

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

Thursday
October 7, 2020
6:30 p.m.

Zoom

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Knezevic at 6:31 p.m.

ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Vanja Knezevic (Chair), Diann Strom (Vice Chair), Neal Hines, Negin Khanloo, Ken Wan

COUNCIL LIAISON: Conrad Lee

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Anne Howe, Ling Zhuang

OTHERS PRESENT: Brian Bartle, Deputy Director, Utilities; Nav Otal, Director, Utilities; Lucy Liu, Resource Management and Customer Service Assistant Director, Utilities; Linda De Boldt, Engineering Assistant Director, Utilities; Brian Landau, Planning Manager, Utilities; Jo Liu, Fiscal Manager, Utilities; Cherish Jackson, Interim Executive Assistant, Utilities; Joe Harbour, Operations and Maintenance Assistant Director, Utilities; Doug Lane, Senior Engineer, Utilities; and Laurie Hugdahl, Minutes Taker

2. TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF BYLAWS

Chair Knezevic stated that the Bylaws provisions on remote meetings needed to be suspended temporarily to allow the meeting to be held remotely.

Deputy Director Brian Bartle read an introductory statement regarding online meetings.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion made by Vice Chair Strom, seconded by Commissioner Khanloo, to approve the agenda. The agenda was approved unanimously (5-0).

4. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

None.

5. COMMUNICATION FROM CITY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY COUNCIL, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Councilmember Lee expressed appreciation to the ESC for continuing to meet and get work done. He reported that the City is still functioning well even though most of the staff members are working at home. The economic recovery is slowly coming back. The City has provided support to the community with rental assistance and food while working with the schools and non-profit agencies. Council is diligently working through budget deliberation.

6. STAFF REPORTS

None

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) 8/20/20 MINUTES

Motion made by Vice Chair Strom, seconded by Commissioner Khanloo to approve the 8/20/20 minutes as presented. Upon a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously (5-0).

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

9. NEW BUSINESS

a) Emergency Water Supply Master Plan - Outline and Proposed Policies

Utilities Senior Engineer Doug Lane made the presentation regarding the Emergency Water Supply Master Plan including goals, public awareness and consent, stakeholders, outreach strategy, interdepartmental coordination, and proposed new policies. He explained that policies in the Plan will provide more information to the community, will be cited for future CIP, and will support grants/permits/approvals. The Master Plan will recommend improvements that reduce the time to restore water service following a disaster. Mr. Lane reviewed the outline of the Master Plan and emphasized that there is a technical basis for everything in the plan.

Proposed Policies:

- Health Care Providers – invest in resiliency with the goal to provide uninterrupted water service at emergency rooms, and priorities service

restoration to other health care providers. Doug said industry guidance in particular cites emergency rooms as a top priority. Other facilities such as urgent care, dialysis clinics, etc are important too but are widely distributed geographically, so uninterrupted service to all of them is not practical following a severe earthquake.

- Alternative Fire Fighting Methods – coordinate, facilitate and develop alternative fire-fighting strategies identified by the Fire Department for use during disaster recovery, prior to full system restoration
- Personal Preparedness – encourage residents to store 14 days of water
- Shelters and Points of Distribution – prioritize mitigation and response efforts to support the readiness of pre-identified shelters and points of distribution. Some Community Centers are designated shelters, and the City has a memorandum of understanding with Bellevue School District that allows some schools to be used as shelters.
- Business Continuity – establish water service restoration goals to support business continuity. Doug indicated that after Hurricane Katrina, many businesses left the area and never returned.
- Inter-Dependent Sector Coordination – coordinate and optimize emergency preparation with inter-dependent infrastructure sectors (power, transportation, communications, etc.)
- Emergency Mitigation Investments – identify and invest in water system reliability and resiliency improvements where the benefits of reduced risk to the community exceed the costs of the improvement. Prioritize improvements with the highest benefit per cost.
- Post-Event Level of Service Goals – The City will establish medium-term (2040) and long-term (2070) post-event level of service (PE-LOS) goals, and invest as needed in resiliency to meet those goals. Doug will focus on this policy in particular during his next ESC presentation scheduled for November.
- Groundwater Supplies – The City should invest in reliable and resilient wells.
- Well Head Protection – Restrict land use and establish Critical Areas near wells to preserve water quality.

Discussion:

Commissioner Hines asked how many groundwater wells there are in the City. Mr. Lane replied there are four wells that are actively in use and that the City has access to.

Commissioner Hines asked if Bellevue has the capability to shut off interties and only use the emergency water for its own community. Mr. Lane indicated he would need to check on that; it is complicated and different for each one based on the agreement language, but typical agreements will require all customers to be treated the same. Doug noted that all adjacent utilities obtain

water from Seattle, so we would all be impacted by a disruption to the Seattle supply.

Vice Chair Strom asked about structures or facilities around the wells. Mr. Lane replied that it varies from being a bare bones situation where people can come fill up jugs of non-potable water, to having the potential to connect the well to the system after a disaster event, or having a water treatment plant onsite which is a fully online facility. Staff is investigating what options make sense for Bellevue, and the Master Plan will make recommendations.

b) Utilities 2021-2022 Proposed Budget and Rates - Update and Public Hearing

Chair Knezevic introduced the public hearing. Assistant Director Liu and Fiscal Manager Liu presented the staff report including two minor updates to the financial policies and budget:

1. Water Utility System Plan update changed from every 6 years to every 10 years
2. Tax costs updated to reflect estimate included in rates reviewed with Commission on August 20

Asst. Director Liu provided a recap of proposed Operating Budget and the Capital Budget. She also discussed the proposed Typical Residential Combined Rates, a Monthly Bill Comparison for Water, Sewer & Storm, and Utility Rate Relief Programs. The Commission had no comments or questions.

Motion made by Vice Chair Strom, seconded by Commissioner Hines, to open the public hearing at 7:33 p.m. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Chair Knezevic solicited public written comments. There were none. She solicited public oral comments. There were none.

Motion made by Vice Chair Strom, seconded by Commissioner Khanloo, to close the hearing at 7:35 p.m. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).

10. REVIEW OF COMMISSION & COUNCIL CALENDARS

Deputy Director Brian Bartle reviewed the ESC Calendar. The next ESC meetings will be on October 22 and November 5. The December meeting is typically a retreat, but that remains to be decided this year. He also reviewed the Council calendar as presented. There were no comments or questions on either calendar.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Chair Knezevic, seconded by Commissioner Hines, to adjourn the meeting. Upon a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously (5-0).

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

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