

**CITY OF BELLEVUE  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday  
February 6, 2020  
6:30 p.m.

Conference Room 1E-113  
Bellevue City Hall  
Bellevue, Washington

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Ling Zhuang (Vice Chair), Neal Hines, Diann Strom, Anne Howe,

**COUNCIL LIAISON:** Conrad Lee

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Vanja Knezevic (Chair), Negin Khanloo

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Brian Bartle, Deputy Director; Nav Otal, Utilities Director; Lucy Liu, Assistant Director; Sr. Engineer Angela Chung; Linda DeBoldt, Utility Engineering Assistant Director; Chad Beck, Operations Superintendent; Don McQuilliams, Utilities Operations Manager; and Laurie Hugdahl, Minutes Taker

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Zhuang at 6:30 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion made by Commissioner Strom, seconded by Commissioner Hines, to approve the agenda as presented. The agenda was approved unanimously.**

**3. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

None

**4. COMMUNICATION FROM CITY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY COUNCIL, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Councilmember Conrad Lee introduced himself as the new Council Liaison and stressed the importance of commissions.

**5. STAFF REPORTS**

None.

## 6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### 1/16/20 Regular Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Strom referred to the paragraph with her comments regarding the Environmental Stewardship Plan Update at the bottom of page 3. In the fifth line, she requested that the words “low impact” be removed. That corrected sentence should read:

*She commented on the potential for conflict between development and water quality policies.*

**Motion made by Commissioner Hines, seconded by Commissioner Strom, to approve the amendment. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Hines, seconded by Commissioner Strom, to approve the minutes as amended. Motion passed unanimously.**

## 7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

- **Lake Washington Sewer Lake Line Management Plan Overview**

*Linda DeBoldt, Utility Engineering Assistant Director; Angela Chung, Sr. Engineer, Utilities*

Ms. Chung gave a brief history of the Lake Washington conditions, the history of the lake line, the challenges of the lake line, and the Lake Line Management Plan. She explained that a multi-agency workshop was held with other cities to collaborate and understand what other cities have done to address the problem.

Commissioner Hines asked if landowners or the public have given feedback to the City about visible leaks in the system. Ms. Chung replied that she hasn't heard of that, but some of the lake lines are very shallow and have been reported broken during construction activity. Commissioner Hines commented on the importance of reminding people of the impact of the historical condition and the effective cleanup efforts that were done in Lake Washington.

Commissioner Strom asked what Bellevue learned from other cities in the workshop that was held. Ms. Chung reported that all the cities had slightly different approaches. The City of Bremerton originally had a line in the

water, and they put a new line up in their roadway and pumped it up the hill. Mercer Island installed a lake line further into the lake and redirected all the service to that. Cleaning and jetting is consistently a challenge for all cities because of access issues. Commissioner Strom asked if alternative options will be included in the plan. Ms. Chung confirmed that an alternatives analysis will be completed.

Vice Chair Zhuang asked about the budget for lake line replacement. Ms. DeBoldt replied that the study is funded by the Capital Improvement Program. Potential projects would be integrated in the proposed CIP. There are some placeholders in the budget in the outer years as the City is anticipating some capital projects will be needed in relation to this. It is expected that this program would be going forward for many decades and will be considered in the R&R strategy.

- **Utilities SCADA Master Planning Effort**

*Chad Beck, Operations Superintendent*

Mr. Beck discussed the SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) System background, the 15-year vision, the gap analysis and possible solutions, future system design, and the implementation roadmap. The goals of the SCADA Master Plan were to identify and prioritize required infrastructure hardware and software upgrades; leverage emerging technology; and ensure compliance with industry best practices. The cross-departmental visioning workshops developed four major themes: infrastructure resiliency and redundancy, infrastructure security, improved quality of services, and advancement of Bellevue's 'Smart City' vision within the Utilities Department. After reviewing the gap analysis and future system design, Mr. Beck summarized that in order to realize the vision of using SCADA data for Business Intelligence (BI), Bellevue must modernize the SCADA communication network, process control systems, field devices, and visualization software. In the coming months, staff will be looking at the recommendations from the consultant and discussing how to proceed.

Vice Chair Zhuang spoke in support of modernizing the SCADA system. She referred to items mentioned in years 4-15 and asked if that technology is already available. Mr. Beck explained that although that the technology is available, the hardware infrastructure isn't ready yet.

Vice Chair Zhuang asked if this will be integrated with the Smart City data. Mr. Beck explained that they can't combine the systems; the Department of Homeland Security would not allow it because one is collecting information for billing purposes, and the other is operating the

critical infrastructure that supplies the medium to the customer. However, the data can be taken from both systems to make conclusions. One way to do this would be zone metering which would provide general information.

Commissioner Howe asked about the implementation plan. Mr. Beck explained that it will be a combination of approaches. Some of this is being done with existing CIP work. Since some parts of these systems serve all three utilities, the implementation will be done once for all three. Other parts will be done bit by bit. Commissioner Howe also asked about the life span of the technology. Mr. Beck replied that they would be taking advantage of the fiber network in the City and will transition to the city-owned fiber over 15 years. He expects that every 10-15 years there will be an updated system plan, but the equipment has approximately a 25-year life span.

Commissioner Strom asked if other utilities are also going digital. Staff explained that Sammamish Plateau water was on UHF/VHF radio and is migrating to digital media. Most of their stations are on Verizon right now. Most utilities in the area were landline-based because of the mountainous terrain, but the whole market is moving into cellular.

- **2020 Draft Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) Update and Public Meeting**

*Don McQuilliams, Utilities Operations Manager*

Mr. McQuilliams provided a presentation covering the history of the NPDES permit and discussed significant changes to the 2019-2024 permit related to Stormwater Planning and Source Control. He then reviewed each section of the proposed 2020 SWMP including: SWMP Administration; Stormwater Planning; Public Education & Outreach; Public Involvement & Participation; Mapping & Documentation; Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination; Controlling Runoff from New Development, Redevelopment & Construction Sites; Operation & Maintenance; and Source Control Program for Existing Development.

Vice Chair Zhuang referred to Public Outreach & Communication and asked about looking at nationwide examples of other public participation programs such as adopt-a-catch-basin programs in order to create more citizen participation. She also discussed increased flooding in her area and asked about implementing incentive programs for residents to create rain gardens so that less stormwater will go directly into streams and creeks.

Commissioner Hines asked if there will be any ongoing monitoring of the runoff. Mr. McQuilliams explained that the City has joined a regional

group that monitors it. This data is available on a website which he will provide to the Commission.

Public Comment:

Betsy Hummer, 14541 SE 26<sup>th</sup> Street, expressed an interest in stormwater and protecting the streams.

Verbatim transcript:

I'm Betsy Hummer. My address is 14541 SE 26<sup>th</sup> Street, so that means that I live next to Bellevue Community College, oh, Bellevue college, um, and right next to Robinswood Park and they have – so I came here because of the stormwater presentation, and I am very interested in stormwater and protecting our streams. I grew up here swimming in Lake Washington, and we had to go up to Juanita and swim because of the pollution. So I'm very sensitive and I live with some very environmentally sensitive people. And in our neighborhood, just some fun facts, our stormwater is ditches. I really like those ditches so the last few days we've checked the water level, and we can see just how much rain has fallen because of how deep our ditches are. And we really like that. We keep our yard environmentally friendly. We leave our leaves on the ground and watch the worms eat the leaves, and that's really fun. And also, we have that big retention pond over at Robinswood Park, and we -, our kids grew up playing soccer over there. They'd throw themselves in those huge mud puddles that no longer exist. And so I understand that underneath these new facilities, um, these new fields, like at Bellevue College, when they put in their new soccer fields, they put in an enormous retention pond for stormwater so that it leeches into the nearby stream. And also over at Eastgate Elementary, when they redid that facility, they had all these vaults and tanks under there that is much more scientific than it used to be. And most importantly, we're right near Larsen Lake, which is the headwaters of Kelsey Creek. And so Kelsey Creek, I understand, is our drainage for the, the biggest natural drainage for the City of Bellevue. What do you call that?

Mr. McQuilliams: It's the largest watershed system.

Betsy Hummer: Watershed system. So it goes from Larsen Lake all the way down to Bel-Red, which kind of concerns me with all the construction down there, and then back again through the Glendale Golf Course, and then out to the Mercer Slough which takes it to Enatai which is where are boats live. And so I'm all, I'm very concerned about that, and especially with, uh, as Ms. Zhuang mentioned, is the flooding. So I'm very interested in why 148<sup>th</sup> south of Main flooded last time it rained, but it hasn't flooded yet this time so that it closes the street. And I understand that there were many culvert replacements along Kelsey Creek starting at Southeast 16<sup>th</sup> and right in Larsen Lake Park, and that was done at the same time, or that was done all part of the Forward Thrust Project in the 70's – Robinswood and Larsen Lake and the Lake Hills Greenbelt. And so we were, and then there's a lot of, uh, wetlands restoration that's being done by the Parks Department, so if you're working in conjunction with them . . . because we had a really great presentation by Jeremy Can [sp?] about restoring the wetlands, compromised wetlands throughout the city, naturally so that they do a better job of getting the excess water out. And I think I had one other thing to say . . .

[Timer rings]

Chair Zhuang: Time is up.

Betsy Hummer: Oh, thanks. Well, that was pretty good. Well, if I think about it again I'll email it.

- **2021-2022 Budget Planning Overview and Calendar**

*Lucy Liu, Assistant Director and Jo Liu, Fiscal Manager*

Assistant Director Liu gave an overview of the presentation. Fiscal Manager Liu reviewed the ESC role and responsibilities, the Budget Guiding Principles, the Budget Process for 2021-2022, and the ESC Budget Review Calendar.

- **Utilities Finances Overview**

Assistant Director Liu introduced this item and gave an overview of Sources of Revenues; Uses of Revenues; Financial Policies for Rate Management, Reserves Management, and Capital Investments, and Rate Making.

**9. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

None

**10. REVIEW OF ESC CALENDAR/COUNCIL CALENDAR**

Deputy Director Bartle reviewed the ESC Calendar and the Council Calendar. The second ESC meeting in May has been tentatively scheduled for May 14. July 16 will replace the July 2 meeting.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion made by Commissioner Hines, seconded by Commissioner Strom to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.