

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Extended Study Session

May 23, 2016
6:00 p.m.

Conference Room 1E-113
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Stokes, Deputy Mayor Chelminiak, and Councilmembers Lee, Robertson, Robinson, Slatter and Wallace

ABSENT: None.

1. Executive Session

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m., and declared recess to Executive Session for approximately 40 minutes to discuss two items of potential litigation.

The meeting resumed at 6:50 p.m., with Mayor Stokes presiding.

2. Approval of Agenda

- Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to approve the agenda, and Councilmember Robinson seconded the motion.
- The motion to approve the agenda carried by a vote of 6-0, with Councilmember Lee temporarily away from the table.

3. Oral Communications

- (a) Queen Pearl expressed concerns regarding institutional racism.
- (b) Michael Fuller spoke about his uncle who served in WWII, the Black Lives Matter movement, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. He submitted his comments in writing.
- (c) Alex Zimmerman, President of StandUP-America, reiterated his ongoing request that the City Manager hold monthly open meetings with citizens. He expressed concerns about government in general.

- (d) Aileen Wu expressed concerns regarding a neighboring privately owned greenbelt with overgrown vegetation. She said there has been no sign of maintenance of the property since her family moved into their home in 2010. She said trees have fallen during storms, and a damaged tree is leaning over her house. Her attorney sent a letter to the property owner on April 22 and has not received a response. She described her research of the City Code and said she cannot find regulations about the maintenance of private greenbelts. Ms. Wu requested the Council's help in identifying existing codes or establishing new codes that regulate greenbelt owners to comply with some level of maintenance standards to avoid safety hazards.

4. Study Session

- (a) Council Business and New Initiatives

Councilmember Lee read a proclamation recognizing May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in Bellevue.

- (b) Ethics Officer Annual Review of Code of Ethics

Deputy City Manager Kate Berens opened discussion regarding the Ethics Officer's annual review and update. Ms. Berens introduced Suzanne Dugan, the City's Ethics Officer since 2015, and recalled that the Ethics Ordinance was passed in 2014. The Code dictates that the Ethics Officer provide a report after the first and third years of the program as well as ongoing education regarding the Code provisions.

Ms. Dugan said the Code of Ethics is contained within Bellevue City Code Chapter 3.92 and applies to the City Council and City Boards, Commissions, and committees. There is a separate Code of Ethics for employees. The purpose of the Code is to promote public confidence in the integrity of local government and its fair operation. The intent is also that city officials be permitted to fulfill their duties to represent the public to the greatest extent possible unless circumstances exist where such engagement is impermissible. Nothing in the Code is intended to reduce, limit or restrict the pool of available candidates for the City Council or Council-appointed bodies.

The Code states that public officials, elected and appointed, must comply with the laws and policies affecting the operation of government and must be independent, impartial and fair in their actions. Public office can be used for the public good but not for personal gain. Public deliberations and processes must be conducted openly, unless legally confidential, in an atmosphere of respect and civility.

Ms. Dugan said prohibited conduct includes conflicts of interest, misuse of public position or resources, representation of third parties, solicitation of charitable contributions, gifts and favors, and the sharing of confidential information. With regard to conflicts of interest, officials shall not participate in quasi-judicial or site-specific land use decisions, the purchase or condemnation of property, or decisions involving the awarding of a grant or contract in which any of the following has an interest: 1) the official, 2) a relative of the official, 3) an individual with whom the official resides, or 4) an entity that the official serves as an officer, director, trustee, partner, or

employee. If a conflict of interest exists, the official must abstain from participating in both discussion and decision-making.

Ms. Dugan indicated that the Council could consider broadening these provisions. In some municipalities, officials are not allowed to participate in any City-related decision if there is an interest related to any of those four relationships. The Council could also consider broadening the four categories of relationships.

Ms. Dugan said RCW 42.23.040 applies to conflicts or potential conflicts with respect to remote interests in City decisions involving the awarding of a contract. State law prohibits public officials from having an interest in a contract with the City. However, certain remote interests are not prohibited. For example, if an official owns a building and a tenant enters into a contract with the City, that would be considered a remote interest and is not prohibited. There are four types of remote interests that are not prohibited: 1) landlord or tenant of a contracting party, 2) a non-salaried officer of a nonprofit organization, 3) a holder of less than one percent of the shares of a company, and 4) an employee of a contracting party whose wages or compensation consists entirely of fixed wages or salary.

The misuse of public resources applies to City staff time, equipment, supplies, or facilities for other than a City purpose. Councilmembers shall not appear on behalf of the financial interests of third parties before the Council or in interactions with staff. No official may make a direct personal solicitation for charitable contributions from City employees.

With regard to gifts and favors, Ms. Dugan said officials cannot solicit or receive anything of monetary value that has been solicited or received with the intent, or perceived intent by a reasonable person, to give or obtain special consideration or influence as to any action by the official in his or her official capacity. In general, there is a \$50 limit even if there is no expectation that the gift would influence a decision. Certain items are presumed not to influence the action or judgment of an official and not to be considered as part of a reward for action, and these may be accepted without regard to the \$50 limit. However, this is a rebuttable presumption depending on the circumstances surrounding the gift.

Ms. Dugan said that, while not contained in the City's Ethics Code, state law dictates that local elected officials are required to report, on their annual personal financial affairs statement, a list of every occasion (including the date, donor and amount) at which food and beverage greater than \$50 in value is accepted.

Ms. Dugan said exceptions to the \$50 gift limit include, but are not limited to, unsolicited flowers and plants, unsolicited advertising and promotional materials (e.g., pens, notepads), unsolicited plaques or awards, and unsolicited gifts from dignitaries from another state or county intended to be personal in nature. Ms. Dugan said there is also an exception for food and beverages consumed at hosted receptions in which attendance is related to the official's duties for the City or when an event is sponsored by or in conjunction with a civic, charitable, governmental or community organization.

Ms. Dugan said public officials shall not knowingly disclose or use any confidential information gained by their official position for other than a City purpose, and officials may not engage in business or professional activity that might reasonably induce them to disclose confidential information. Confidential information is specific information that is not available to a person who files a public records request as well as information made confidential by law.

Ms. Dugan said the second part of the Ethics Code addresses ethical standards (3.92.040), some of which are mandatory and others that are considered aspirational. It is mandatory that public officials comply with federal, state and local laws in the performance of their public duties. Officials are encouraged to comply with a number of ethical standards related to personal integrity, working for the common good, commitment to transparency, ex parte communications, conduct of public meetings, attendance, and nepotism. She suggested that language regarding ex parte communications should be moved to the mandatory section of the Code. She noted an inconsistency in language regarding nepotism, which is listed as permissive in one section. However, other language states that the City Council will not appoint relatives of Councilmembers to Boards, Commissions or other committees.

Ms. Dugan said the Ethics Officer operates under a contract with the City. The Officer's duties include providing an annual review of the Code of Ethics, reviewing training materials related to the Code, providing advisory opinions, and enforcing the Code when necessary. Advisory opinions are subject to the attorney-client privilege. Ms. Dugan said all officials are strongly encouraged to seek advisory opinions from the Ethics Officer at the earliest opportunity whenever an official has reason to believe that his or her circumstances could present a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest.

Ms. Dugan said there is a specific procedure for filing a complaint regarding the Code of Ethics. She has not received any complaints to date.

Councilmember Robinson suggested adding client to the list of relationships that might indicate a conflict of interest (i.e., official, relative of the official, an individual with whom the official resides, and an entity that the official serves as an officer, director, trustee, partner or employee).

Responding to Ms. Robinson, Ms. Dugan said that standards addressing interactions with the media are typically covered elsewhere (e.g., Council Rules, internal policies and procedures).

Responding to Ms. Robinson, Ms. Dugan said the exception to the \$50 gift limit for unsolicited gifts that are personal in nature from foreign dignitaries is typical of other jurisdictions' codes. If the Council wished to add restrictions, Ms. Dugan said a provision could be added to require that the gift becomes the property of the governmental entity. However, certain gifts of a personal nature might not make sense as government property (e.g., ties, scarves).

Councilmember Robertson said that delegations from Bellevue have taken a primary gift to cities that are visited as well as small individual gift bags for public officials. Ms. Dugan said the Council could consider language referring to "unsolicited reasonable and customary gifts."

Mayor Stokes noted that, in the case of gifts from other countries, those are not entities involved in City business or that would be affected by Council decisions.

Councilmember Slatter said she recently returned from a trip to China. She will transfer a gift she received from a business involved in the trip to the City. Ms. Slatter thanked Ms. Dugan for her assistance and expressed support for her suggestions about ex parte communications and nepotism.

(c) 2016 Water System Plan

Ms. Berens noted that this agenda item was postponed from the previous week's meeting due to more timely water-related issues. She introduced staff's presentation of the Water System Plan, which has been reviewed by the Environmental Services Commission.

Utilities Director Nav Otal said the City's Draft 2016 Water System Plan is required by the Department of Health and is a vital component of the utility planning process. The plan includes updated policies, establishes direction on large capital investments, and recommends changes to programs, policies and practices.

Paul Bucich, Assistant Director of Utilities, said the most recent plan was adopted in 2009. Staff is seeking Council input to finalize the plan in June. Bellevue's service area covers a residential population of 145,000 and includes Clyde Hill, Yarrow Point, Hunts Point, and portions of Kirkland, Issaquah, and King County. Bellevue's water utility is served by Seattle Public Utilities through the Tolt River and Cedar River watersheds.

Mr. Bucich highlighted elements of the Council's Interest Statement regarding the water utility. He said staff conducted an extensive public process involving the Environmental Services Commission, neighboring utilities, the SEPA (State Environmental Policy Act) review and public comment process, and social media as part of updating the plan.

Mr. Bucich said five new sections have been added to the Water System Plan to address drinking water storage, green buildings, water rights for supply redundancy, regional policy development, and facility repurposing.

Mr. Bucich said the City's emergency water storage provides a one-day reserve for emergencies and daily operational storage. An independent review confirmed that the criteria used to establish this practice is appropriate and consistent with surrounding communities and industry standards. The adverse consequences of adding storage is water quality degradation due to low turnover rates in reservoirs as well as the high cost of constructing storage facilities.

Responding to Councilmember Robertson, Mr. Bucich said the 45 million gallon reservoir owned and operated by Seattle Public Utilities in Bellevue would be available to provide additional water if the City's supply was temporarily interrupted. SPU's operations are able to provide water to all of its customers for a minimum of five days, if needed.

Mr. Bucich said that most of Bellevue's drinking water supply came from groundwater wells until the mid-1960s. Most of the wells still exist and the water rights are written to the City or to utility districts the City has absorbed. If the City is successful in perfecting those water rights, the wells could supply approximately 7.6 million gallons per day. The City has confirmed that the

development of these water rights and well connections for emergency supply do not conflict with the City's agreements with the Cascade Water Alliance.

Responding to Mayor Stokes, Mr. Bucich said staff is conducting a study of the City's water rights, how to perfect them, and where to install new wells. Staff will report back to the Council later this year. Mr. Bucich said there are currently four wells.

Moving on to facility repurposing, Mr. Bucich said old pipes that have been replaced are filled with sand and concrete or they are removed. There have been discussions in the past about placing telecommunications wiring through the old water mains, which could generate revenue to offset rate increases. However, further analysis of that proposal is needed.

Responding to Councilmember Robertson, Mr. Bucich said the pipes could be sold or rented, depending on the fiscal analysis. Ms. Robertson suggested it would be useful to analyze the cost and benefits of installing open conduit whenever a street is opened for a project. She said she has discussed this idea with Transportation staff as well.

Responding to Councilmember Robinson, Mr. Bucich said the City has a relatively robust map of the water system. However, details are lacking for limited portions of older pipe.

Mr. Bucich described the emerging issues related to green buildings. The Bullitt Center in Seattle was designed to require little to no water. The City of Seattle and King County did not have policies in place regarding cost allocations, connection fees, fire flow requirements, and other issues raised by utility independent buildings. Mr. Bucich said the City's water system is designed to share costs equitably throughout the service area. He said the individual use of a building is a relatively small component when compared to fire flow requirements. Unless a building is constructed of fully fire-proof materials, the City must be able to provide fire flow. Bellevue's new proposed policy directs the utility to anticipate, investigate, and prepare for buildings with net zero water usage.

Responding to Councilmember Lee, Ms. Otal said other cities receiving water from the City of Bellevue share in the costs of the water system, and all customers are treated the same within each jurisdiction.

Councilmember Wallace observed that the area has more water than is needed in the foreseeable future. He questioned the need for directing time and money to address green buildings when that level of conservation is not a high priority. Ms. Otal said the City needs to anticipate how it will respond to future proposals. She noted that Seattle was not prepared to deal with the issue of connection charges with regard to the Bullitt Center.

Mr. Wallace suggested that the sewer connection is a more important issue. Mr. Wallace said the Cascade Water Alliance has reported annually over the past several years that the water supply is well above current and projected needs. He said Cascade bought Lake Tapps, which is now not needed.

Mr. Bucich said the City wants to be prepared to address buildings that use no water versus less water than other construction. Certain developers are arguing that there should be no water connection fee. However, the City still needs to provide adequate pipes for fire flow. Mr.

Wallace observed that utility rates continue to increase while water usage continues to decrease. Mr. Bucich said the development of policies will not require significant staff time or other resources. He said staff is not preparing a near-term budget proposal to address the issues. However, within the next couple of years, the City will begin working with King County and other cities served by Bellevue Utilities to develop recommendations for Council consideration.

Councilmember Robinson said she would like to see green buildings in Bellevue and to attract the developers who want to build them, especially in the BelRed Corridor.

Mr. Bucich highlighted elements of the water system evaluation, which is used to plan for growth, water conservation, and emergency preparedness. The population and number of jobs continues to increase, and water usage continues to decrease through conservation efforts. Other items covered in the system evaluation are the emergency management plan, reservoir seismic rehabilitation, and overall system resiliency.

Councilmember Wallace reiterated his concern that water conservation results in higher rates, and there is ample water supply.

Ms. Otal noted that budget proposals will be presented this year to conduct the feasibility study for a seismic evaluation of the pipe system and to pursue the water rights evaluation.

Mr. Bucich said the Water System Plan recommendations are to: 1) continue to protect water quality, 2) resolve localized system deficiencies, 3) plan for growth projects, 4) update asset management strategies for rehabilitation and replacement, 5) develop a master plan to optimize water rights, and 6) perform a seismic vulnerability analysis.

Staff is seeking Council adoption of the plan in June, and anticipates adoption of the plan by the King County Council by this fall. Final approval of the plan is required by the Washington State Department of Health and is anticipated later this year or early 2017.

Councilmember Slatter thanked staff for the review. She would like to continue to promote water conservation. However, she understands Councilmember Wallace's concern about the long-term implications for the water utility business model.

Councilmember Robertson expressed support for exploring the potential for repurposing abandoned pipes to carry conduit. She said the green building issue is similar to the issue raised by electric cars, which use the roads but do not pay the gas tax. She said it is appropriate for the City to plan ahead and to consider a rate structure that will ensure green/net zero usage buildings are paying for their share of fire flow and the sewer system.

Councilmember Wallace said King County will be studying the sewer capacity charge next year. He said all utilities are not created equal. While there is a need for greater electrical capacity, there is not a capacity problem with water. He observed it would not be unreasonable to continue to require all buildings to have a water system connection.

Mayor Stokes said he believes staff will develop a reasonable and rational plan related to green buildings. He said it is important to plan for fires and other emergencies. He wants to be sure the overall plan provides a balanced approach.

Responding to Mr. Stokes, Ms. Berens said staff could return as early as June 6 to request Council adoption of the Water System Plan.

(d) Long Range Financial Planning Update

Ms. Berens said this agenda item continues the previous week's discussion regarding long-range capital needs, including a potential levy package to implement the Fire Department long-range plan as well as funding options for neighborhood transportation safety and connectivity projects. Staff seeks Council authorization to conduct public outreach related to those two areas. If approved by the Council, staff will work through the Transportation Commission, open houses, and online tools to engage the community. Staff anticipates future study sessions on technical and financial issues later this summer.

Fire Chief Mark Risen presented a review of the 2014 Fire Department Facilities Master Plan. The planning objectives were to analyze current response data to evaluate fire station locations; assess current Fire facilities to prioritize renovation, replacement or relocation; and to assess the capability of the Public Safety Training Center to meet department and regional training needs. Previous master planning for fire stations was completed in 1979 when growth was primarily east to west and there were few high-rise structures.

Chief Risen said the existing fire stations are well located but most are very old, with an average age of 34.7 years. The latest station renovation was approximately 14 years ago. Newer apparatus are larger and heavier, no stations meet current seismic codes, mechanical systems are beyond their projected life, and there is a need to implement "smart" fire stations. Chief Risen said a new fire station is needed in the Downtown. The 2014 study recommended no decrease in the level of service as Bellevue grows and changes (e.g., increased density in the Downtown and BelRed corridor), effective response capability after a seismic event, and the implementation of appropriate regulations, standards and best practices.

Chief Risen described the task force station model established in 1979. He said south Bellevue is currently under-served by ladder company support. There is currently one Battalion Chief response location, which he would like to move to Station 6 in the BelRed corridor. He recommended adding a task force station with a ladder company and Battalion Chief in the Factoria/south Bellevue area.

Chief Risen said the 2014 study confirmed the need for a Downtown fire station to enable a three-minute response to the base of high-rise buildings. He presented graphs depicting a consistent increase in the number of Downtown responses and high-rise incidents. The study also recommends the replacement of Station 5 on Clyde Hill, relocating/replacing Stations 4 and 6 as task force stations, and updating Stations 1, 2, 3, 7, 8 and 9 to improve seismic standards and the ability to accommodate modern apparatus.

Chief Risen said the training center is beyond its 30-year useful life. The 2014 study recommends acquiring adjacent property to accommodate a phased replacement of the training

center as well as a new Fire Department central support/supply facility. He said supplies are currently located in several different fire stations.

Chief Risen said the Fire Department, with the direction of the City Council, will work with the City Manager's Office, Finance staff, and Civic Services staff to develop a cost and phasing schedule for the facilities plan. This will include looking at options to reduce estimated costs.

Moving to transportation and mobility needs, Ron Kessack, Assistant Director of Transportation, recalled previous discussion regarding the federal Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan program as a potential source of capital funding for major projects. In addition, the Council discussed an interest in considering funding alternatives for smaller transportation projects in the areas of: 1) neighborhood safety, 2) sidewalk and trail maintenance, 3) new sidewalks and trails, 4) new bike connections, and 5) Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) safety and traffic management.

Mr. Kessack requested Council feedback regarding the five categories of neighborhood safety and connectivity projects. He questioned whether there were other priorities the Council would like staff to address through its public outreach activities.

Councilmember Robinson said residents have questioned the need for increased Fire Department services in the Downtown given the enhanced fire safety features and requirements for high-rise buildings. Chief Risen said sprinklers can be effective in controlling or extinguishing fires. However, they do not prevent fires and there will continue to be instances of cooking fires, electrical fires, and smoking-related fires in high-rise buildings. He said it is important for the Fire Department to be able to respond aggressively to all fire incidents.

Councilmember Robertson said there is also the need to respond quickly for medical emergencies, which are the majority of the calls. Chief Risen said a recent study indicates that cardiac arrest survival rates in high-rise buildings decrease for higher floors.

Moving to transportation, Ms. Robertson noted congestion throughout Bellevue and suggested considering the use of TIFIA loans for projects outside of the major arterial and growth areas. She would be interested in feedback from the Transportation Commission regarding standards and/or types of projects to include in the area of neighborhood safety and connectivity. Referring to staff's mention of trails, Ms. Robertson said she supports neighborhood pathways next to roads. However, she believes that hiking trails should be implemented through the ongoing Parks Levy. Councilmember Robertson said she would like traffic calming and crosswalk projects to be included as neighborhood safety projects as well. Mr. Kessack confirmed that staff was referring to pathways along roadways rather than hiking trails.

Responding to Councilmember Robertson and Mayor Stokes, Mr. Kessack said citywide congestion projects, beyond the Downtown and growth areas, can be studied and evaluated if desired by the Council. Ms. Robertson expressed an interest in feedback from the Transportation Commission regarding potential projects.

Councilmember Lee noted his ongoing interest in improving connectivity between neighborhoods. He suggested considering vanpools and other modes of transportation (e.g., bikes). He observed that the proposed categories do not include a sufficient variety of connectivity modes.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak observed that the objective is to accelerate certain projects and to explore different tools to fund those projects. He believes it makes sense to use levy funding for Fire Department facilities to meet the most critical needs (e.g., seismic upgrades), while also providing funding through the ongoing Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan. He said it is appropriate to ask the voters to approve a property tax levy to support those needs.

With regard to neighborhood transportation, Mr. Chelminiak said the primary interest of the community is typically safety projects, including crosswalks and continuous sidewalks. He noted that impact fees paid by developers are used to address congestion throughout the community.

Responding to Mr. Chelminiak, Chief Risen said there is currently \$7.25 million available for property acquisition related to Fire Station 10 (Downtown). The later years of the current CIP Plan include \$12 million for the replacement of Station 5 and \$5 million for upgrades to the training center. Chief Risen said the Fire Department will work with Finance Department staff to determine how a levy package should be designed.

Councilmember Wallace concurred with Councilmember Robertson's suggestion to explore smaller citywide congestion projects. Mr. Wallace suggested studying projects in the Eastgate area. Responding to Mr. Wallace, Mr. Kessack said additional funding would enable expanded sidewalk and rockery repairs and maintenance. Mr. Wallace said he would like to see projects distributed throughout the community.

Mr. Wallace said his comment the previous week about possibly creating a technology fund envisioned a broad look at emerging transportation technologies.

Turning to Fire Department priorities, Mr. Wallace said it would be helpful to understand how a Downtown call affects the service capacity for adjacent neighborhoods. He questioned how the costs for capital improvements are handled through the City's contracts with outside service areas. He expressed interest in an analysis of whether the training facility upgrades would be funded by the City or with assistance from regional partners. Councilmember Wallace expressed an interest in recommendations from the Fire Department regarding the timing of completing facilities projects.

Councilmember Slatter encouraged including citywide and neighborhood congestion issues and priorities in the City's public outreach efforts. Noting the several types of projects mentioned by staff, including school routes and traffic calming, Ms. Slatter said she would be interested in knowing what percentage of those types are reflected in proposed projects as they come forward.

Ms. Slatter observed that, with regard to transportation needs, the City is soliciting input from the community regarding needs and priorities. With regard to Fire Department needs, the City is providing its expertise regarding priorities. Ms. Slatter said it is important to make that distinction in the public outreach effort. Ms. Slatter requested more information on mutual aid and how the financing works. She supports addressing the training center as a regional facility.

Mayor Stokes recalled his understanding from the previous discussion that the Council's intent for a potential levy was to focus on smaller safety projects and not on major transportation pieces. He said that certain items raised tonight would be much more expensive than what was previously discussed by the Council. He would like the Transportation Commission to review the priorities categorized by staff as well as the items suggested by the Council. However, he does not want to consider major changes in established transportation project plans.

Ms. Berens clarified that staff is not requesting support for specific projects that would be placed in a levy package. She observed that public outreach efforts will likely result in suggestions about congestion and connectivity projects. Staff will come back to the Council with that input as well as recommendations regarding potential tools to address the priorities. Ms. Berens said a levy generates a specific amount of funding annually, which might not be well suited for larger projects. She observed that public outreach around the themes/categories identified by staff will elicit information regarding residents' priorities and additional needs not identified by the City.

Councilmember Lee said public safety is a top priority and it is important to fund Fire Department facilities needs. He supports a levy package to accelerate the Fire Facilities Master Plan, which provides clear priorities and needs. However, he does not see the same clarity with regard to a potential transportation levy. Mr. Lee said it is not clear whether the projects will be focused primarily on safety or on other considerations. He expressed support for creating a technology fund as suggested by Councilmember Wallace.

Councilmember Robinson noted a reference to a new bike connection along 108th Avenue SE from SE 30th to Main Street. While she supports this as a bike corridor, she expressed concern about current traffic congestion and pedestrian safety on 108th Avenue SE between Main Street and Bellevue Way due to student drivers, pedestrians, significant traffic associated with Bellevue High School, and daily commuters.

Councilmember Robertson suggested considering a broader context of transportation needs, as articulated by Ms. Berens. Ms. Robertson said no decisions have been made by the Council, and this is the first public discussion with all seven Councilmembers about which topics should be included in the City's community outreach. She would like to solicit public input on both small and large, including congestion-related, neighborhood projects.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak concurred that no decisions have been made. He is not opposed to looking at transportation projects that might improve mobility. However, those projects become very expensive. He said a levy package would be one part of the overall long-range financial plan. He would like the Transportation Commission to review and consider suggested projects. However he cautioned that, if this becomes a road projects levy, it might be more difficult to earn the voters' support.

Mayor Stokes said he did not mean to imply earlier that decisions had been made. However, he felt the Council had already discussed a general idea of what to present for public discussion.

Mr. Kessack said staff's proposed next steps are to work through the Transportation Commission to review potential transportation needs and projects and to work with the Council to review the Fire Facilities Master Plan project needs and prioritization. Staff proposes three public meetings to obtain input on needs, projects, and revenue options.

(e) Regional Issues

(1) Draft Bellevue City Council Comment Letter on Metro Connects Plan

- Councilmember Wallace moved to adopt the City Council Comment Letter regarding the Metro Connects Plan. Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak said the Council and staff held multiple discussions regarding Bellevue's long-range transit needs. He complimented staff's draft letter and said he is pleased that Metro is embracing the concepts identified in Bellevue's Transit Master Plan. He observed that the population of the Eastside is becoming comparable to the population of Seattle.

Mayor Stokes commented on the City's work with other cities along I-405 to advocate for an effective bus rapid transit (BRT) line.

Councilmember Lee said he is encouraged that Metro is recognizing the importance of strong transit services on the Eastside.

Councilmember Slatter said the letter reflects input from other jurisdictions. She said the letter requests that Metro and Sound Transit collaborate in their planning and service delivery.

5. Continued Oral Communications: None.

Mayor Stokes declared the meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Charmaine Arredondo
Acting City Clerk

/kaw