

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

October 19, 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 6:01 p.m., with Mayor Robinson presiding.

2. Roll Call, Flag Salute

City Clerk Charmaine Arredondo called the roll. All Councilmembers were present and participating remotely. Councilmember Zahn led the flag salute.

(a) Domestic Violence Action Month Proclamation

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis read the proclamation recognizing October 2020 as Domestic Violence Action Month in Bellevue. He said we must continue to stand alongside LifeWire, advocates, service providers, law enforcement and our criminal justice system as they hold offenders accountable and provide care and support to survivors. He encouraged survivors, their loved ones, and concerned citizens to learn more by calling the LifeWire Helpline at 425-746-1940 or by visiting www.lifewire.org.

3. Approval of Agenda

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to approve the agenda, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

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

4. Oral Communications

- (a) Sue Kingston urged the City to implement the Vision Zero program now. She said her daughter was hit by a car when she was walking last November in Bellevue. She fractured her shoulder and arm and was in a sling for more than six weeks, and she continues to recover.

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

6. Report of the City Manager

(a) Cultural Conversations Program Update

City Manager Brad Miyake recalled that the Cultural Conversations program was established as a way for women to build community and connections. There have been more than 700 participants over the 10-year history of the program. Mr. Miyake said the program was last discussed with the Council in April 2018.

Mike McCormick Huentelman, Assistant Director of the Community Development Department, said that much of the success of the program is due to the efforts of Carol Ross, Community Relations Coordinator. He noted that she was unable to attend the meeting due to another obligation. He provided a brief history of the program.

Mark Heilman, Neighborhood Outreach Manager, said the need for community and connection is even more important within the context of the current pandemic. He said staff conducted a community survey in September and received responses in four languages. He noted that 64 percent of the respondents reported a moderate to severe decrease in their sense of community.

Mr. Heilman said the cultural conversations events feature speakers from the community and small group discussions following the speaker. He said the program launched a new Cultural Conversations web page and offers assistance in remote participation in events. He said the Zoom events are attracting roughly the same number of people as the live events before the pandemic. An online storytelling and discussion session was held in September.

The next online Cultural Conversations program will be held on Tuesday, October 27, 1:00-2:30 p.m. Mr. Heilman thanked the Council for its ongoing support of the Cultural Conversations program.

Mayor Robinson thanked staff for their hard work.

7. Council Business and New Initiatives

(a) Appointments to Planning Commission and Transportation Commission

Councilmember Barksdale nominated Karol Brown to serve on the Planning Commission for a four-year term expiring on May 31, 2024. He said that Ms. Brown is a longtime resident of Bellevue who is active in the community and helped to establish the Eastgate Community Association. Ms. Brown completed the Bellevue Essentials program. She is an immigration

attorney who brings an equity lens to her analysis. She lives in Eastgate, one of Bellevue's primary growth areas.

Councilmember Robertson nominated Karen Stash to serve a partial term on the Transportation Commission expiring on May 31, 2023. Ms. Stash is an engineer and an 18-year Bellevue resident in the Enatai neighborhood. Ms. Robertson said Ms. Stash was one of the few candidates who mentioned the importance of safety, including for bikes and pedestrians, during the interview. Ms. Stash has worked for a number of government agencies and understands how to work with colleagues and partners.

→ Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the appointment of Karol Brown to the Planning Commission and Karen Stash to the Transportation Commission. Councilmember Zahn seconded the motion.

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

8. Consent Calendar

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to approve the Consent Calendar, and Councilmember Stokes 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 October 5, 2020 Regular Meeting
- (b) Motion to reject the bid protest from R.W. Scott Construction and to award Bid No. 20028 124th Avenue NE - NE 8th Street to NE 12th Street Safety Improvements (CIP Plan Nos. PW-R-190, PW-R-46, PW-R-156 and PW-M-1) to Kamins Construction as the lowest responsible and responsive bidder, in the amount of \$512,800.80, plus all applicable taxes.
- (c) Motion to approve payment of claims and payroll for the period September 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020.
- (d) Ordinance No. 6538: 1) authorizing execution of an interagency agreement and supplements, if necessary with Washington State Military Department for a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance grant; 2) amending the 2019-2020 Operating Grants, Donations, and Special Reserves Fund to increase the appropriation equal to the expenditures included in the request(s) for reimbursement under the agreement; and 3) authorizing administrative officials to expend funds and receive reimbursement as authorized in the Grant Agreement.

- (e) Motion to award Bid No. 20055, 2020 Guardrail Replacement Program (CIP Plan No. PW-R-46) to Peterson Brothers, Inc. as the lowest responsible and responsive bidder, in the amount of \$119,492.82, plus all applicable taxes.
- (f) Resolution No. 9827 authorizing execution of (1) a successor Collective Bargaining Agreement by and between the City and the Public, Professional & Office-Clerical Employees and Drivers Local Union No. 763, affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters representing Review & Inspection Supervisors employed with the Building Division of Development Services Department (Union), for the contract period January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2023; and (2) a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the parties providing a lump sum payment to eligible members of the bargaining unit.
- (g) Resolution No. 9829 approving the A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH) 2021 Administrative Budget and Work Program as recommended by the ARCH Executive Board.

9. Public Hearing

- (a) Public Hearing and Action on Resolution No. 9828 authorizing the execution of documents necessary, including the Covenant Release and Transfer Agreement, to release a restrictive covenant affecting the property located at 600 124th Avenue NE, commonly known as Residence East, which is owned by Alpha Supported Living Services (ASLS), who currently operates a group home on the property for individuals with developmental disabilities.

City Manager Brad Miyake said the proposed resolution authorizes the execution of the documents necessary, including the Covenant Release and Transfer Agreement, to release a restrictive covenant affecting the property located at 600 124th Avenue NE, commonly, known as Residence East.

The topic was last before the Council on September 8. Staff is requesting Council action on the proposed resolution tonight.

Ira McDaniel, Real Property Division Manager, Finance and Asset Management (FAM) Department, described the property's location in the Wilburton neighborhood. It is currently owned by Alpha Supported Living Services (ASLS), which operates a group home on the property for individuals with developmental disabilities. The organization plans to move the residents to another location and to sell the subject property. The owner is asking the City to remove the restrictive covenant to enable the sale of the property.

Mr. McDaniel highlighted the history of the property. In 1976, the City and Residence East (later known as ASLS) entered into an agreement for the construction of a group home using state grant funding. The current structure is no longer compatible with the aging residents and ASLS requests a release of the covenant in order to sell the property and move the residents to another location.

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

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

No one came forward to comment.

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

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

Responding to Councilmember Lee, Mr. McDaniel confirmed that removing the restrictive covenant will enable the sale of the property.

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to approve Resolution No. 9828, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

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

10. Study Session

(a) Micromobility: Regulation of Motorized Foot Scooters

City Manager Miyake introduced discussion regarding the regulation of motorized foot scooters. He said electric scooters have become popular since 2018 and the business community has expressed an interest in considering a shared electric scooter pilot program. Mr. Miyake said that local code currently prevents the use of scooters as a personal transportation mode in Bellevue.

Mr. Miyake said staff is seeking Council direction to forward the topic to the Transportation Commission for study and review.

Andrew Singelakis, Transportation Department Director, said staff recommends forwarding the topic of micromobility and motorized foot scooters to the Transportation Commission to research and study issues in a public setting. Mr. Singelakis said staff received helpful feedback from Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis. He encouraged Councilmembers to raise issues tonight that they would like the Transportation Commission to address.

Andreas Piller, Associate Planner, said state law defines a motorized foot scooter as a device with two or three wheels that has handlebars and a floorboard that can be stood on while riding, and is powered by an internal combustion engine or electric motor that has a maximum speed of 20 miles per hour on level ground. He said state regulations applicable to foot scooters were updated in 2019, and Bellevue's regulations are no longer consistent with state law.

Mr. Piller highlighted the differences in state and local regulations regarding: 1) the use of scooters on roadways, bike lanes, sidewalks, shared use paths, unpaved nonmotorized trails, and in city parks, 2) when they may be operated, 3) how they may be operated, and 4) who may operate them. A foot scooter is functionally an illegal transportation mode under the current code, which therefore precludes the shared mobility option available in neighboring and peer cities. Mr. Piller noted the interest in providing consistent regulations across the region.

Mr. Piller provided background information regarding the regulation of foot scooters. After the State authorized the local regulation of scooters in 2004, the cities of Issaquah, Kirkland, and Seattle adopted ordinances. The Bellevue City Council adopted a scooter ordinance in 2007. Washington cities began launching e-scooter pilot programs in 2018 as the global popularity of the scooters began to grow. Policy priorities for the study and review of motorized foot scooters include safety, sustainability, equity, accessibility, innovation, consistency, engagement, education, and parking. Mr. Piller highlighted the different types of powered micromobility vehicles including bicycles, standing scooter, seated scooter, self-balancing board, non-self-balancing board, and skates.

Mr. Piller said staff is seeking Council direction to work with the Transportation Commission to review and to recommend updates to the Bellevue City Code regulating the use of motorized foot scooters.

Councilmember Robertson, liaison to the Transportation Commission, thanked Mr. Singelakis and Mr. Piller for their work. Ms. Robertson expressed support for sending the topic to the Transportation Commission for study and discussion. She said safety must be a top priority. She said there have been serious injuries to individuals using scooters. If there is an on-demand use, generally the company would be required to indemnify the City from liability. Ms. Robertson said the companies typically require the users to waive any damages against them in the case of accidents.

Ms. Robertson said she wants to ensure that scooters are safe for riders as well as for pedestrians and bikes using the same paths and roadways. She expressed an interest in helmet usage and in looking at the different types of motorized scooters. She said it is important to ensure that scooter parking does not block or impede walkways or access to buildings. She suggested the City might want to set a maximum speed for the shared scooters. Ms. Robertson said she would like the Transportation Commission to consider lessons learned in other jurisdictions that have shared scooter programs and from Bellevue's e-bike pilot program.

Councilmember Zahn agreed that this is a good time to review and update the regulations. She said she has seen adults using the scooters as transportation in a number of cities, including Washington, D.C., Dallas, Texas, and Santa Monica, California. She said the regulations should be centered around Vision Zero principles and objectives. She encouraged staff to study neighboring jurisdictions (e.g., Issaquah, Kirkland, Redmond, and Renton) to consider creating codes that are consistent with their laws. Responding to Ms. Zahn, Mr. Piller said state law allows some latitude in setting the minimum age for operating a motorized scooter.

Councilmember Lee expressed support for forwarding the topic to the Transportation Commission for study and review. He thanked staff for the update.

Councilmember Barksdale concurred with sending the matter to the Transportation Commission. He said he would appreciate input from riders about how they expect to use the e-scooters. He said he recently bought an e-scooter.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis thanked staff for the presentation and expressed support for sending the issue to the Transportation Commission. He commented that the City's experience with its shared e-bike program will help inform this review as well. He noted the importance of following Vision Zero guidelines to ensure safety. He expressed an interest in programs in neighboring cities and in Dallas, San Diego, Los Angeles, and elsewhere. He said he would be interested in hearing whether large employers have encouraged the use of scooters.

Councilmember Stokes said it is exciting to see this initiative moved forward. He recalled seeing the use of e-scooters in Santa Monica a couple of years ago. Mr. Stokes said he wants to ensure that the City explores the legal issues applicable to shared e-scooters as well. He is glad to hear that businesses support the use of scooters.

Mayor Robinson expressed support for forwarding the item to the Transportation Commission. She encouraged the Commission to take a field trip to experience the e-scooters in the region. She would like the Commission to consider how to limit where shared scooters may be used. She said technology can restrict their usage to specific areas of a city. She would like the Commission to address whether the usage of scooters should be limited to bicycle infrastructure and paths. She asked staff and the Commission to consider whether users should be required to register with or obtain a permit from the City. She concurred with Councilmember Barksdale's interest in input from scooter users.

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to direct the Transportation Commission to work with staff to review and, as deemed appropriate, recommend revisions to City Code regulating the use of motorized foot scooters in Bellevue. Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

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

(b) Introduction of the Preliminary 2021-2022 Operating Budget and 2020-2027 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan

City Manager Miyake introduced the presentation of the Preliminary 2021-2022 Operating Budget and the 2020-2027 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan. He commented on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting budget constraints. The budget totals \$1.7 billion and balances Bellevue's history of fiscal responsibility with the needs of businesses and residents during this difficult time. The budget has been adjusted based on revenue projections reflecting the impacts of the pandemic. While core services are preserved, the budget includes certain necessary service level reductions.

Mr. Miyake said the budget continues to fund the delivery of critical services in the areas of public safety, public health, and human services to protect our most vulnerable populations; and it continues to build upon the basic capital infrastructure of the city to prepare for future growth challenges. He said there is a modest utility rate increase driven primarily by the pass-through of outside costs as well as adjustments to certain Development Services Division (DSD) fees.

Mr. Miyake said the 2021-2022 General Fund deficit totals \$32 million. He said the preliminary budget responds to the deficit in three ways: 1) use of cost containment measures (e.g., restrictions on travel, training, and the use of consulting services; reductions in maintenance; and the elimination of several vacant positions and a minimal number of filled positions; 2) use of one-time measures to balance the budget (e.g., reserves and the proposed temporary allocation of a greater portion of sales tax revenues to the General Fund from the CIP); and 3) small increase in revenues. The budget assumes a one-percent adjustment in the property tax and a small increase in the Basic Life Support (BLS) transport fee.

Mr. Miyake noted that the budget delays the opening of Fire Station 10 for six months. The budget reflects increased funding for human services and homelessness services, the cultural liaison program, equity training, and targeted investments including neighborhood congestion mitigation and Vision Zero implementation. Mr. Miyake said the preliminary budget uses a number of one-time and short-term measures to balance the budget until the next biennium. This bridge budget accomplishes two objectives: 1) allows the City to plan and respond to the ongoing financial impacts related to the pandemic, and 2) allows time to work on the structural imbalance of revenues and increasing costs.

Mr. Miyake said the City remains committed to delivering high-quality services to the public. He thanked the City's Leadership Team as well as Toni Call, Director of Finance and Asset Management (FAM), budgeting and finance staff, and all City employees for their hard work on the budget. Mr. Miyake thanked the community for their input as well.

Toni Call, Director, Finance and Asset Management (FAM) Department, said tonight is the first of six briefings and discussions regarding the 2021-2022 Preliminary Budget. She said staff will maintain a memory packet to track Councilmembers' questions and comments. The third and final public hearing regarding the Budget and the Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan is scheduled for November 23. Ms. Call highlighted the topics for the upcoming discussions on October 26 and on November 2, 9, 16 and 23. Budget adoption by the Council is anticipated on December 7. The adoption of the budget includes a number of actions to amend the development services fee ordinance, utilities rates ordinances, human services ordinances, fire inspection fee ordinance, Basic Life Support (BLS) fee ordinance, substantial need ordinance, property tax banked capacity resolution, property tax ordinance, and biennial budget ordinance.

Ms. Call said the budget totals \$1.7 billion and reflects zero growth from the previous budget. She highlighted the primary fund categories: Capital Investment, Special Purpose, Enterprise, Internal Service, and the General Fund. She noted that certain revenues can be used only for a specific purpose. She highlighted the operating budget's revenue sources: beginning fund balance, charges for services, intergovernmental services, grants, utilities services fees, and taxes (i.e., property, sales, business and occupation, and utility). Ms. Call noted that the City's property

tax represents only 10 percent of Bellevue residents' total property tax bill. The remaining property taxes are paid to the State of Washington, Bellevue School District, King County, and other jurisdictions. Ms. Call said that adjusting the City's property tax by one percent will cost the average homeowner approximately \$9 per year.

Keyi Lu, Finance and Asset Management (FAM) Assistant Director, presented the General Fund forecast. She noted that property tax revenues support approximately 20 percent of the General Fund budget. She recalled that the 2019-2020 General Fund forecast showed the ending fund balance dropping below the 15-percent threshold set by Council policy by 2023. She noted that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the economy and the future is uncertain.

Ms. Lu recalled that staff presented three budget planning scenarios during the Council's June 22 budget workshop. She presented a graph depicting the General Fund impact of a one-percent property tax, the loss of the annexation sales tax credit, and the phased opening of Fire Station 10. She noted a gap between expenditures and decreased revenues due to the economic impacts of the pandemic. Ms. Lu highlighted the General Fund reserves forecast. She said the City's current financial policies require maintaining a minimum of 15 percent of reserves. The General Fund reserves are projected to fall below the 15-percent threshold in 2023.

The General Fund totals \$474 million and expenditures are categorized by strategic target areas: High Performance Government, High Quality Built and Natural Environment, Achieving Human Potential, Transportation and Mobility, Economic Development, and Regional Leadership and Influence. Ms. Lu noted that the Safe Community target area is a major component of the High Performance Government category.

Ms. Call commented on the challenge of creating a balanced budget given the decrease in economic activity, uncertainty about the pandemic, and the increased need for human services. She said the budget fully funds public safety. The budget focuses on maintaining existing programs and staff to the extent possible. However, a number of reductions are reflected in the budget and there are limited areas that require modest investments.

Ms. Call highlighted the overall financial strategy including cost containment measures, one-time (bridge) structures, revenue options, and needed investments. She noted that Fire Station 10 will open in phases in 2022 and 2023. She said the one-percent property tax adjustment in the budget generates approximately \$450,000 in revenues annually to support Basic Life Support (BLS) transport services. Ms. Call said the City added staff in the tax division to ensure there is compliance with the City's current business and occupation (B&O) tax structure. She noted the need for investments related to homelessness services, equity and cultural liaison program, and affordable housing initiatives.

Michael Shiosaki, Director of the Parks and Community Services Department, described the proposed reductions in maintenance activities affecting streetscapes, neighborhood parks and City facilities, community parks and sports fields, and natural areas. The reductions include less frequent weeding, less frequent litter and leaf pickup, and a 19-percent reduction in street tree

maintenance. There would be no funding for streetscape renovation projects associated with CIP projects.

Mr. Shiosaki said that, in the area of neighborhood parks and City facilities, the budget proposal eliminates seasonal turf irrigation, reduces mowing by 25 percent, and reduces the frequency of contract maintenance by 25 percent. The proposal eliminates four community parks/sports fields maintenance limited term employees (LTEs) and reduces materials and supplies costs by 40 percent. The proposal related to natural areas eliminates two seasonal forest management positions and the Well-KEPT youth crew program.

Andrew Singelakis, Transportation Department Director, described the proposal to defer certain transportation system maintenance by reducing or deferring work on streets, signals, and street lighting. The affected programs include paving, sidewalks, street lighting, vegetation control, traffic signals, signage, and striping. Mr. Singelakis noted the original goal to complete the LED street lighting conversion by the end of 2021.

Councilmember Zahn thanked Ms. Call and her staff for their hard work on the budget. Ms. Zahn referred to the pie chart showing the percentages of dollars in the Council's strategic target areas. She said it is important to have transparency. She said it would be helpful to see more details of the components and subsections within each strategic target area.

Ms. Zahn questioned whether there are opportunities for partnerships to maintain streetscapes and parks. She expressed concern regarding the loss of the Well-KEPT youth program in 2022 and asked whether there are alternative funding options to retain the program.

Councilmember Lee thanked staff for their work through this difficult time. He indicated that he would follow up with questions and comments to staff.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis thanked the City Manager and staff for their work on the budget. He said his top concerns include keeping Bellevue strong and healthy in response to the pandemic and ensuring continued full funding for the police and fire departments.

Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Ms. Call said the budget assumes economic recovery through 2023. She said she would follow up with more details. Mr. Nieuwenhuis requested information regarding funding for homelessness and affordable housing services. He expressed concern regarding the proposed reductions in parks maintenance efforts. He noted there are both aesthetic and environmental impacts related to maintenance.

Councilmember Stokes said he appreciated Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis' comments. Responding to Mr. Stokes, Ms. Call said that, if not for the pandemic, the budget would still have a structural deficit. It was apparent before the pandemic that the City's expenditures would exceed revenues in the next few years.

Mr. Stokes asked staff to comment on the 15-percent reserve threshold, noting that it seems it would be easy to access those funds in this type of situation. Ms. Call said the City holds the

reserves to be prepared for an unanticipated event or scenario. She said she would follow up with a written response regarding the financial policy.

Councilmember Stokes expressed concern about reducing maintenance services for parks, City facilities, and streetscapes. He said Bellevue residents take pride in the appearance of their community. He expressed concern about staff losing their jobs as well.

Councilmember Barksdale thanked everyone for their work. He questioned whether the City has experienced savings as a result of having most staff working from home. He said he would like to consider dedicated staffing for the cultural liaison program and for working with multiple departments to provide an equity lens. He encouraged staff to continue to explore opportunities for efficiencies, including through technology enhancements. Mr. Barksdale said he liked the idea of community involvement in addressing some of the parks maintenance activities. He expressed an interest in reviewing the budget's key performance indicators.

Ms. Call said staff would prepare responses to the questions and follow up with the Council. She will work with staff to schedule a Council discussion regarding performance measures.

Councilmember Robertson thanked staff for their great work. She said the community expects good governmental services and she is pleased to see that core services will be maintained.

Ms. Robertson said she shares her colleagues' concern that deferred maintenance not become a lowering of standards over time. She encouraged staff to not delay maintenance that could result in higher long-term costs. She said people are proud to live in Bellevue and to have nice parks and roadways. She recalled that there were complaints from the community when maintenance levels were temporarily reduced following the 2008 recession. Ms. Robertson encouraged staff to maintain the most visible areas as best as possible.

Councilmember Robertson said she wants the City to continue moving projects forward and to be prepared to pursue grants and engage in partnerships. She expressed support for the idea of involving the public in maintenance activities (e.g., adopt a park, adopt a road). She recalled that the community came together after the May 31 riots to help clean up the areas that had been vandalized and looted.

Mayor Robinson thanked staff for the thoughtful and responsive budget and acknowledged that the preliminary budget contains significant reductions. She said there are increased needs and decreased revenues due to the impacts of the COVID pandemic. She expressed support for creating volunteer opportunities to assist with weeding, raking, and other maintenance activities.

Ms. Robinson expressed concern about deferring the LED street lighting conversion project and how that might impact pedestrian and bike safety. She would like the City to prioritize placing the brighter LED lights in the areas of Bellevue that do not have safe bike and pedestrian infrastructure. Mayor Robinson said she appreciated Councilmember Barksdale's suggestion to consider dedicated cultural liaison/equity staff.

Mayor Robinson suggested making it convenient for the public to report maintenance concerns via the MyBellevue app.

Responding to Ms. Robinson, Ms. Call said staff will follow up regarding the usage of revenues from the new housing and housing services sales tax. Mayor Robinson said she was interested in whether there are items in the City's Affordable Housing Strategy that could be funded by the new tax, allowing the original funding allocations for those items to be used for other projects or programs.

Moving to the Capital Investment Program (CIP), Ms. Lu said the General CIP Plan includes \$659 million over the seven-year plan. She noted that the Utilities CIP Plan would be discussed on November 9. The General CIP includes debt repayment, maintenance of existing infrastructure, affordable housing initiatives, improvements in neighborhoods, transportation infrastructure, planning for growth, continued implementation of the City's three voted levies (parks, fire facilities, and neighborhood transportation), information technology infrastructure, roadway and pedestrian/bike improvements, and general government capital obligations.

Ms. Lu highlighted new projects in the CIP Plan, including the Vision Zero rapid build data-driven safety program, transportation grant match program, 130th Avenue NE transit-oriented development (TOD) parking lot, growth corridor bicycle network implementation, major Comprehensive Plan periodic update, and other items. She said the General CIP expenditures fall into the following four categories: 1) discrete and ongoing programs, 2) debt service, 3) levies, and 4) ongoing maintenance. Ms. Lu presented a pie chart depicting the 2021-2027 General CIP Plan by strategic target area: 1) Transportation and Mobility, 35 percent; 2) Debt Service, 27 percent; 3) High Performance Government, 17 percent; 4) High Quality Built and Natural Environment, 16 percent; 5) Achieving Human Potential, two percent; 6) Bellevue: Great Places Where You Want to Be, two percent; and 7) Economic Development, one percent.

Responding to Councilmember Barksdale, Ms. Call confirmed that funding for the Grand Connection's early implementation phase remains intact and has been extended for two more years in the CIP Plan. She said that planning for the Wilburton area continues to be funded as well.

Councilmember Lee acknowledged the impact of the pandemic on the operating budget. He asked whether the timing of CIP projects has been adjusted. He wondered whether additional changes could be made to the operating budget. Ms. Call said staff would follow up with more details.

Councilmember Stokes reiterated his concern about reducing maintenance levels for parks, streetscapes, municipal facilities, and roads. He said it seems odd to take reductions in the operating budget but not in the CIP Plan. He said perhaps the City could take a more balanced approach to addressing the budget shortfall.

Ms. Call said staff will follow up with a fuller response to his and Mr. Lee's questions regarding maintenance levels and further opportunities for adjusting the operating budget and/or CIP Plan.

Councilmember Robertson suggested that it is important to fund projects in phases so the City can leverage them later. She noted a curbside management study in the budget and asked whether it includes or could include an analysis of a downtown circulator for local transit service. She said that Visit Bellevue and the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce have been working on the downtown circulator concept, and City staff has been involved in the discussions. Ms. Robertson said there needs to be sufficient funding to develop a plan and budget for a downtown circulator program. She said if that is not in the budget, she would like to discuss where it might fit.

Ms. Robertson asked about funding for the aquatic center and multicultural center projects. Ms. Call said that the study of those initiatives was funded by the Council Contingency fund. She said she would follow up regarding ongoing funding for those items in the current budget and CIP Plan.

Councilmember Robertson recalled that the 20-year parks levy was approved in 2008. However, there is nothing to prevent the City from asking voters to approve a replacement levy early. She said the City might want to consider that option during a future budget process.

Councilmember Zahn said she understands the concerns about reductions in the operating budget and the opportunity for shifting CIP funds to the General Fund. However, she noted that the construction market is very competitive and project costs will be lower now than in the future. She suggested being shovel ready for potential federal grants. She said she is a member of the National League of Cities (NLC) transportation committee, which has been advocating at the national level for an infrastructure package. She wants the City to be positioned to pursue funding after a package is approved. Ms. Zahn commented on the importance of implementing Vision Zero guidelines into infrastructure projects.

Ms. Zahn said she would like more information regarding the 130th Avenue transit-oriented development (TOD) node in the BelRed corridor. She would like the City to explore whether it could do more there, including looking at parking alternatives. She asked when the revenues from the new housing tax will become available and whether the funds could be used toward the TOD project.

Ms. Zahn concurred with Councilmember Robertson's interest in continued funding for the aquatic center and multicultural center initiatives. Ms. Zahn expressed support for continuing to work on projects in the Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI).

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis thanked staff and the Council for the presentation and discussion.

Mayor Robinson referred to utility rates and said she has heard that certain toilet paper does not flush as well as other toilet papers, which can cause problems that increase utilities costs. She suggested a public education effort to provide helpful information for residents and businesses about the ways they might be able to help avoid problems that contribute to the City's costs.

Ms. Robinson asked whether contractors could be used to fill the five full-time permitting positions in the Development Services Division (DSD).

Mayor Robinson said she appreciated everyone's comments and looks forward to continued robust discussion.

Ms. Call noted that development services fees and staffing will be discussed with the Council on October 26, and utility rates will be discussed on November 9.

11. Land Use

- (a) Consideration of the Puesta del Sol Conditional Use Permit application by Bellevue School District; an application to demolish Bellewood Elementary School to construct a new one- to three-story 102,143 square foot elementary school on a 9.93-acre site located at 301 151st Place NE. Permit File No. 18-130014-LB.

City Manager Miyake introduced discussion regarding the Puesta del Sol Conditional Use Permit (CUP) application by the Bellevue School District to demolish the Bellewood Elementary School and to construct a new school. He noted that this is a Process III quasi-judicial matter. He said the purpose of tonight's item is to provide information. Staff will return in November for final action on the CUP application.

Nick Melissinos, Deputy City Attorney, advised that, because this is a quasi-judicial matter, the Councilmembers be provided an opportunity to disclose any ex parte communications regarding the project. He said staff has searched all emails received through the Council's email addresses. However, Councilmembers should disclose any additional contacts including the name of the person, date or approximate date of the contact, method of communication, and the substance of the communication.

Mayor Robinson noted that no Councilmembers have ex parte communications to disclose.

Liz Stead, Land Use Division Director, said the Bellevue School District applied for a Process III Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to demolish the Bellewood Elementary School in order to construct a new one- to three-story 102,143 square foot school on a 9.9-acre site located at 301 151st Place NE. She said the Hearing Examiner held a hearing on September 10, 2020, and the Hearing Examiner's recommendation is included in the record before the Council.

Ms. Stead said that the Puesta del Sol school is a Spanish-immersion program currently located south of I-90. The new central location in East Bellevue will be more convenient and an asset for the community. The Bellewood Elementary School has been used as a swing school for a number of years as other schools have been demolished and rebuilt. The proposed construction period is 2021, with completion slated for 2022. A critical areas analysis was completed and there have been no appeals of the Hearing Examiner's recommendation.

Ms. Stead described the transportation plan for the site, including details regarding ingress and egress for students and staff. The school district studied seven schemes as part of the site alternatives analysis. She described the preferred site plan and traffic circulation plan, which is

intended to separate bus service from the rest of the site to enhance safety and to address concerns from adjacent residents.

Ms. Stead said the proposal complies with Land Use Code development standards. The school will have 151 parking spaces to accommodate daily and event parking. Ms. Stead presented an architectural drawing of the school design. She noted that the Transportation Department recommends approval of the CUP and requires that there are adequate public facilities for all transportation modes. The traffic operations analysis considered before- and after-school parent queuing, site access points, pedestrian and bike facilities, safety, and the overall level of service. Ms. Stead highlighted modifications and improvements planned for 151st Place NE. She noted that a left-turn lane will be added on Main Street for turning onto 151st Place NE.

The Transportation Department concluded that the proposal provides sufficient access to the new school. Ms. Stead said that student pedestrian and bike access will be improved, and a crosswalk with a flashing beacon will be added on Main Street.

Ms. Stead highlighted the conditional use decision criteria provided in LUC 20.30B.140. The Development Services Division's recommendation to the Hearing Examiner found that the criteria have been met.

Responding to Mayor Robinson, Ms. Stead said staff is scheduled to bring the item back to the Council on November 2 to request formal action. Mr. Melissinos noted that the Council may not consider any information outside of the Hearing Examiner's record in making its decision.

Councilmember Robertson said she has read the Hearing Examiner's decision but she has not yet reviewed all of the exhibits. She said she did not see any comments from the East Bellevue Community Council (EBCC). Ms. Stead said there are staff notes in the record that refer to comments from the EBCC's public hearing, and comments from specific individuals are included as well. In further response to Ms. Robertson, Ms. Stead said the meeting minutes of the EBCC hearing are not in the record.

Responding to Ms. Robertson, Mr. Melissinos said that Councilmembers may consider the EBCC meeting minutes because one of the considerations for the City Council in making its decision is a review of the comments from the EBCC.

Responding to Councilmember Lee, Ms. Stead said the property south of the school is zoned as R-5.

Responding to Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis, Ms. Stead confirmed that there have not been any appeals of the Hearing Examiner's decision. In further response to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Ms. Stead said the project is approved for a maximum number of students. Sections of the school range from one story to three stories. She said there is community support for the project and the school district has received letters of intent from all of the property owners to the south affirming that they support the plan.

Mayor Robinson thanked staff and noted the importance of safe routes to schools.

12. Other Ordinances, Resolutions, and Motions: None.
13. Unfinished Business: None.
14. New Business: None.
15. Executive Session: None.
16. Adjournment

At 8:42 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared the meeting adjourned.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC
City Clerk

/kaw