phillips said that 10 percent of a resident's overall property tax goes to the City of Bellevue. The State of Washington receives 34 percent, Bellevue School District receives 29 percent, King County receives 15 percent and other jurisdictions receive 12 percent. The last time the Council used the banked capacity for a property tax adjustment was in 2015.

Mr. Phillips noted that small businesses with gross receipts below \$180,000 do not pay business and occupation taxes. The budget proposes adjustments in utility rates of 6.7 percent for 2023 and 5.8 percent in 2024. No changes in fire inspection fees are proposed.

Mr. Phillips commented regarding the long-term structural deficit due to the revenue imbalance coupled with the long-term investments needed for the community. Prior to 2023, the City intentionally built reserves, regularly adjusted the Councilmanic property tax, implemented updated Fire inspection fees and reduced ongoing costs in the 2021-2022 budget by \$8 million annually. Mr. Phillips presented the General Fund forecast, noting that expenditures exceed revenues beyond 2025. The key risks related to the forecast include a potential recession, worldwide events such as the war in Ukraine and extreme weather cycles that disrupt the supply chain, ongoing COVID variants and the impacts of remote and hybrid work environments.

Moving to the capital budget, Mr. Phillips said the Utilities CIP would be discussed on October 10. The General CIP includes \$245 for two years, excluding reserves, and \$808 million for the seven-year CIP Plan. The General CIP funds ongoing maintenance of the City's infrastructure, debt repayment, \$2 million annually to address affordable housing, park acquisition (Eastgate, Factoria), ESI program (e.g., electric vehicle infrastructure), architecture and engineering services for the aquatics center, and investments in arts and culture. The General CIP also funds comprehensive planning, Wilburton and Grand Connection planning, the Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP), Vision Zero program elements and general government functions.

New General CIP investments total \$41 million for neighborhoods, \$19 million related to growth and \$9 million related to infrastructure projects. Projects include but are not limited to Lake Sammamish neighborhood park, Ashwood park development, Eastgate and Factoria neighborhood parks, numerous road/mobility projects, aquatics facility, off-lease facilities, trails and Wilburton pedestrian and bike connections.

Mr. Phillips said the 2023-2029 General CIP expenditures include debt service (22 percent), discrete and ongoing projects (39 percent), ongoing maintenance (20 percent) and levy items (19

percent). He said the City refinanced debt as part of the last biennial budget for a significant savings.

Ms. Call highlighted upcoming budget discussions on October 3, 10 and 24.

Mayor Robinson thanked staff for their hard work on the budget.

Councilmember Stokes complimented staff for their development of the budget. He said the budget provides a plan of action and is grounded, in part, by the City's work with the community over the past couple of years.

Councilmember Robertson said the budget reflects both the Council's priorities and the public's priorities including the aquatic center and items in the capital budget. She complimented staff's presentation for clearly describing the budget to the public and the Council.

Responding to Ms. Robertson, Ms. Call confirmed that the Adopt-a-Street program is included in the budget.

Noting that utility pass-through costs from King County and the Cascade Water Alliance are increasing, Councilmember Robertson said she would like to understand how much of the increase in utility rates is due to those increased pass-through costs versus increases in City-controlled expenses.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis thanked City Manager Miyake, Ms. Call, Mr. Phillips, the Leadership Team and all staff who worked on the budget. Mr. Nieuwenhuis encouraged the public to provide feedback regarding the budget, including during the public hearing on November 7. He suggested placing a link to the budget on the City's Home page. As liaison to the Human Services Commission, Mr. Nieuwenhuis commended the investments in needed social services and programs.

Mr. Nieuwenhuis expressed support for the proposed increase in the business and occupation tax rate, noting that it has not been increased since 1989, and for the proposed property tax adjustments. Regarding risks related to the economic forecast, Mr. Nieuwenhuis asked about the specific risks that staff is tracking and how the City will respond to counteract those risks. Ms. Call said staff would follow up with more information.

Mayor Robinson said it was good to be able to hold an in-person retreat again, and she appreciates seeing the Council's goals and priorities reflected in the budget.

Responding to Ms. Robinson, Ms. Call said there was a 10-year period during which the Council did not increase the property tax. Each increase of one percent generates approximately \$500,000 and the banked capacity remains available for future needs. The projected budget deficit beginning in 2025 would not exist if larger property tax adjustments had been implemented in the past.

Councilmember Zahn thanked staff for their hard work and for including the priorities of the Council and the public. Ms. Zahn acknowledged that the City will continue to pursue grant funding. Responding to Ms. Zahn, Ms. Call said the budget reflects the use of property tax banked capacity in 2023 but not in 2024. Ms. Zahn thanked staff for highlighting that only 10 percent of a resident's property tax bill goes to the City of Bellevue. She encouraged ongoing and robust funding for human services.

Councilmember Lee thanked staff, the Boards and Commissions, and the public for their involvement in preparing the budget. Responding to Mr. Lee, Ms. Call said the last adopted budget totaled \$1.7 billion. Mr. Lee expressed an interest in options to address the projected budget deficit, including more public-private collaboration.

Mr. Lee asked about using Councilmanic property tax adjustments instead of the banked capacity. Ms. Call said the City currently has \$9 million in banked capacity. Under state law, the Council can increase the property tax by one percent annually. She confirmed that the Council could choose to use two percent of the banked capacity in 2023 instead of using one percent of the banked capacity and one percent from a Councilmanic tax adjustment. In further response to Mr. Lee, Ms. Call said the savings from refinancing some of the City's debt in recent years was invested in other budget priorities.

Councilmember Barksdale thanked staff for addressing the priorities that cover the needs and interests of Bellevue's diverse community. Responding to Mr. Barksdale, Ms. Call said she and staff are available to provide budget presentations to community organizations.

(c) Update on the City of Bellevue's Americans with Disabilities Act Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan

City Manager Miyake introduced staff's update regarding the City's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan.

Joy St. Germain, Director, Human Resources Department, highlighted a facilities project currently under development by Finance and Asset Management (FAM) Department staff. The Council Chambers ADA upgrade project is approximately 90 percent completed. Phase 1 of the project involved the removal of a number of seats to allow wheelchair access. Phase 2 of the project involves handrail replacement and phase 3 will replace the staff/oral communications table with one that will better accommodate wheelchair users.

Ms. St. Germain thanked the department directors and the ADA Core Team members for their ongoing work. She thanked Mr. Amson for his effective leadership, expertise and accomplishments.

Blayne Amson, ADA and Title VI Civil Rights Administrator, said the City updated its ADA plan in 2019. Title II of the ADA requires that government entities maintain accessible facilities, infrastructure and programs. Mr. Amson said the plan is used to evaluate City programs, services and infrastructure for ADA compliance and to make recommendations for improvements. The ADA Core Team develops departmental work plans and tracks their progress.

Mr. Amson recalled Council support for providing accessible changing tables at playgrounds and parks. He said the City is on track to install 13 changing tables at various locations across Bellevue. He noted the City's interest in honoring the community's diverse populations by going beyond basic ADA compliance.

Mr. Amson highlighted efforts to facilitate effective communication including closed captioning for Bellevue TV content, alternate formats for printed materials, improved accessibility to forms related to Council and other public meetings (e.g., oral communications list) and accessibility standards in the City's style guide for public communications. He said staff produced a guide to encourage universal design for meetings, trainings and events. All public meeting room tables are now at an accessible height, and hearing loops and hearing assistance technology have been installed in a number of City facilities. Staff embraced virtual meeting formats initially due to the pandemic and the City now recognizes that they enhance accessibility for individuals with disabilities.

In the area of City policies and practices, Mr. Amson said staff in all departments have the opportunity to learn about reasonable modifications. He said a lens of both ADA compliance and ableism is often applied when developing or changing policies and processes. He noted that connections to the disabled community have been strengthened to ensure that decisions are informed and collaborative.

Mr. Amson said it was especially critical for the City to maintain connections with the disabled community during the pandemic. The shelter management plan ensures that supplies and equipment for those with disabilities is provided in emergency shelters, and all Office of Emergency Management staff are trained in identifying ableism.

In the area of public safety and law enforcement, police training is being evaluated to ensure that responders are attuned to the reasons that a person might not be able to hear or respond to commands and to help officers recognize certain needs during an interaction with a member of the public. Mr. Amson said staff identified and removed barriers to accessing the City's probation services, and disability equity training is underway for both Police and Fire personnel.

Mr. Amson said the City has installed nine wheelchair charging stations at community centers, City Hall and the Bellevue Botanical Garden. He said project design is always centering access and universal design. He said the public right-of-way is a key focus of the ADA. The City has added or enhanced accessibility for approximately 18,560 linear feet of sidewalks, and 102 curb ramps were installed and upgraded. The City is progressing in its goal to make all pedestrian signals accessible with both visual and auditory alerts.

Mr. Amson expressed appreciation for the strong leadership support at all levels of the City organization. He thanked the Council for the July 25 proclamation that reflects the City's commitment to making programs, services and facilities accessible to people with disabilities. He thanked the ADA Core Team and all staff for their efforts.

Councilmember Zahn thanked staff for the presentation. She noted that designing for accessibility benefits everyone. She asked about feedback from the community regarding items that are important to reflect in the budget. Mr. Amson said that related work items are reflected in department budgets. He said he would follow up with more information regarding public right-of-way and construction projects. Councilmember Zahn suggested sharing the City's ongoing progress with the community.

Councilmember Lee said Bellevue welcomes the world. He thanked Mr. Amson for his work and concurred with Ms. Zahn's suggestion about sharing information with the public. He encouraged staff to continue working with the Council for future improvements.

Councilmember Barksdale thanked staff for their work to make Bellevue more welcoming and said he appreciated Mr. Amson's enthusiasm. Responding to Mr. Barksdale, Mr. Amson confirmed that the City's style guide and universal design guide are applied to the City's web site and MyBellevue app.

Councilmember Robertson observed that the ADA was initially used more to address wheelchair accessibility. She thanked staff for the expanded focus on all types of disabilities affecting vision, hearing and other functions. She said this work is important when talking about Bellevue welcoming the world and in the implementation of diversity, equity and inclusion policies and practices. She expressed support for the changing tables and use of universal design.

Ms. Robertson thanked Mayor Robinson for advocating for universal design, hearing assistance technology and other ways to address disabilities and enhance accessibility.

Councilmember Robertson encouraged staff to consider colors in communications materials that may be difficult for certain people to discern. Mr. Amson noted that a graph in the earlier budget presentation included different colored lines that also had specific symbols (e.g., triangle, arrow) for those who cannot see the colors. Ms. Robertson thanked staff for all of their efforts to include everyone in the community.

Councilmember Stokes thanked staff for their efforts. He recalled attending a presentation on universal design several years ago at a meeting of The Bellevue Network on Aging. He commented on the progress in the area of civil rights over several decades.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis thanked staff for the presentation and commended Mr. Amson's passion for his work. Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Mr. Amson said that public participation in discussions about accessibility increased significantly with virtual meetings. Mr. Amson noted the importance of building relationships with the disabled community, including other wheelchair users who share his interests and concerns.

Mayor Robinson suggested exploring ADA modifications to the dais in the Council Chambers. She would like information regarding accessibility to City facilities to be available on the City's website. She suggested a feature on the MyBellevue app for reporting challenges throughout the community. Ms. Robinson suggested that Mr. Amson partner with Visit Bellevue Washington to discuss how Bellevue can become a known destination for people with disabilities. She

suggested working with hotels and restaurants to help them understand ADA guidelines. She encouraged creating a neighborhood that is truly accessible in the Wilburton area.

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 8:46 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared the meeting adjourned.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC
City Clerk

/kaw