

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

September 14, 2020  
6:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting  
Bellevue, Washington

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

ABSENT: None.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m., with Mayor Robinson presiding.

Mayor Robinson noted that the previous Friday was the 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. She recalled that 2,977 fellow Americans lost their lives, including more than 400 first responders to the scene. Mayor Robinson thanked Bellevue's Fire Department and Police Department for their critical work in the community. She asked everyone to observe a moment of silence in memory of the lives lost on September 11, 2001.

2. Roll Call

City Clerk Charmaine Arredondo called the roll. All Councilmembers were present and participating remotely.

(a) Welcoming Week Proclamation

Mayor Robinson read the proclamation, issued jointly with the cities of Issaquah, Kirkland, Redmond and Sammamish, recognizing the week of September 18-27, 2020, as Eastside Welcoming Week.

(b) U.S. Senator Slade Gorton Commendation

Councilmember Lee recalled the passing of U.S. Senator Slade Gorton on August 19, noting that Senator Gorton inspired him to pursue public service.

Councilmember Lee read the commendation honoring Senator Gorton's 40 years of public service in the Washington State House of Representatives, as Washington State Attorney General, and as a U.S. Senator.

### 3. Approval of Agenda

Mayor Robinson noted that Councilmember Barksdale wanted to comment regarding an item on the Consent Calendar.

Councilmember Barksdale expressed concern regarding the uncollectible accounts referenced in Agenda Item 8(a), Resolution No. 9819. He noted that the majority of the accounts and 70 percent of the total dollar amount are related to probation services. As liaison to the Probation Advisory Board, Mr. Barksdale said he is interested in the impact that delinquent accounts might have on probationers in the future.

Mayor Robinson suggested that Councilmember Barksdale review the information this week to determine whether it is something he thinks the Council should pursue.

Responding to Mayor Robinson, Mr. Barksdale confirmed that he would like to remove Item 8(d) from Consent Calendar approval.

- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to approve the agenda, amended to remove Agenda Item 8(d), Resolution No. 9821 for future consideration. Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

### 4. Written Communications

City Clerk Charmaine Arredondo said that four speakers signed up to speak to the Council. All of them express support for items included in the Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI). She noted that only three speakers would be allowed under the Council's rule which limits speakers to three on either side of a topic or issue.

- (a) Don Marsh expressed concern that the health of the economy and the environment are facing significant risks due to climate change. He said many people do not understand the true magnitude of the threat. He said the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) removed its web page on the seriousness of climate change shortly after President Trump took office. Mr. Marsh expressed concerns regarding electrical power and the future water supply. He encouraged the Council to sign the updated commitment letter with the King County Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) and to continue to be a leader in environmental stewardship.
- (b) Mahathi Mangipudi said she is a senior at Interlake High School. In 2018, she participated in the International Earth Science Olympiad in Thailand as part of Team USA. She said she learned about the current consequences of climate change worldwide.

Since that time, she helped lead efforts to develop the Sustainability Ambassadors' Climate Action Plan to spearhead sustainable actions in local communities and to lift the youth voice in addressing climate change. She thanked Councilmembers for their hard work and commitment to Bellevue. She expressed concern regarding the increase in wildfires and the significant smoke impacts. She encouraged the Council to sign the updated K4C letter and to pursue leading edge technologies.

- (c) Philip Schmidt-Hoffman said he was urged by a number of members of the community to speak to the Council to express support for the Environmental Stewardship Plan. He described his past work on integrated waste management systems and their effect on climate change. He noted the need for local government to consider new technologies. He expressed concern regarding the impacts of climate change, including on air and water quality. He said that residents look forward to continuing to work with the City.

City Clerk Arredondo noted that the Council received a total of 16 written comments related to the Environmental Stewardship Plan.

5. Reports of Community Councils, Boards, and Commissions: None.
6. Report of the City Manager: None.
7. Council Business and New Initiatives

There was no discussion.

8. Consent Calendar

Mayor Robinson noted Councilmember Barksdale's earlier comments regarding Agenda Item 8(a). She said Mr. Barksdale would like to remove Agenda Item 8(d) from approval tonight.

Councilmember Barksdale reiterated his concern regarding the impact of fees charged to probationers and suggested that the Council address the topic in a future discussion.

- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to approve the Consent Calendar, amended to remove Item 8(d). Councilmember Stokes 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) Resolution No. 9819 authorizing the write-off of 83 uncollectible accounts totaling \$135,422.25, as described in Attachment A.
  - (b) Ordinance No. 6524: 1) authorizing execution of a grant agreement (and supplements if necessary) with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to accept up to \$394,000 in state funding to support implementation of the Crossroads Connect Mobility Service project; 2) amending

the 2019-2020 General Capital Investment Program (CIP) Fund to increase the appropriation by \$394,000; 3) amending the 2019-2025 CIP Plan to increase the budget for the ITS Master Plan Implementation Program (CIP Plan No. PW-R-156) by \$394,000; and 4) authorizing execution of a Transit Service Funding Agreement (and supplements if necessary) with the King County Metro for the payment of up to \$435,775 to King County Metro to provide and coordinate on-demand transit services for the Crossroads Connect Mobility Service project.

- (c) Resolution No. 9820 authorizing the execution of all documents with the City of Seattle necessary to allow Bellevue to construct the 124th Avenue NE - NE 12th Street to NE Spring Boulevard Project (PW-R-169) and the 124th Avenue NE - Ichigo Way to Northup Way Project (PW-R-191).

Item Postponed:

- (d) Resolution No. 9821 authorizing execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement for EMAC (Emergency Management Assistance Program) and PNEMA (Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Arrangement) with Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division, which provides the option for the City of Bellevue to participate in intrastate and state-to-state mutual aid during times of emergency or disaster.

9. Public Hearing: None.

10. Study Session

- (a) Revisions to the King County Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) Joint Commitments and discussion regarding the City's Environmental Stewardship Plan Update

City Manager Brad Miyake introduced discussion regarding updates to the King County Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) Joint Commitments and the City's Environmental Stewardship Plan Update. The City's Environmental Stewardship Plan was discussed with the Council last fall, and a planned April update was postponed due to the pandemic. Mr. Miyake said staff is seeking Council action to authorize the Mayor to sign the updated K4C Joint Commitments.

Emil King, Assistant Director, Community Development Department, said staff would present the updates to the K4C Joint Commitments before requesting Council action. Staff would also provide a status report regarding the Environmental Stewardship Plan but is not seeking Council action at this time. Mr. King noted staff's public outreach over the past several months. He said staff will present the updated plan for Council review and adoption in November and December.

Jennifer Ewing, Environmental Stewardship Program Manager, said the K4C group was launched in 2012. The City of Bellevue joined the group in 2014 and signed the original Joint Commitments agreement in 2015. The group is a voluntary collaboration of King County, 16

cities, and the Port of Seattle to advance climate action. The K4C partners represent a total of 1.6 million people and 80 percent of King County's population.

Ms. Ewing highlighted the updates to the K4C Joint Commitments. The revised agreement reflects King County's updated emissions inventory analysis and incorporates stronger language regarding equity and climate justice. The updated Joint Commitments document has been signed by 10 cities to date. Ms. Ewing said that 7 of the 11 Joint Commitments fully align with Bellevue's policies and goals, and the remaining four partially align with the City's goals. She said the revised agreement retains the provisions allowing flexibility for individual jurisdictions.

Ms. Ewing said staff recommends that the Council authorize the Mayor to sign the updated K4C Joint Commitments and to continue to engage with the group at both the staff and policy level.

Mayor Robinson recalled that she was selected by King County Executive Dow Constantine in 2014 to represent Bellevue on the K4C group. She expressed support for the proposed revisions to the Joint Commitments. She noted that Councilmember Zahn services on the K4C committee as well.

Councilmember Zahn said that the updated Joint Commitments retain the flexibility for jurisdictions to adopt their own policies and practices while also collaborating with other cities.

Councilmember Robertson expressed support for signing the updated Joint Commitments. Responding to Ms. Robertson, Ms. Ewing confirmed that the staff of K4C member cities meet monthly and the elected officials meet every six months.

Councilmember Stokes expressed support for continued participation with the K4C. He said it is important for Bellevue to continue to be a leader in environmental stewardship.

Councilmember Lee concurred with his colleagues and commented on the importance of regional collaboration. He said Bellevue will have the flexibility to address the City's needs and problems as appropriate.

Councilmember Barksdale said it is encouraging to see the updates to the Joint Commitments, and he looks forward to working with the K4C jurisdictions.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis thanked Mayor Robinson and Councilmember Zahn for representing Bellevue in the K4C efforts. Mr. Nieuwenhuis said he appreciates the flexibility reflected in the Joint Commitments.

Mayor Robinson noted that the original Joint Commitments agreement was a catalyst for investing energy and resources to develop the City's Environmental Stewardship Plan. She expressed support for signing the updated agreement.

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the updated King County Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) Joint Commitments. Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.

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

Moving to the Environmental Stewardship Plan update, Ms. Ewing said staff last discussed the update in November 2019. At that time, the Council indicated that the City should set bold objectives for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and should identify opportunities for leading edge goals and targets. The Council also directed staff to engage with the Boards and Commissions for input and to continue public outreach. Ms. Ewing said a public meeting was held in March before King County banned large gatherings. Public engagement efforts then moved to an online format. Staff provided presentations to a number of the Boards and Commissions in January and February.

Ms. Ewing said the draft plan will be released for public comment this fall. Staff will return to the Council in November to review the draft plan before adoption in December. She highlighted the goals of the Environmental Stewardship Plan in the following five areas: 1) materials management and waste, 2) mobility and land use, 3) energy, 4) natural systems, and 5) climate change. She summarized the 2030 and 2050 community-wide targets and the 2030 and 2040 municipal targets. The focus of the 2020-2025 Environmental Stewardship Plan is to establish long-term and short-term goals and targets, and to develop actions for implementation over the next five years. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms. Ewing said staff focused on prioritizing strategies that will reduce costs for residents and businesses, support job growth, and incorporate sustainability into economic recovery.

Ms. Ewing said that, following the March 3 open house, staff redirected its public engagement effort to an online presence. More than 600 individuals replied to an online survey. Approximately 48 percent of the respondents were under the age of 30, 36 percent of the individuals were from communities of color, and 19 percent of the respondents were renters. Additional outreach included social media posts, business focus groups, Bellevue Chamber of Commerce presentation, Earth Week online town hall and discussion, and a Bellevue School District (BSD) town hall. The five action areas identified as most important by the survey respondents are a ban on single-use plastics, review of the Transportation Master Plan, review of the Tree Preservation Code, an emphasis on the home energy retrofit program, and targeted land acquisition.

Ms. Ewing highlighted a graph comparing the impact on community-wide GHG emissions if no action is taken versus the GHG reductions anticipated if specific policies and practices are implemented.

Councilmember Zahn thanked staff for their continued hard work despite the constraints of the pandemic. She noted the importance of working closely with residents and businesses to reduce community-wide GHG emissions. She thanked staff for involving the Boards and Commissions. She said she appreciates the effort to involve renters and suggested continuing to expand that outreach. Ms. Zahn asked about the geographic distribution of the survey respondents and other community stakeholders. She said it will be important to understand how pandemic-related changes in lifestyles and work habits will effect environmental stewardship efforts.

Ms. Zahn said the Council has received a number of comments urging the City to move beyond bold to leading edge actions. She said it would be helpful to understand what it would take to achieve leading edge goals in the categories covered in the Environmental Stewardship Plan. Ms. Ewing said that many of the goals are already at the leading edge. However, further analysis would be needed to determine what might be feasible in terms of more ambitious goals.

Councilmember Zahn observed that the goals help to encourage innovation and creativity. She suggested exploring partnerships to assist in pursuing reductions in GHG emissions.

Councilmember Robertson thanked staff for the update. She encouraged the adoption of bold goals while cautioning against setting goals that are not achievable. She thanked staff for the robust public outreach. Responding to Ms. Robertson, Ms. Ewing said the majority of the survey respondents live and/or work in Bellevue. Ms. Ewing said she would follow up with additional information.

Ms. Robertson asked whether the City's routine performance surveys include questions related to environmental stewardship. Ms. Ewing said there are questions in the City's survey related to environmental priorities. She said she would follow up with Ms. Robertson for further discussion.

Councilmember Robertson said that, if the City approaches zero waste, it will be important to consider two policy areas: 1) impacts on garbage and recycling services and rates, and 2) usage of compost. She noted a new state law regarding the use of compost in public works contracts and encouraged the City to start using composted soil where appropriate.

Councilmember Stokes said he appreciated staff's work and the robust community outreach. He said Bellevue is the city it is because it has been a leader and taken risks. He said environmental stewardship is vital to the local and regional economy and the overall quality of life. He said Bellevue should be a leader in this area.

Councilmember Lee thanked staff for their hard work and public engagement efforts. He noted the importance of gathering input from individuals of all ages in the community. He asked about the demographics of the survey respondents and others who have provided input (e.g., age and ethnicity). He said the use of technology likely impacts the demographics of the survey respondents. Councilmember Lee said he supports setting bold yet realistic goals. He expressed an interest in understanding the impacts of the pandemic on environmental stewardship.

Mayor Robinson observed that at least two Councilmembers are interested in demographic information related to the public input. Ms. Ewing said she will follow up with the Council.

Councilmember Barksdale thanked Ms. Ewing for her work related to the K4C Joint Commitments and the Environmental Stewardship Plan update. Mr. Barksdale said he looks forward to pursuing the goals in the plan. He encouraged leading edge goals where appropriate. Councilmember Barksdale said there is value in setting aggressive goals as well as value in understanding why we have not met certain goals.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis thanked staff for the presentation. He said he appreciated Ms. Ewing's overview of the Council's priorities. He acknowledged that there are different views on the Council regarding bold versus leading edge goals, and he looks forward to further discussion. Mr. Nieuwenhuis said he too is interested in the demographics of the individuals who have provided input and feedback. He looks forward to reviewing the draft plan this fall. He suggested focusing on science-based actions and solutions that will have the greatest impact.

Mayor Robinson said that many of the long-term goals are difficult to envision. However, the pandemic demonstrates the positive effect of reducing GHG emissions, as evidenced by clearer views of mountains during the day and stars at night. Ms. Robinson said the City has a history of setting and often exceeding realistic goals.

Ms. Robinson said the City needs to partner with its waste management provider to increase recycling. She noted that 70 percent of recycled materials are contaminated and must be disposed of as garbage, resulting in a loss of revenue for the waste management contractors. She encouraged extensive community outreach to increase recycling rates.

Mayor Robinson thanked everyone for wearing face masks and observing safe distancing practices. She noted that today was the first day with no deaths from COVID-19 in King County.

Ms. Robinson suggested addressing the tree canopy through a stronger approach. Regarding the issue of banning single-use plastic, Ms. Robinson said she does not want to cause a burden, especially for small businesses that are already struggling due to the pandemic.

Ms. Ewing said that earlier this year, the State adopted a ban on single-use plastics that will go into effect next year. She observed that it would make sense to focus on other strategies at this point as the economy recovers. Ms. Ewing said the utilities survey indicated a community interest in banning styrofoam. However, while staff anticipates a potential increase in the use of styrofoam based on the increase in takeout food during the pandemic, Ms. Ewing said staff has discussed that it might be better to delay any changes until businesses have some time to recover from the economic impacts of the public health emergency. Responding to Mayor Robinson, Ms. Ewing said staff will reach out to the Chamber of Commerce and the Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA) to explore the issue.

Councilmember Lee reiterated his interest in setting realistic goals within a reasonable timeline. He said there are many bold things we can do to reduce waste, and this might be a good time to do some of the things the City has not been able to do to date. He suggested exploring waste-to-energy solutions and other new technologies.

Mayor Robinson suggested a student project to identify sustainable ideas.

Councilmember Zahn said she appreciated everyone's comments. She believes the City can set and achieve aggressive goals. She encouraged working with the business community to consider building modifications that enhance energy efficiency. She suggested working with the development community to encourage sustainable building as well.



Councilmember Stokes said that public comments have stated that the Environmental Stewardship Plan refers to a number of studies. However, many individuals encourage an emphasis on actions. Mr. Stokes said it is time for King County and the City to consider new technologies, including waste-to-energy solutions, and to set meaningful goals. He believes this is an opportunity for Bellevue to be a leader and to do something significant.

Responding to Councilmember Robertson, Ms. Ewing said there will likely be budget proposals reflecting a number of the Environmental Stewardship Plan goals and priorities.

(b) A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH) 2021 Administrative Budget and Work Program

City Manager Miyake introduced discussion regarding the ARCH (A Regional Coalition for Housing) 2021 Administrative Budget and Work Program. He said the ARCH Interlocal Agreement requires that each member city review and approve the budget and work program. Mr. Miyake said staff is seeking direction to draft legislation for future Council action.

Emil King, Assistant Director, Community Development Department, introduced Klaas Nijhuis, ARCH's Acting Executive Manager. Mr. King said the 2021 ARCH budget does not increase the contribution levels for Bellevue or the other member cities.

Mr. Nijhuis said the 2021 Administrative Budget and Work Program was approved by the ARCH Executive Board in April. He noted an increase in personnel and technology costs totaling approximately \$45,000. The increased expense will be covered through the collection of fees in the home ownership program. Mr. Nijhuis said the work program continues ARCH's core functions of administering the housing trust fund, assisting member cities with planning, administering the creation of housing units, and educating the cities and stakeholders.

Mayor Robinson expressed support for the 2021 Administrative Budget and Work Program. She requested information in October regarding the multifamily tax exemption (MFTE) program. Ms. Robinson said she has heard that Bellevue's MFTE program can be onerous for landlords and developers. She noted her understanding that the City of Seattle's MFTE program does not similarly deter the development of affordable units. Mayor Robinson said she wants to ensure that Bellevue's MFTE program is as effective as possible in creating housing units.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis thanked staff and concurred with Mayor Robinson's interest in reviewing the MFTE program. He expressed support for the ARCH budget and work program.

Councilmember Stokes concurred with Mayor Robinson regarding the MFTE program and expressed support for the budget and work program.

Councilmember Robertson noted her support as well and suggested placing the annual approval of the ARCH budget on the Consent Calendar in the future.

Councilmember Lee said he was pleased to see that ARCH is not recommending any increases in the contributions from member cities.

Councilmember Barksdale thanked staff and expressed support for the ARCH budget and work program.

Councilmember Zahn said she appreciates all of ARCH's work. She said she could not see the program metrics on the online dashboard and would like to receive that information as well as demographic information.

Ms. Zahn noted that one of the impacts of the pandemic is an increased need for internet services. She wondered how renters might be affected by the need for and cost of internet services, and whether there are other impacts for renters related to the pandemic. She said she appreciates that ARCH is working with publicly owned and faith-based properties as opportunities for affordable housing.

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to direct staff to prepare legislation for future action to adopt the ARCH (A Regional Coalition for Housing) 2021 Administrative Budget and Work Program. Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.

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

11. Land Use: None.

12. Other Ordinances, Resolutions, and Motions: None.

13. Unfinished Business: None.

14. New Business: None.

15. Executive Session: None.

16. Adjournment

At 8:05 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared the meeting adjourned.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC  
City Clerk

/kaw