

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Session

May 1, 2017  
8:00 p.m.

Council Chamber  
Bellevue, Washington

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

ABSENT: Councilmember Wallace

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:12 p.m., with Mayor Stokes presiding.

2. Roll Call, Flag Salute

All Councilmembers except Councilmember Wallace were present. Councilmember Lee led the flag salute.

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 6-0.

4. Communications: Written and Oral

City Clerk Kyle Stannert reminded everyone that there cannot be any election-related comments during oral communications due to the prohibition, under state law, regarding the use of a public facility and/or a public meeting to make statements regarding candidates or ballot measures.

- (a) Daniel Renn, a member of the Wilburton Commercial Area Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), said the group has been meeting for four months. He said the City has big plans for the Wilburton commercial area. When considering the shelter, he asked the Council to remember what is envisioned for the area, which is Bellevue's next urban, mixed-use community. He noted the Grand Connection project in the future as well. He said the Lincoln Center facility is not the best place for a permanent shelter.

- (b) Helen Vasek said she and her husband support housing and shelter for all. She said many think that affordable housing serves the lower income individuals and families. The median income in King County for 2016 was more than \$90,000 annually, and 80 percent of that is approximately \$72,000. Those numbers are higher for Bellevue. She said nearly 90 percent of homeless individuals in Bellevue last year listed a Bellevue zip code as their last address. She observed that Bellevue is creating its own homeless population. She said nearly 300 Bellevue students are homeless. Ms. Vasek said the OMFE and Lincoln Center potential shelter sites will not be available until 2020 or 2023, and they do not have the services needed by residents. She said the low-barrier shelter designation means individuals under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be allowed to enter. However, it does not mean sex offenders and criminals will be allowed. Ms. Vasek encouraged the Council to move forward with the Eastgate site for the shelter and housing project.
- (c) Pamela Johnston asked the City to communicate the timeline and plan for the shelter to the public. She questioned whether there is an economic forecast regarding the anticipated development of affordable housing, including in the Downtown, BelRed corridor, and Wilburton area. She said stakeholders in Hawaii are pursuing legislation to provide Medicare coverage for homeless individuals. She expressed support for the need for a year-round shelter. However, she said the City needs to take the time to develop the right project and program before building the facility. She encouraged separating the shelter and affordable housing projects geographically within Bellevue.
- (d) Julia Tai said she is an auditor with a strong analytical background. She shared her ideas for evaluating the three shelter site options. She said the decision criteria must be applied comprehensively and consistently for all of the sites. To avoid conflicts of interest, she asked the City Manager to exclude staff who live near any of the proposed sites from the evaluation team. She asked that staff who are current or former members of the Congregations for the Homeless or Imagine Housing Boards be excluded as well. Ms. Tai asked the City to share the list of decision criteria with the public before the Council evaluates the sites.
- (e) Heather Mulligan, Puget Sound Energy (PSE), announced a new program, Green Direct, in response to customers' requests to support renewable energy sources. She encouraged businesses, municipalities, and other government entities to enroll in the program. She thanked the City of Bellevue for being one of the first municipal customers to enroll during PSE's first enrollment period. Ms. Mulligan reported that PSE and Microsoft reached a settlement agreement that will allow Microsoft to purchase its own power supply and PSE to distribute the power. The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) must approve the settlement before Microsoft can begin procuring its own power.
- (f) Cynthia Vautier said she has spoken to staff at several shelters across the country (The Road Home shelter, Salt Lake City; Heading Home shelter, Albuquerque; Welcome One emergency shelter in Harford County, Maryland; Safe Harbor shelter and Goodwill Inn shelter in Michigan; and the Union Gospel Mission, Seattle). All of them indicated that, if

you collocate individuals who have been recently stabilized and permanently housed with an emergency homeless shelter, there are higher relapse rates for substance abuse. Ms. Vautier said that, although contraband is not to be allowed in the permanent housing, there will be individuals who continue to use drugs in their rooms. The result is an increased Police response to the Eastgate area. She asked the City to separate the shelter and housing facilities within the community.

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

6. Report of the City Manager

(a) City of Bellevue 2017 Annual Report

City Manager Brad Miyake introduced the City of Bellevue 2017 Annual Report. He said the information was presented as the State of the City address by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor during the Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA) breakfast.

Lenka Wright, Chief Communications Officer, shared the video shown as part of the BDA presentation. She said the video has reached 2,200 individuals on Facebook; 1,000 on LinkedIn; and nearly 800 individuals on Twitter. She said the printed report (Living for Today, Ready for Tomorrow) is a proactive way to highlight the City's significant accomplishments, initiatives, investments, and milestone events during the year. Copies of the report will be distributed at City Hall, community centers, Mini City Hall, visitor centers, libraries, outreach events, and other outlets. An electronic version is available for download on the City's website.

Mayor Stokes thanked Ms. Wright and City staff involved in producing the report and video.

7. Council Business and New Initiatives

Mayor Stokes said Councilmember Robertson will be participating in two Sister Cities trips and will miss the next two Council meetings.

→ Councilmember Robinson moved to excuse Councilmember Robertson's absences on May 8 and May 15. Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Stokes noted there are issues related to light rail construction and HOV lane impacts on Mercer Island. He said the City of Mercer Island, Sound Transit, and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) are working to resolve the parties' interests. Mayor Stokes requested Council approval to sign a letter of support by multiple parties regarding the proposed solution.

→ Councilmember Simas moved to approve the Mayor's signing of the letter supporting the City of Mercer Island's proposed HOV lane solution to mitigate light rail construction impacts. Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.

Responding to Deputy Mayor Chelminiak, Mr. Miyake said staff was not present to respond to questions. Mr. Chelminiak expressed concern about stating support for an alternative that will affect traffic flow on Mercer Island without fully understanding the option and the potential impacts on those traveling to and from Bellevue.

Councilmember Simas said one issue of concern is whether it will slow down HOV traffic.

Mayor Stokes said the data indicates that there is little impact on cars traveling westbound across Mercer Island.

Responding to Deputy Mayor Chelminiak, Mayor Stokes said the Governor's Office and certain legislators have indicated they will sign the letter, as will Sound Transit, King County Executive Dow Constantine, Mercer Island Mayor Bruce Bassett, and Seattle Mayor Ed Murray.

Mr. Chelminiak observed that the list involves many people who do not commute from Bellevue. He would like to see a resolution to the matter and he supports regional cooperation. However, he would like more information on the proposal.

Mayor Stokes said he spoke with Mayor Bassett and Issaquah Mayor Fred Butler earlier in the day, and there is a need to move the letter forward, including to officials in Washington, D.C.

Councilmember Robertson said she shares the Deputy Mayor's concerns. Ms. Robertson observed that she did not see Mayor Butler's signature on the letter. Mayor Stokes suggested that Mr. Butler will not sign the letter because he serves on the Sound Transit Board.

Ms. Robertson suggested delaying further Council consideration until more information can be provided at the next Council meeting.

Councilmember Lee concurred that he would like more information, particularly given the significant, long-term impact of the proposal.

Councilmember Robinson said she would like more information as well.

Mr. Chelminiak noted that the situation affects traffic for a significant number of people.

Mayor Stokes asked staff to bring the issue back to the Council the following week with details on the traffic reconfiguration and impacts.

Councilmember Robertson suggested deferring the motion to the following week, and Councilmember Simas concurred.

#### 8. Consent Calendar

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

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

- (a) Resolution No. 9265 authorizing execution of a professional services contract with HOK (Hellmuth, Obata & Kassabaum, Inc.) for the development of a citywide Property and Facilities Long Range Plan in an amount not to exceed \$250,000 plus all applicable taxes and fees.
- (b) Resolution No. 9266 authorizing the write-off of nine uncollectible accounts totaling \$30,145.14 as described in Attachment 1 to the Resolution.
- (c) Resolution No. 9267 ratifying proposed amendments to the King County Countywide Planning Policies to amend the Urban Growth Area Boundary and Potential Annexation Area maps.

9. Public Hearings: None.

10. Land Use: None.

11. Other Ordinances, Resolutions and Motions: None.

12. Unfinished Business: None.

13. Continued Oral Communications

Julie Vanbeek suggested it might be difficult or impossible to enforce the proposed HOV lane solution related to the Mercer Island light rail construction impacts. She said the City of Mercer Island is involved in potential litigation with Sound Transit, and she is concerned that Mercer Island is trying to get the City of Bellevue's support.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak requested information on the enforceability of the HOV lane usage as proposed.

14. New Business: None.

15. Executive Session: None.

16. Adjournment

At 9:01 p.m., Mayor Stokes declared the meeting adjourned.

Kyle Stannert, CMC  
City Clerk

/kaw