

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Session

October 3, 2016
8:00 p.m.

Council Chamber
Bellevue, Washington

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

ABSENT: None.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:09 p.m., with Mayor Stokes presiding.

2. Roll Call, Flag Salute

All Councilmembers were present. Councilmember Robinson led the flag salute.

(a) Bellevue College 50th Anniversary Proclamation

Mayor Stokes read a proclamation recognizing the week of October 9-15, 2016, to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Bellevue College. The college is the third largest higher education institution in Washington and has an annual enrollment of 33,000, including 1,700 international students from 74 countries.

(b) International Walk to School Day Proclamation

Mayor Stokes read a proclamation recognizing Wednesday, October 5, as International Walk to School Day in Bellevue. He presented the proclamation to Mark Oppfelt, a member of the Clyde Hill Elementary School PTA, who thanked the Council for recognizing the importance of physical activity for children. Mr. Oppfelt thanked John Murphy, Transportation Associate Planner, for his help with this event and with the year-round Walking Wednesday program at Clyde Hill Elementary School.

3. Approval of Agenda

→ Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to approve the agenda, and Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.

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

4. Communications: Written and Oral

- (a) Eric Gaston, an Issaquah resident, said he was a lawyer for 20 years and now owns marijuana stores. He employs 50 individuals at two stores and has submitted an application for an additional store in Bellevue. He said it is very difficult to find tenant space for a marijuana retail store in Bellevue. He suggested that allowing two stores per subarea would create more opportunities for businesses. He encouraged the City to allow eight stores instead of the current limit of six stores.
- (b) Keri Pravitz, Puget Sound Energy, said PSE has conducted many community meetings, including door-to-door outreach, regarding the Energize Eastside project. PSE is now discussing site-specific designs with property owners and inviting all property owners along the project corridor to meet with PSE staff.
- (c) Diann Strom, PSE, described visits to private properties along the Energize Eastside alignment. Residents have raised questions about septic locations, how PSE will restore their yards after construction, and ideas for other ways to access the poles. She said some residents have suggested making the poles a little taller. She said PSE appreciates the property owners who have met with PSE to date. PSE will keep the Council updated going forward.
- (d) Alice Wang, Parents Against Marijuana Near Schools (PAMNS), thanked City staff for keeping parents informed about the timeline and process for considering marijuana regulations. She said she attended the earlier Study Session and she appreciates Councilmembers who want to protect this community. She supports the need for medical marijuana and understands that the City needs to accommodate legal recreational use. However, she does not want youth to think it is okay to use marijuana. She does not want the City to choose money over children's futures.
- (e) Ed Stevenson said he and his family rented boat moorage over the summer from a private resident, whose property has subsequently been identified by the City's Code Enforcement as a marina. He encouraged the City to allow private property owners to rent boat moorage.
- (f) Mark Oppfelt said the Clyde Hill Elementary School's Walking Wednesday program was launched in 2014 and has increased the number of walkers. He expressed concern, however, regarding pedestrian safety near the school, especially on 100th Avenue. He encouraged the City to enhance and improve crosswalks along 100th Avenue and to improve signage.

Mayor Stokes asked the City Manager to follow up with staff regarding Mr. Oppfelt's comments.

- (g) Xian-Zhong Guo said he moved to this area in 1986 as a graduate student. He expressed concern that the country is becoming increasingly liberal, including with the legalization of marijuana. He said he attended the earlier Study Session and he was encouraged by the comments of Councilmembers Lee and Wallace. He said the Council has a critical role on this issue.

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

6. Report of the City Manager

- (a) Annual Institute of Transportation Engineers Transportation Achievement Award

City Manager Brad Miyake introduced staff to report on a recent award to the Transportation Department.

Mark Poch, Assistant Director of Traffic Management, introduced Chris Long, the City's new Traffic Engineering Manager, and described some of his previous work experience.

Mr. Long said the City received the annual Transportation Achievement Award from the Institute of Transportation Engineers for the implementation of the Sydney Coordinated Adaptive Traffic System (SCATS). The organization is a group of professionals working in transportation engineering, planning and research, and includes 13,000 people in 90 countries. The award recognizes excellence in the advancement of transportation to meet human needs.

Mr. Long highlighted the positive outcomes of the City's implementation of adaptive traffic signals including reducing traffic signal cycle lengths by 20-30 percent, reducing travel times during the evening peak commute by 20-40 percent, and reducing the time it took to clear the Downtown after the 4th of July celebration to less than one hour. Bellevue was the first community to use transit signal priority with the SCATS program. The use of the flashing yellow left-turn arrow has reduced the total annual travel time by 215,000 hours community-wide.

Mr. Long said a Time magazine online article referenced Bellevue as the "frontier of adaptive traffic management." He thanked the Council for its support of SCATS implementation. He said all traffic signals in Bellevue have been converted to SCATS except for intersections currently under construction on Northup Way. He said staff is installing a data portal system that will allow staff to extract count volumes more efficiently and to share them with other departments. Staff is working on integrating the data with two connected vehicle companies to help support safety and travel efficiency. Staff is also in the process of developing new algorithms for transit signal priority in an effort to improve the speed and reliability of Metro's B Line.

Mayor Stokes thanked staff for the report and for implementing the program.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak said funding for the SCATS technology was relatively significant. He is happy to see how effective the SCATS project has been and proud to have Bellevue on the leading edge, especially in the area of vehicle-to-infrastructure communication.

Councilmember Lee said this is an innovative program, and the data is proving that it is effective. He said the Council and City staff were willing to make a commitment, and now the community is receiving the benefits.

Councilmember Wallace said it is good to see the benefits in return for the costs and to see the ability of technology to alleviate congestion. He said this is a good opportunity to consider how the City and/or the private sector can collaborate on addressing traffic challenges, often through lower cost alternatives.

Councilmember Slatter said she looks forward to seeing the potential of the data portal and how it might be used to help the public. She congratulated staff on the award.

Councilmember Robertson recalled that financing later phases of the SCATS program continued to be a challenge, and she is pleased with the success of the technology. Responding to Ms. Robertson, Mr. Poch said SCATS has been implemented at 36th Street and Factoria Boulevard and at Eastgate Way and Richards Road. Ms. Robertson thanked staff for always being forward thinking.

Councilmember Robinson thanked Transportation staff for their excellent work, noting that this has been the department's second major award over the past two months.

Responding to Deputy Mayor Chelminiak, Mr. Poch confirmed that SCATS is in place at the intersection of NE 10th Street and 102nd Avenue NE. Mr. Poch said extra phasing and a longer cycle was added at that location because it experienced a number of pedestrian accidents.

Mayor Stokes thanked staff for their work. He observed that Bellevue was ahead of Seattle in implementing the flashing yellow left-turn arrow to keep traffic moving.

7. Council Business and New Initiatives

Mayor Stokes noted that longtime City employee Lourdes Salazar, who retired this summer, recently passed away. He said she was an effective champion in the community for addressing Bellevue's increasing diversity and promoting inclusiveness.

City Manager Miyake said Ms. Salazar worked most recently in the Probation Division. She passed away while visiting her daughter in California, where the funeral will be held. Mr. Miyake said a memorial service will be held locally at a later date.

8. Consent Calendar

- Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to approve the Consent Calendar, amended to include the revised minutes of the September 19, 2016 Regular Session [*provided in desk packet*]. Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.
- The motion to approve the Consent Calendar, as amended, carried by a vote of 7-0, and the following items were approved:

- (a) Council Meeting Minutes
Minutes of September 12, 2016 Extended Study Session
Minutes of September 19, 2016 Study Session
Minutes of September 19, 2016 Regular Session *[as revised in desk packet]*
 - (b) Resolution No. 9151 authorizing execution of a purchase agreement with Apsco, LLC, for the purchase of a Wemco 150H Hidrostal trailer mounted wastewater pump for the Utilities Department, in an amount not to exceed \$99,063.00, plus applicable Washington State sales tax.
 - (c) Ordinance No. 6310 authorizing the execution of a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Energy to accept funding for the project “Analyzing Drivers of Change in Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories”; authorizing acceptance of \$450,597 in funding from the U.S. Department of Energy; amending the 2015-2016 Operating Grants, Donations and Special Reserves Fund to increase appropriations by \$450,597; and authorizing expenditures of said grant funds.
9. Public Hearings: None.
10. Land Use: None.
11. Other Ordinances, Resolutions and Motions
- (a) Ordinance No. 6311 amending the 2015-2021 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan to: 1) add one new CIP project G-101 (TIFIA Debt Cost Service); and 2) decrease the appropriation to PW-R-190 project budget by the amount transferred to G-101 and increase the appropriation to G-101 by the corresponding amount; and authorizing the transfer of all necessary funds from PW-R-190 (120th Avenue NE, NE 8th to NE 12th Street) to CIP project G-101 to provide for the anticipated administrative costs for a federal Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan from the US Department of Transportation (DOT) consistent with applicable budgetary standards.

City Manager Miyake recalled that the City is pursuing a Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan for transportation capital projects in the BelRed area. He said the City’s letter of interest was well received by the U.S. Department of Transportation. He said the TIFIA process requires the City to pay certain fees for services, including expert legal and financial review. He said staff is seeking an amendment to the 2015-2021 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan to cover the fees.

Ron Kessack, Assistant Director of Transportation, said the City submitted its letter of interest on August 3 to the U.S. Department of Transportation, requesting \$100 million to complete the design, property acquisition, and construction of five projects in the BelRed area. The loan represents the 33 percent match provided by the TIFIA loan, with the City providing 66 percent

of the overall project costs. The USDOT was pleased with the City's letter of interest, which was generated by staff instead of using outside consultants. City staff has been working with USDOT staff to resolve the basic terms of the loan agreement. Mr. Kessack said USDOT staff asked the City to identify the timing for payment of the administrative costs described by the City Manager, primarily for financial review.

Mr. Kessack said the FAST (Fixing America's Surface Transportation) Act was passed late last year, which created an abbreviated process for TIFIA loan applicants requesting \$100 million or less. This requires the City to pay the administrative fees soon, with the closing on the loan targeted for January 2017.

Mr. Kessack described the five projects included in the TIFIA letter of interest: Spring Boulevard Zone 2, 124th Avenue (NE 12th Street to Spring Boulevard), continuation of 124th Avenue to Northup Way, 130th Avenue (Bel-Red Road to NE 20th Street/Northup Way), and Spring Boulevard Zone 4. At one time, TIFIA program staff mentioned the potential for including Sound Transit's match in the 120th Avenue Stage 3 project. However, that was not possible due to Sound Transit's TIFIA application.

Mr. Kessack said that, in June, staff asked the Council to advance funding in several project areas to move forward with design to meet TIFIA requirements. Since one of the projects is not included in the TIFIA loan application, staff recommends transferring some of the funding to be used for the TIFIA administrative fees. The typical cost for fees is \$550,000 to \$800,000. However, the USDOT anticipates that Bellevue's fees will be substantially lower.

Mr. Kessack said staff requests that the Council give the City Manager the authority to take the necessary funds for the TIFIA loan administrative fees from that project (PW-R-190).

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak thanked staff for their good work, and former Mayor Claudia Balducci and Deputy Mayor Wallace for initiating this effort. He said this is a smart way to finance large infrastructure investments. He said Mr. Wallace worked hard on this project. Mr. Chelminiak said he supports the request, with the changes noted in the desk packet.

Councilmember Wallace said he learned about the TIFIA loan program through his review of Sound Transit documents. He expressed strong support for the loan opportunity. Responding to Mr. Wallace, Mr. Kessack said the City's match of \$200,000 is funded in the CIP Plan or reflected in work completed to date. Mr. Wallace observed that the administrative fees will be positively offset by the benefits of the low interest rate and the provision that the City will not start repaying the loan until the infrastructure is completed. Councilmember Wallace thanked staff for their hard work on this effort.

Councilmember Lee expressed support for the TIFIA loan, which provides significant infrastructure in the BelRed corridor. He said the comprehensive BelRed Plan provides good opportunities for incorporating desired elements into redevelopment including transportation investments, land use planning, parks and environmental projects, cultural programs and features, and human services. He is pleased that the City is able to provide the matching funds.

Mr. Lee observed that the administrative fees, from his discussions with USDOT staff, will likely be covered by \$250,000.

Councilmember Slatter expressed support for the TIFIA loan and the request for administrative fees. She thanked Councilmember Wallace for identifying the program in Sound Transit documents and working to achieve this goal.

→ Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6311, as amended in the desk packet. Councilmember Wallace seconded the motion.

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

Responding to Mayor Stokes, City Manager Miyake announced that REI completed the purchase of eight acres from Wright Runstad to move its headquarters to Bellevue. Mr. Miyake commended Development Services staff and Transportation staff for working with REI, which anticipates its move in 2020.

Mayor Stokes said REI is excited about the move and the transit, bike trails, and other amenities currently available or planned for Bellevue (e.g., Eastside Rail Corridor, Grand Connection).

12. Unfinished Business: None.

13. Continued Oral Communications: None.

14. New Business: None.

15. Executive Session: None.

16. Adjournment

At 9:07 p.m., Mayor Stokes declared the meeting adjourned.

Kyle Stannert, CMC
City Clerk

/kaw