

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Session

November 4, 2019
8:00 PM

Council Chamber
Bellevue, Washington

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

ABSENT: Councilmember Stokes

1. Call to Order

Mayor Chelminiak called the meeting to order at 8:04 p.m.

2. Roll Call, Flag Salute

All Councilmembers except Councilmember Stokes were present. Councilmember Zahn led the flag salute. Mayor Chelminiak noted that Mr. Stokes attended the earlier Study Session but had to leave unexpectedly.

3. Approval of Agenda

Mayor Chelminiak noted that the development services fees item from the Study Session was moved to the Report of the City Manager.

→ Deputy Mayor Robinson moved to approve the agenda, amended to add Agenda Item 6(a), Development Services Fees Update and Budget Request. Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.

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

4. Oral Communications

(a) Julie Copp thanked City staff for their response to recent concerns. She noted that the City added bright yellow paint and protective poles to the island at the entrance of the visitor's parking garage. She recalled a problem a few years ago in the vicinity of NE 30th/Bel-Red Road in which Microsoft employees were driving over the sidewalk to be

able to make an illegal turn. She said City staff modified the area to successfully prevent the illegal driving. Ms. Copp recalled her neighborhood's past concern regarding a large house under construction. The house is now built and will be operating as an assisted living type of facility. She expressed concern regarding parking and other impacts. She submitted her comments in writing.

- (b) Pamela Johnston referenced the Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) process and said she would like to see commercial developers and property owners working more closely with residents. Referring to the Newport Hills commercial area, she suggested that the property owner present an economic development vision for the redevelopment of the area.
- (c) Charles Watts said he was speaking as an individual, although he is also active in organizations focused on climate change. He encouraged Bellevue to be a leader in reducing climate impacts. He suggested that the City do more to increase the use of electric vehicles. He suggested monitoring exactly what happens with waste that is collected as recyclable materials. He encouraged the City to implement solar energy on public facilities.
- (d) Vishnu Mangipudi expressed concerns about climate change and noted that it will have significant negative impacts for this and future generations. He thanked the City for its efforts through its Environmental Stewardship Initiative. He said he wants to keep Bellevue true to the meaning of its name "beautiful view."
- (e) Karen Morris commented regarding the Temporary Encampment Land Use Code Amendment (LUCA). She said that residents in her neighborhood met with staff a number of times throughout the course of multiple tent cities and their concerns were not adequately addressed. She submitted written information regarding the neighborhood's long history of communications with the City, including with the Police Department.
- (f) Christopher Randels said he lives and works in Bellevue and attends the University of Washington in Seattle. He expressed concerns regarding the impacts of climate change. He thanked Councilmember Stokes and Councilmember Zahn for their individual conversations with him. Mr. Randels encouraged Bellevue's strong leadership in the area of climate change and the environmental impacts.
- (g) Els Blomme, speaking on behalf of residents of northeast Bellevue and the Crossroads area, thanked the Council for listening to residents, the Planning Commission, and City staff regarding the proposed changes to the annual Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) process. She expressed support for the proposal submitted by staff and the Planning Commission, as discussed during the earlier Study Session.
- (h) Michelle Niethammer thanked the Council for the informative Study Session discussion regarding the CPA process. She said that both the residents and the attorneys for developers who spoke at the Planning Commission's public hearing were generally in support of the proposed changes to the process. She encouraged Councilmembers to

support the recommendation from the Planning Commission and staff.

- (i) Emmanuel Solis spoke in support of the proposed changes to the CPA process as recommended by the Planning Commission and City staff. He encouraged the Council to maintain its long-term vision for the community.
- 5. Reports of Community Council, Boards and Commissions: None.
- 6. Report of the City Manager
 - (a) Development Services Fees Update and Budget Request
[Moved from Study Session agenda]

City Manager Brad Miyake introduced discussion regarding the proposed fee adjustments and budget request related to development services.

Mike Brennan, Director of the Development Services Department (DSD), noted upcoming Mid-Biennium Budget discussions, including a public hearing on November 25. Council action on the overall budget is anticipated on December 2.

Teri Jones, Fiscal Manager, said the proposed fee adjustments are based on the annual cost-of-service study and fee analysis that ensures the City is maintaining alignment with its cost recovery financial policies. She recalled the financial principles that the funding structure should support the development services line of business through economic cycles, permit applicants should pay for the services received, fees should be predictable and understandable to the customer, and fees should be competitive within the region.

Ms. Jones said the proposed fee adjustments update the hourly rates for building review and inspection services and adjust the flat rate fee to reflect the hourly rate changes and process improvements. The proposed hourly rate increases range from 2.4 percent to 2.8 percent to cover the increase in the City's cost to provide services. Ms. Jones compared Bellevue's permit building fees to surrounding cities and noted that the City's rates fall about midway in the fee range.

Mr. Brennan said that Bellevue residents are served by the Bellevue School District, Issaquah School District, Lake Washington School District, and the Renton School District. The Issaquah and Renton districts collect impact fees that are used for capital purposes. The fees paid in Bellevue are passed through to the two school districts.

Mr. Brennan highlighted current and upcoming development activity, which is largely focused in the Downtown, BelRed, Crossroads, and Eastgate areas. Throughout the past several years of robust development activity, the City has increased staffing and expanded the use of technology to 100-percent online paperless permitting. Mr. Brennan proposed the addition of six full-time equivalent (FTE) positions to support the workload, as needed. He noted that the City historically adjusts the development services' staffing levels as development activity fluctuates.

Mr. Brennan requested Council direction to prepare an updated Consolidated Fee Ordinance for adoption on December 2, bring forward an ordinance updating the impact fees for the Issaquah and Renton school districts, and to amend the development services budget to add six FTE positions.

Responding to Councilmember Zahn, Mr. Brennan said the City uses a pool of 20-30 consultants to assist with development services functions in a number of areas (e.g., geotechnical, structural, transportation, and others). Ms. Zahn expressed support for the full implementation of paperless permitting and other improvements to the permitting process over the past several years.

Responding to Councilmember Nieuwenhuis, Mr. Brennan said there are always open staff positions within the Development Services Department. Mr. Brennan confirmed that six additional staff should be sufficient to handle the current and foreseeable workload. In further response, Mr. Brennan said his staff is working with Human Resources Department staff to ensure that the City is being as competitive as possible in recruiting individuals.

Responding to Councilmember Lee, Mr. Brennan said that FTE positions are preferable to limited term positions in the current competitive job market. However, Mr. Brennan acknowledged that staff is reduced when needed due to a drop in development activity.

Noting concurrence by the Council, Mayor Chelminiak directed staff to bring the school impact fee ordinance back as a consent calendar item and to take action later on the fee ordinance and budget request.

(b) Winter Weather Preparedness and Communications

Mark Poch, Assistant Director of the Transportation Department, provided an update on the City's weather preparedness and communications planning. He described staff's early efforts to stock supplies, prepare equipment, and to provide annual employee training. He noted that the Transportation Department takes the lead in responding to snow, ice, and wind events. The Utilities Department is the lead in flood events, and staff in the Parks and Community Services Department assist in storm response and cleanup activities as well.

Mr. Poch recalled the extreme winter storm event in February. He said that all Police Department and Fire Department emergency calls were serviced and priority streets were quickly cleared. He noted that information is available on the City's website, including the ability to sign up for email alerts regarding weather and traffic conditions. He said the Bellevue Service Center (BSC) handled 1,100 calls during the February storm from individuals requesting information and/or assistance. Mr. Poch recalled that the City encountered difficulties when trying to clear snow on certain residential streets south of I-90. As a result, the City purchased steel plow bits to use where needed.

Mr. Poch described the City's communications strategies and said that winter weather information is now provided in five non-English languages on the City's website. He noted the winter preparedness insert in the winter edition of the It's Your City newsletter, which includes information on preparedness for individuals with access and/or functional challenges.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis commended staff for their hard work during the February storms. He encouraged the City to share information on social media and on the MyBellevue app. He recalled past complaints regarding garbage pickup. Mr. Poch said he would follow up with Bellevue's solid waste vendor regarding the issues that occurred in February.

Councilmember Robertson said she appreciates the hard work and long hours of City employees who respond to winter storm events. Responding to her concern regarding the difficulty in clearing certain streets in the South Bellevue hills, Mr. Poch said the City has not made any changes to its snow plow route map. He said the layering of repeated snow and ice in February made it especially challenging to keep streets clear. Councilmember Robertson encouraged staff to clear streets in South Bellevue more quickly if possible.

Ms. Robertson said she recently learned that there is a difference in written traditional Chinese and simplified Chinese. Mr. Poch said he will work with the City's diversity program staff to address the issues and improve the communication tools. In further response to Councilmember Robertson, Mr. Poch said he would follow up with information regarding the ability of Fire Department vehicles to reach the highest hills during winter weather.

Responding to Deputy Mayor Robinson, Mr. Poch said that City staff coordinates annually with the Bellevue School District and the Issaquah School District for winter storm planning and response. He said the meeting is scheduled for November 15. In further response, Mr. Poch said he will research the snow plow route recommendation developed by University of Washington students during the Livable City Year program.

Responding to Councilmember Zahn, Mr. Poch said the City coordinates snow plowing for the key arterials that connect to Redmond. In further response, Mr. Poch said the City would like to move toward the use of automatic vehicle location technology to better manage its resources during storms. Ms. Zahn said she appreciates the coordination between staff in different City departments. Mr. Poch noted that public safety vehicles are given the highest priority in responding to requests for assistance (e.g., clearing streets and debris) during adverse weather.

Councilmember Lee thanked staff for their work. He noted that he shares Councilmember Nieuwenhuis' interest in communications with Bellevue's garbage service contractor. Mr. Lee said he appreciated Councilmember Robertson's comment on the different types of written Chinese. He said he reads both types and he would be happy to talk to staff about the issue.

Responding to Mayor Chelminiak, Mr. Poch confirmed that the City is limited to using smaller trucks and plows in the hills. Mr. Poch said staff is exploring options for placing certain equipment and supplies at higher elevations when adverse weather is anticipated to make it easier to respond to snow and ice on roadways.

(c) 2019 Business Survey Results

City Manager Miyake introduced staff's update regarding the results of the 2019 business survey.

Jesse Canedo, Chief Economic Development Officer, said the business survey is conducted every two years, and Bellevue businesses continue to report a high level of satisfaction across multiple indicators. More than 1,000 businesses participated in the survey. Of those, 58 percent of the responses were from small businesses with five or fewer employees, nearly 60 percent of the businesses began operating in Bellevue before 2010, and responses were received from businesses and entrepreneurs in every corner of the community.

Philly Marsh, Economic Development Manager, said the survey asked about broad City services, and the majority of the results remain steady when compared with previous surveys. The survey respondents indicated that they have seen a significant improvement in pedestrian and bicycle safety since 2017. Traffic and affordable housing continue to be the biggest challenges. However, 91 percent of the businesses reported that Bellevue's economy is stronger than other Puget Sound cities and towns, and 80 percent of the respondents continue to indicate that their business is somewhat or very strong.

Ms. Marsh said the survey data helps to inform the current effort underway to revise the City's economic development plan. She said staff will provide an update on the plan on December 2, and the full business survey results will be published on November 8.

Mayor Chelminiak said that affordable housing and transportation mobility are key issues for the entire region. He noted Bellevue's increased efforts related to affordable housing, homelessness, and transportation projects over the past several years.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis encouraged staff to conduct the survey every year. For the next survey, he said it would be helpful to see the data broken down by business sector (e.g., retail, restaurant, technology, etc.).

Councilmember Zahn expressed an interest in issues considered less friendly for small and local businesses. Ms. Marsh said that rental rates and real estate prices are the greatest challenge.

7. Council Business and New Initiatives

Councilmember Robertson noted that there are a number of events this week to celebrate Bellevue's 50-Year Sister City relationship with Yao, Japan. She recalled visiting Yao in 2017 and welcomed the delegation to Bellevue.

8. Consent Calendar

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

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

- (a) Council Minutes
Minutes of October 14, 2019 Extended Study Session
Minutes of October 21, 2019 Study Session
Minutes of October 21, 2019 Regular Session
- (b) Motion to award Bid No. 19046 for AC Water Main Replacement 2019 to Kar-Vel Construction, as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, in an amount not to exceed \$2,511,879.04, plus all applicable taxes (CIP Plan No. W-16).
- (c) Motion to approve payment of claims and payroll for the period October 1, 2019 - October 31, 2019.
- (d) Ordinance No. 6482: 1) authorizing execution of a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) subgrant agreement (and supplements if necessary) with the Washington State Military Department to accept grant funds in the amount of \$309,278 for vulnerable populations planning, citizen preparedness and outreach and sustainment; 2) authorizing the deposit of said funds into the Operating Grants, Donations, and Special Reserves Fund in the amount of \$309,278; 3) appropriating unanticipated and future revenues to that fund; and 4) authorizing expenditures of said grant funds.
- (e) Resolution No. 9672 granting authority to the Information Technology Director or his/her designee to approve a purchase order for the purchase of 93 Police Department and Fire Department mobile data computers (MDCs) from Datec, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$300,000, plus all applicable taxes.
- (f) Resolution No. 9673 authorizing execution of a purchase agreement with Versalift for the purchase of one new Telescopic Aerial Platform Truck for the Transportation Department in an amount not to exceed \$110,930, plus all applicable taxes.
- (g) Resolution No. 9674 amending Resolution 9666 changing the public hearing date to December 2 to consider the release of two sewer easements located at 8426 Overlake Drive W, Medina.

9. Public Hearings

- (a) Public Hearing and Action on Resolution No. 9675 authorizing the execution of documents necessary to release an existing water easement located at 221 140th Avenue NE, which has been declared surplus to the City's needs and is no longer required for providing continued public utility service; the granting and recording of such release being deemed in the best interest of the public.

Natasha Platin, Real Property Agent, described the proposed release of an existing water easement located at 221 140th Avenue NE. The property owner is developing a two-lot short plat and has connected new water meters to the water main in an existing utilities easement.

→ Deputy Mayor Robinson moved to open the public hearing, and Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.

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

No one came forward to comment.

→ Deputy Mayor Robinson moved to close the public hearing, and Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.

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

→ Deputy Mayor Robinson moved to approve Resolution No. 9675, and Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.

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

10. Land Use: None.

11. Other Ordinances, Resolutions and Motions: None.

12. Unfinished Business: None.

13. Continued Oral Communications: None.

14. New Business: None.

15. Executive Session: None.

16. Adjournment

At 9:36 p.m., Mayor Chelminiak declared the meeting adjourned.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC
City Clerk

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