

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

September 21, 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 6:05 p.m., with Mayor Robinson presiding.

2. Roll Call

Assistant City Manager Kyle Stannert called the roll. All Councilmembers were present and participating remotely.

Councilmember Stokes noted the passing of William Gates Sr., a lawyer who built a reputation for social activism, philanthropy, and justice. As the father of Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates Jr., he spent a number of years working for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, focusing on human services and global health. He was active in civic organizations and began his legal career as a part-time City Attorney for the City of Bremerton. He was a founding partner of Preston, Gates and Ellis and later worked with the technology industry. He served on the University of Washington's Board of Regents from 1997 to 2012. Councilmember Stokes expressed his appreciation for the positive impact of Bill Gates Sr.'s life in Seattle and the Pacific Northwest.

Councilmember Robertson recalled that U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg passed away on September 18. Ms. Robertson noted that Justice Ginsburg was the second woman appointed to the Supreme Court. She got along well with her colleagues, regardless of their differences in interpreting the law. Ms. Robertson said Justice Ginsburg and Justice Antonin Scalia were close lifelong friends. Justice Ginsburg was one of nine women to graduate in her law school class of more than 500 students. She was a professor at the Rutgers University School of Law and at Columbia University Law School. Justice Ginsburg served as general counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) from 1973 to 1980, where she founded

the Women's Rights Project. She was appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals by President Carter and to the U.S. Supreme Court by President Clinton. Councilmember Robertson noted that she graduated from law school the same year that Justice Ginsburg was appointed to the Supreme Court, and she recalled being impressed with Justice Ginsburg's record. Ms. Robertson said it is important to recognize Justice Ginsburg's contributions to the nation and her dedication to women's rights.

Mayor Robinson commented on the passing of Ed Pepple, the longtime basketball coach for Mercer Island High School. She said Coach Pepple holds the state high school basketball record of winning 952 games over his 49-year career. Ms. Robinson said that Mr. Pepple was both her tennis partner and opponent. Mr. Pepple took up tennis in his 70s and was the smartest player she encountered. Mayor Robinson said the skills that he taught over his career exemplified excellent sportsmanship, respect for the opponent, and an incredible drive to win.

3. Approval of Agenda

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to approve the agenda, amended to add Agenda Item 6(a), Meydenbauer Center Accreditation, and to remove Agenda Item 12(a), Resolution No. 9821, to be brought back for a future meeting. Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

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

4. Oral Communications

Assistant City Manager Kyle Stannert said one speaker signed up to speak to the Council.

Vishnu Mangipudi, a 7th grader at Odle Middle School, noted his involvement with the Bellevue Youth Climate Action Team. He spoke to the impact of climate change on respiratory illness and said that individuals with underlying respiratory conditions are impacted more severely by the coronavirus. He said climate change contributes to the increased incidence of forest fires. He encouraged collaboration among cities to address the impacts of climate change. Vishnu encouraged the Council to include funding in the budget to address climate change and to provide leadership for other jurisdictions.

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

6. Report of the City Manager

(a) Meydenbauer Center Accreditation

City Manager Brad Miyake announced that Meydenbauer Center was recently awarded the GBAC (Global Biorisk Advisory Council) Star Facility accreditation. Meydenbauer Center is the first convention center in the state to earn the accreditation, which recognizes organizations with a well-established and maintained cleaning, disinfection, and infectious disease prevention program. The GBAC Director said Meydenbauer Center received third party validation that it

follows strict protocols to ensure safety. Mr. Miyake said this is an important step in welcoming events back to the facility. He thanked Meydenbauer Center CEO Tim Carr and staff for their hard work.

Councilmember Zahn, Council liaison to Meydenbauer Center, congratulated staff on the achievement and said that the award demonstrates that the center is a safe place for events. She looks forward to increased economic activity and public events in Bellevue.

7. Council Business and New Initiatives

There was no discussion.

8. Consent Calendar

→ Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the Consent Calendar, and Councilmember Barksdale seconded the motion.

→ The motion to approve the Consent Calendar carried by a vote of 7-0, and the following items were approved:

(a) Council Minutes

Minutes of September 8, 2020 Regular Meeting

Minutes of September 14, 2020 Regular Meeting

(b) Resolution No. 9822 determining that a portion of an existing water easement located at 8000 NE 16th Street is surplus to the City's needs and is no longer required for providing continued public utility service; and setting a time and place for a public hearing to consider the partial release of this easement.

(c) Resolution No. 9823 authorizing the City Manager to formally terminate Concomitant Zoning Agreement No. 10737, which has been superseded by subsequent legislative actions.

(d) Motion to approve payment of claims and payroll for the period August 1, 2020 to August 31, 2020.

9. Public Hearing

(a) Second Public Hearing on the 2021-2022 Budget and 2021-2027 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan

City Manager Miyake noted that this is the second of three public hearings regarding the 2021-2022 Budget and 2021-2027 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan. He said state law requires cities to hold one public hearing. However, the City of Bellevue regularly holds three hearings to provide enhanced opportunities for public comment. He noted the Council's June 22 budget

discussion regarding the challenges related to the impacts of the coronavirus. The first public hearing on the budget and CIP Plan was held on July 27.

Keyi Lu, Assistant Director of the Finance and Asset Management (FAM) Department, said the Council's initial budget workshop was held on June 22, and the Council was briefed regarding the budget impacts resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Council will discuss the budget this fall and hold the final public hearing in November. Budget adoption is anticipated for December 7.

Ms. Lu said the public engagement process regarding the budget includes online information, the February Neighborhood Leadership Gathering, budget and performance surveys, public comment during City Council meetings, input from Boards and Commissions, and input to the Council and staff from the public.

Mayor Robinson said the public hearing provides the opportunity for the Council to listen to organizations and the community. The Council will resume discussing the budget in October.

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to open the public hearing, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

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

Assistant City Manager Kyle Stannert said 14 individuals signed up to speak during the hearing. The City received four written communications regarding the budget and CIP Plan and those have been provided in the Council's desk packet. Mr. Stannert said David Plummer signed up to speak. However, he notified the City Clerk's Office earlier in the day that he would not be able to participate. Mr. Plummer sent written comments to the Council the previous week.

The following individuals provided oral comments during the hearing:

1. Dave Hamilton, a resident of the Tam O'Shanter neighborhood, said he served on the task force created by the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce and the Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA) to draft the letter provided to the Council tonight. He noted the strong sense of community in Bellevue. He encouraged the City to maintain its critical investments and to be strategic in budget reductions related to the COVID-19 impacts. He expressed concern regarding affordable housing needs. Mr. Hamilton thanked Councilmembers for their work.
2. Albert Rosenthal encouraged the City to not defund the Bellevue Police Department. He noted an article he sent to the Council and said the vast majority of police officers are not racist. He opined that most of the individuals who are killed by police were resisting arrest. He expressed concern regarding the handling of the looting in Downtown Bellevue in late May. Mr. Rosenthal encouraged the Council to not increase taxes.
3. Court Olson thanked the Council for its support of climate action efforts and for signing the updated agreement with the King County Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C). He

noted a global effort to cut greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030, which is consistent with the K4C commitments. He encouraged the City to be a regional leader and to retain funding in the budget for climate change initiatives. Mr. Olson acknowledged that it will take a significant staffing effort to adopt and implement a robust climate action plan.

4. Noel Pai-Young expressed concern regarding public discussion about defunding the police department. She said the COVID-19 pandemic has led to increased violence, including domestic violence. She encouraged the Council to continue full funding for the police department. She noted lawsuits in other cities responding to local government's efforts to reduce police funding. She encouraged enhanced transparency and accountability. Ms. Pai-Young encouraged the recruitment of more women police to be available on site in domestic violence and sex trafficking situations involving women and children. She suggested that wildfires should be investigated to ensure whether they are related to arson or climate change.
5. Matt Jack, Director of Public Policy for the Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA), said that he and Chris Johnson (Chamber of Commerce) would comment on their joint message regarding the challenges and opportunities facing the City's budget. Mr. Jack referred the Council to their letter submitted earlier in the day. He described the involvement of the business community to identify key priorities and proposed solutions. Mr. Jack noted the Keep Bellevue Strong initiative to support economic resiliency and recovery and to ensure that the City continues the capital investments needed to add the capacity needed to support continued growth. Mr. Jack thanked Councilmembers for their leadership.
6. McKenzie Toomey, a sophomore at the International School, expressed her concerns regarding climate change. She noted her involvement in organizations including the Sustainability Ambassadors and the Bellevue Youth Climate Action Team. She thanked Councilmembers for their dedication and commitment to Bellevue and for their efforts to keep the community safe throughout the pandemic. She thanked the Council for allocating funds for climate action planning, which will be important in economic recovery as well. She said that reducing Bellevue's carbon footprint will increase community health, provide jobs, and protect the environment.
7. Chris Johnson, Bellevue Chamber of Commerce, commented regarding the recommendations of the Chamber and BDA joint budget task force. Noting the uncertainty regarding the pandemic and economic recovery, Mr. Johnson encouraged flexibility in terms of funding priorities. He requested continued investments to support the COVID-19 response and economic recovery, maintain current funding levels for police and fire services, and to support health and human services for members of Bellevue who are struggling to meet basic needs. Mr. Johnson urged the Council to continue to invest in transportation projects, including those listed in the BDA-Chamber joint letter to the Council. He briefly highlighted additional suggestions provided in their written comments to the Council.

8. Charles Landau encouraged the Council to maintain funding for the Bellevue Police Department. He said his family no longer feels safe in Seattle. He expressed concern regarding homelessness and the use of illegal drugs in public. He said he moved to Bellevue in part due to its police department and public safety. He encouraged continued full funding for the police.
9. Denny Andrews said he is a former Air Force officer and retired businessman. He said he strongly opposes any defunding of the police department. He noted the protests and related violence in Seattle, Portland, Chicago, Minneapolis, and New York City. He encouraged the City to consider reductions in other areas of the budget.
10. Marlene Meyer said she has worked as an educator in Bellevue for more than 20 years and she has seen the impressive growth. She noted her experience living in California and in observing both the positive and negative elements of rapid growth due to the technology industry (e.g., traffic congestion and pollution). Ms. Meyer thanked the Council for signing the updated K4C agreement. She encouraged adequate funding for addressing the impacts of climate change.
11. Hanna Floss, a resident of the Crossroads neighborhood, encouraged the Council to provide needed human services funding.
12. Stefan Sharkansky expressed support for maintaining the current level of funding for the Bellevue Police Department. He commended Bellevue's leadership in supporting funding for public safety.
13. John Bagge said he has worked and lived in Bellevue since 1976. He expressed concern regarding public safety and commended the Bellevue Police Department. He expressed support for de-escalation training for police officers. He urged the Council to continue to fully fund the police department.
14. Heidi Dean expressed support for continuing to fully fund the police department. She said it is important to continue the Bellevue Police Department's relationship with the Bellevue School District through the School Resource Officer (SRO) program. She expressed support for the creation of affordable housing that would allow police officers to live in the communities that they police. She said that police officers have found that to be rewarding in other cities.
15. Ruth Lipscomb referred to the earlier public comments regarding the issue of defunding the police. She said it is not the funding that we need to be looking at, but we need to be listening to the community, especially to those who maybe have not had positive interactions with police officers. She noted that the Bellevue police officer union contract expires at the end of 2020. She asked the City to not sign a new contract until after the Mayor's Pledge public safety review process is completed. She said there might be an opportunity to include requirements ensuring transparency and accountability in the next union contract.

- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to close the public hearing, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

10. Study Session

(a) Updates to Building and Fire Codes

Mayor Robinson noted that Fire Marshal Ken Carlson is retiring and tonight will be his last Council meeting. She thanked him for his public service in Kirkland and Bellevue, including his leadership in a major update to Bellevue's building and fire codes in 2018.

City Manager Brad Miyake introduced discussion regarding the updates to the building and fire codes.

Mike Brennan, Director of the Development Services Department (DSD), said staff is seeking Council direction to adopt and amend the building and fire codes, or to provide alternative direction. He noted a list of the international and national building codes (e.g., fire code, residential code, plumbing code). Mr. Brennan said the state periodically adopts minimum code requirements based on updates to the international and national codes. The City may amend the state-mandated codes but cannot make them less restrictive.

Gregg Schrader, Building Official, described the process for adopting the proposed code changes, beginning with stakeholder outreach and open house sessions for the building industry and the public in 2019. Staff proposes adoption of the updated codes in early October in order to move forward with Phase 1 implementation in late October. Phase 2 implementation of the new codes begins on February 1, 2021.

Mr. Schrader summarized the public feedback from the three open houses. He noted concerns regarding the energy code, single-family exterior electrical disconnects, high-rise firefighter air replenishment systems, high-rise use of a third stairwell for egress, and high-rise pressurized elevator hoist ways.

Mr. Schrader highlighted changes to the international codes related to seismic mitigation, wood high-rise buildings up to 18 stories, smoke detectors, and fire sprinklers. He noted changes to the state energy code regarding gas appliances and energy efficiency requirements for residential projects and for solar readiness for commercial projects.

Trisna Tanus, Legal Planner, described additional amendments proposed by staff regarding the abatement of dangerous buildings (BCC 23.20) and Uniform Housing Code (BCC 23.22). The abatement of dangerous buildings code is a mechanism to require repair, vacation, or demolition of dangerous buildings that endanger life, health, property, safety, or welfare. The proposed amendment incorporates the 1997 abatement of dangerous buildings code into the Bellevue City Code as Chapter 23.20, and adopts conformance and consistency revisions to update the code to current standards.

Ms. Tanus said the purpose of the Uniform Housing Code is to provide minimum standards to safeguard life, health, property and public welfare and to regulate the use and occupancy of buildings. Staff proposes incorporating the 1997 Uniform Housing Code into the Bellevue City Code as Chapter 23.22. Ms. Tanus said staff is limiting its proposed revisions to conformance and consistency changes.

Ken Carlson, Fire Marshal, described changes to the International Fire Code applicable to on-demand mobile fueling and mobile food trucks. He described staff's proposed code amendments addressing in-building radio systems, elevator maintenance, and firefighter air replenishment systems (FARS). Mr. Carlson said the revisions affecting FARS are cost-neutral and the topic was discussed with community stakeholders.

Under state law, the electrical code update goes into effect on October 29, and the construction and fire codes go into effect on February 1, 2021. Mr. Carlson said staff requests Council approval of its additional proposed revisions, to become effective on October 29, in the areas of: 1) fire inspection fees, 2) in-building radio systems, 3) elevator maintenance, and 4) firefighter air systems. He said the adjustments to fire inspection fees are minor and will decrease fees for certain buildings.

Councilmember Stokes thanked staff for the presentation. He encouraged the City to explore ways to reduce or eliminate fees related to the development of affordable housing units.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis thanked Fire Marshal Carlson for his public service. Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Mr. Carlson said there are no on-demand mobile fueling services in Bellevue, and a business would need to apply for an operational permit to do so. Mr. Carlson said the activity would be limited to an open parking lot.

Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Mr. Schrader said he would follow up with more information regarding the electrical disconnect code revision. In further response, Mr. Carlson said that under the proposed amendment affecting food trucks, the City of Bellevue would accept a permit from any jurisdiction with a valid fire agency.

Councilmember Barksdale said that food trucks are often an entry point to restaurant ownership. He expressed support for allowing permits from other qualified jurisdictions.

Councilmember Lee expressed support for streamlining the permit process for food trucks. Responding to Mr. Lee, Mr. Carlson said the Bellevue Fire Department works extensively with other agencies in King County Fire Zone 1. He attends regular meetings of the King County Fire Marshals Association, where there have been discussions regarding on-demand mobile fueling.

Councilmember Zahn thanked staff for the thorough presentation. She wants to ensure that if there are elevators with a single access, there is an alternate plan for the residents or tenants if the elevator is out of service for an extended period of time. She expressed support for code provisions involving solar readiness. She asked whether there are energy code changes related to encouraging more energy efficient buildings.

Ms. Zahn expressed concern regarding mobile fueling, noting that it is a combustion source. She said the new code allowing taller wood structures could provide opportunities for innovation.

Councilmember Robertson expressed concern regarding mobile fueling, including potential fuel spills. She noted there are many requirements regarding environmental mitigation for gas stations. She expressed concern about organizations hiring a company to fuel their vehicles on site. Responding to Ms. Robertson, Mr. Carlson said the City has the authority to prohibit on-demand mobile fueling. He said the City of Redmond prohibits the practice to protect its aquifers, and other cities have different reasons for prohibiting mobile fueling. He said a fire agency may issue a blanket permit or require specific permits. He noted his preference for site-specific permits.

Mr. Carlson said mobile fueling is a relatively new industry. He said the code severely limits where mobile fueling could potentially be allowed in Bellevue. Councilmember Robertson said she would prefer to see the industry develop elsewhere first. She reiterated her concerns regarding environmental impacts, including on water quality.

Ms. Robertson acknowledged that the majority of the code amendments are mandatory and routine. Responding to Ms. Robertson, Mr. Carlson said that three code changes proposed by staff relate to in-building radio systems, elevator maintenance requirements, and Firefighter Air Replenishment Systems (FARS).

Referring to code provisions related to the abatement of dangerous buildings, Councilmember Robertson asked whether the City had considered instead adopting the International Property Maintenance Code. Ms. Tanus said staff has reviewed that code in the past.

Mr. Schrader said staff can review the updated code with the next code adoption in a couple of years. He said there are positive and negative factors for each code approach. He said most cities that have adopted the International Property Maintenance Code have removed a number of its provisions.

Councilmember Robertson suggested that it would be worth a new review. She said the International Property Maintenance Code is more up to date than the Abatement of Dangerous Buildings Code.

Mayor Robinson said she has experienced the issue of elevators out of service in downtown residential buildings. She suggested that elevator maintenance services should guarantee a 24-hour response to any problems. She noted a situation in which the elevator was out of order over a full weekend because maintenance staff would not respond until Monday.

Ms. Robinson expressed support for Councilmember Stokes' suggestion to explore waiving inspection fees for affordable housing units.

Responding to Mayor Robinson, Mr. Brennan said staff will provide the technical information requested by Councilmembers when they bring the ordinance back for adoption.

Regarding Councilmember Robertson's suggestion above to consider the International Property Maintenance Code, Mr. Brennan said that would require a fairly significant work effort. He suggested a review with the next building code update.

Fire Marshal Carlson said staff could provide options for permit fee adjustments for affordable housing development, if desired by the Council.

Mayor Robinson suggested linking fee adjustment and/or waiver incentives with the City's Affordable Housing Strategy.

Mayor Robinson indicated that Councilmembers might want to request individual staff briefings before anticipated formal action to adopt the code amendments within the next few weeks.

(b) Discussion of Draft Bellevue Economic Development Plan

City Manager Miyake recalled that the process to update the Economic Development Plan began in July 2019 with the approval of eight Council objectives. He said staff is seeking Council direction to return with the final version of the Economic Development Plan and the resolution to adopt the plan for formal Council action. Mr. Miyake said staff provided an update on July 6 regarding strategies and priorities to support economic recovery related to the impacts of the pandemic. At that time, Council directed staff to finalize the full draft plan for Council consideration.

Mac Cummins, Director, Community Development Department, said that tonight is the eighth study session regarding the update to the Economic Development Plan. He noted the question of whether capital will follow labor or if labor will follow capital in terms of economic recovery and growth. He questioned whether companies will go to where workers want to live or whether workers will follow the jobs.

Mr. Cummins said staff believes strongly that the future of economic development involves placemaking. He noted new language in the plan regarding the role of retail, tourism, and convention activity, as well as transportation and housing systems and options. He said the plan is a balanced approach that involved substantial public outreach with the business community, regional organizations, and others.

Mr. Cummins said staff is seeking confirmation from the Council that the plan represents its objectives. He acknowledged that Councilmembers sent comments to staff the previous week suggesting minor revisions for clarification and/or emphasis.

Philippa Marsh, Economic Development Manager, highlighted the project process and timeline. She said staff compared Bellevue's economic position to peer cities and reevaluated and refined the plan in light of COVID-19 and the economic impacts. Staff conducted additional public outreach at the Council's request, and that input has been incorporated into the updated plan.

Ms. Marsh thanked Councilmembers for their valuable input throughout the update process. She said staff received positive feedback from the Council during previous discussions as well as direction to proceed with updating the plan. She recalled the original eight objectives identified by the Council encompassing the areas of the creative economy, small business, retail activity, best practices for integrating new businesses into the community, capacity building for community groups, integrating key recommendations from the tourism plan, structuring the plan to make it easier to update, and supporting local workforce development options and programs.

Tony DeLisi, EY, acknowledged the importance of placemaking and noted that the consultants have observed a trend in recent years of businesses following people to where they want to live. He said the Economic Development Plan is designed to sustain and enhance Bellevue's quality of life. The plan's five areas of desired outcomes are: 1) sustainable city, 2) strong regional economy, 3) resilient local economy, 4) employment opportunities and economic equity, and 5) a supportive and attractive place for businesses. Mr. DeLisi commented on the themes that emerged from the plan update process: connection, collaboration, communication, regionalism, and internationalism.

Mr. Cummins said the foundational strategies of the plan reflect the longstanding, ongoing efforts and initiatives essential to a well-functioning community. He noted the goal of attracting new businesses throughout the community. He said a major component of economic development is creating and retaining world-class talent. Mr. Cummins said Bellevue competes within the region as well as nationally and internationally to recruit companies to Bellevue.

Ms. Marsh commented regarding the direct strategy focus areas, which correspond to chapters in the updated plan: 1) small business and entrepreneurship, 2) retail, 3) tourism, 4) creative economy, 5) workforce, and 6) capacity building and partnerships. She said the five-year plan responded to the impacts of the pandemic by including short-term recovery strategies and long-term growth strategies. Ms. Marsh said that annual action plans will be developed and presented to the Council, with periodic updates regarding the performance metrics. She said staff will continue to provide the quarterly economic development updates as well.

Mr. Cummins thanked staff for their hard work with the plan update and with businesses and stakeholders. He noted that Jesse Canedo, Chief Economic Development Officer, was unable to participate in tonight's meeting.

Mr. Cummins requested Council direction to return with a final version of the Economic Development Plan and a resolution adopting the plan at a future meeting.

Mayor Robinson encouraged Councilmembers to review the document provided in the desk packet that responds to questions previously raised by the Council.

Councilmember Lee thanked staff and the consultant for the presentation. He commended staff's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic impacts for local businesses. He expressed general support for the updated plan. He observed that the focus areas represent people. He noted the importance of supporting small businesses. He encouraged creativity and innovation.

Councilmember Lee expressed an interest in how the City can turn the foundational strategies into action.

Councilmember Zahn thanked staff for their hard work and for incorporating the Council's interests and priorities into the plan. She said she recently listened to the Puget Sound Economic Summit, where they discussed the impacts of the pandemic and the anticipated economic recovery. She believes that Bellevue is well-poised for strong economic recovery.

Ms. Zahn suggested adding multiculturalism as a key theme, noting that it is different than internationalism or regionalism. She encouraged a focus on innovation and new opportunities. Ms. Zahn recalled that the Council discussed the Environmental Stewardship Plan recently. She encouraged outreach and partnerships with new entities, including younger residents and workers.

Ms. Zahn asked whether cities similar to Bellevue are recovering from the impacts of the pandemic, and whether there are lessons to be learned from other communities. Mr. Cummins said staff will provide more information on comparable cities during the next quarterly update.

Councilmember Robertson expressed support for the updated plan, noting that it captures where Bellevue wants to go as a city. She thanked staff for the follow-up information in the desk packet, especially the information regarding child care and local businesses. She referred to the concept of a 15-minute city, in which every resident could meet their essential needs within 15 minutes of their home. Ms. Robertson commented on the importance of the availability of child care facilities, especially with schools closed.

Ms. Robertson said a critical element to support the new economy is internet connectivity, especially with more people working and learning from home. Mr. DeLisi concurred, noting the importance of supporting the availability of technology to students and low-income families as well.

Ms. Robertson said she would like to see the proposed language regarding child care, the 15-minute city concept, and connectivity incorporated into the Economic Development Plan.

Mayor Robinson suggested that Councilmembers request individual briefings before the Council's next discussion and formal action on the updated plan. Ms. Robertson asked staff to provide copies of the alternate versions of the plan language.

Councilmember Barksdale thanked staff and the consultant for their hard work. He concurred with Councilmember Robertson regarding the importance of connectivity. He expressed support for the plan, including its emphasis on small businesses. He encouraged the City to reach out to diverse communities. Mr. Barksdale said he appreciates the structure and adaptability of the plan. He questioned how the plan implementation will be monitored and how the City will continue its online engagement with the community.

Ms. Marsh said the annual action plan will be developed following the adoption of the updated Economic Development Plan. She said performance measures will be developed for each action and will be monitored by staff and reported to the Council. Ms. Marsh said the capacity building partnership is a primary focus of one of the first chapters in the plan. She said the City will continue to build relationships within the community, which provides feedback to the City on an ongoing basis.

Councilmember Barksdale thanked staff for the quarterly economic development updates. He expressed an interest in a way to review performance measures and data on an ongoing basis.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis thanked everyone for their work and for continuing to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. He said he shares Councilmember Barksdale's interest in tracking the performance measures developed for the annual action plan. Mr. Nieuwenhuis encouraged a focus on entrepreneurs, small businesses, and neighborhood businesses.

Regarding partnerships, Mr. Nieuwenhuis noted the absence of the Innovation Triangle and the Greater Seattle Partners. Ms. Marsh said the City continues to participate in those regional forums. Mr. Nieuwenhuis said he looked at the list of investors on the Greater Seattle Partners website and he did not see the City of Seattle listed. Ms. Marsh said she would research the issue and follow up.

Regarding tourism, Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis questioned whether it would be feasible to establish a partnership of Eastside cities that is similar to the Innovation Triangle. Ms. Marsh said there has been regional collaboration among cities to brand and promote the Eastside as a tourist destination. She said there will be new opportunities for partnerships and for marketing the area, including with the development of the Eastrail and other projects.

Councilmember Stokes thanked staff for their work and collaboration with the Council and the community. He expressed support for the plan. He commented on the importance of a healthy creative economy to support a great community where people want to live and work. Mr. Stokes spoke to the importance of regional collaboration and partnerships, noting that Bellevue should be a leader in these efforts. He said it is important to have a clear sense of where we are going, as well as flexibility and the ability to be nimble.

Mayor Robinson thanked staff for their work in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. She praised staff's extensive efforts with businesses and other partners. She said Mr. Canedo has been very responsive and available to the community.

Ms. Robinson said she would like to see an actionable item regarding the goal to develop the local workforce. She encouraged the public to shop locally and to support small businesses.

Mayor Robinson expressed support for the 15-minute city idea and for including multiculturalism as a theme in the plan. She wondered whether it would be possible to reactivate some of the local historic farmlands for growing fruit and vegetables. She expressed support for the proposed language addressing child care and digital equity. She suggested creating an actionable item related to digital equity and an actionable item related to workforce development.

Councilmember Lee suggested actionable items related to multiculturalism, transportation technology, and tax incremental financing. He encouraged moving forward expeditiously and continuing to explore partnerships.

Councilmember Zahn expressed support for the 15-minute city concept and for workforce development. She encouraged a focus on training and educating local talent for well-paying jobs in Bellevue. Regarding partnerships, Ms. Zahn asked whether there has been any communication with the Port of Seattle. She wondered whether there are creative ways to activate Meydenbauer Center and the theatre. She suggested there could be opportunities for cultural events and other activities in those spaces.

Ms. Zahn noted the need to continue to address transportation needs and affordable housing demand. As the Council reviews the budget, she does not want the City to reduce capital investments because the infrastructure will be needed as the economy recovers and grows.

Councilmember Stokes expressed support for the 15-minute city concept. He said he looks forward to the development of the annual action plan, and he discouraged including specific actions in the broader Economic Development Plan.

Mayor Robinson reiterated her interest in an emphasis on workforce development. She thanked Mr. DeLisi and his staff for their work on behalf of the City.

Mr. Cummins acknowledged the Council's direction to staff for moving forward. He noted that staff intends to develop and organize actionable items under the direct and foundational strategies.

11. Land Use: None.

12. Other Ordinances, Resolutions, and Motions

- (a) 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.

[Item postponed.]

13. Unfinished Business: None.

14. New Business: None.

15. Executive Session: None.

16. Adjournment

At 9:05 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared the meeting adjourned.

Kyle Stannert
Assistant City Manager

/kaw