

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

December 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 6:02 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) Somerset Women for Medic One Commendation

Councilmember Robertson read the commendation for the Somerset Women for Medic One, a group formed in the early 1970s as the first community organization with a mission to support Bellevue's new Medic One program. Over many years, the group raised money to cover expenses associated with paramedic training, community CPR training, and annual DUI/distracted driving drills at local high schools.

Martha Garmanian, former president of Somerset Women for Medic One, said the organization was formed in 1974 when a group of women decided to donate the proceeds of a bridge tournament to support the newly established Medic One program. After 46 years of working in the community, the group has now disbanded. She thanked the City and Medic One personnel for their professionalism and public service.

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) Court Olson, speaking on behalf of the People for Climate Action group, thanked the Council for their support of environmental stewardship initiatives in the budget. He does not see the Environmental Stewardship Plan as a five-year plan. He suggested it will need to be reviewed and updated within the next two years. Mr. Olson encouraged the City to strengthen the plan and to act more aggressively to implement the plan. He said the group looks forward to participating in the new environmental stewardship advisory task force.
- (b) Tzachi Litov, a resident of the Eastgate area, said he has worked with homeless individuals for decades as a volunteer, as the president of a homeless services nonprofit organization in Seattle, and as the clinic director for an outpatient mental health facility. He is currently serving on the community advisory group that was organized by Congregations for the Homeless (CFH) approximately one year ago. He expressed concern that mental health and substance abuse services are inadequate or nonexistent.
- (c) Thaddaeus Gregory described the 100 Bellevue Way SE Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) proposal to develop the remaining split-zoned parcels in Downtown Bellevue. He described a plan for mixed use development providing needed housing near transit options and asked the Council to approve the CPA.
- (d) Ellen Lenhart spoke in support of the Glendale Country Club NE CPA. She said the proposal provides the opportunity to add housing near transit. She noted that she lives adjacent to the golf course. She said the ability to develop the small parcel will enable the club to preserve 80 percent of the golf course as wetland and open space, which benefits everyone in Bellevue.
- (e) Clint Whitney, General Manager, Glendale Country Club, thanked the City for working with them through the CPA process. He said that as Bellevue grows, it is important to allow properties to change their use in order to maintain their long-term viability. The Glendale Country Club NE CPA could result in up to 30 new residences on NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street. He thanked the Council and the Planning Commission for their efforts and leadership.
- (f) James McEachran commended the Council for moving forward so quickly to develop a plan for the use of House Bill 1590 tax revenues to address housing needs and services. He expressed support for moving forward with implementing Action C-1 of the Affordable Housing Strategy. He thanked the City for its efforts to help the community.
- (g) Brian Whiteside spoke in favor of the Glendale Country Club NE CPA proposal. He said the ability to develop the small portion of the golf course property will enable the club to make the infrastructure investments needed to ensure long-term environmental sustainability. Mr. Whiteside said the club has been proud to be a part of Bellevue and the neighborhood for several decades.

- (h) Terry Sinclair said he is concerned about the proposed location of affordable and low-income housing on the same property as transitional housing and a low-barrier men's shelter. He said residents of the affordable housing units are likely to include children. He noted that low-barrier shelters attract drug dealing and alcohol use. He expressed concern about the safety of collocating the housing. He noted there is also a preschool and a youth dance studio nearby.
  - (i) Doug Wheeler, Director of Mental Health, Congregations for the Homeless, said that CFH is the only Eastside service provider for adult men experiencing homelessness. He described the significant need for expanded mental health and substance abuse services. He highlighted aspects of CFH's program, including the operation of 90 units of supported, subsidized housing for men who were formerly homeless. Mr. Wheeler said CFH looks forward to working with the City in planning for the use of House Bill 1590 tax revenues.
5. Reports of Community Councils, Boards, and Commissions: None.
6. Report of the City Manager
- (a) Parks and Community Services Department Reaccreditation

City Manager Brad Miyake introduced staff's briefing regarding the renewal of the CAPRA (Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies) accreditation for the Parks and Community Services Department.

Michael Shiosaki, Director, Parks and Community Services Department, said that the accreditation is a process to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of an agency's operations by comparing practices to industry standards. The department undergoes routine and intense reviews of its policies, procedures, and practices by outside reviewers who evaluate the City's operations. The Parks and Community Services Department was initially accredited in 2005 and reaccredited in 2010, 2015, and 2020.

The City is one of three accredited agencies in the state. Mr. Shiosaki described the process and highlighted the following areas of excellence that were recognized in the review: 1) embrace diversity, 2) public engagement, 3) program evaluation, 4) Hiring for Equity managers guide, 5) partnerships, and 6) regional leadership. The following department plans were recognized as excellent models for other jurisdictions: 1) Parks and Open Space Plan, 2) Structural Maintenance Management Plan, 3) 2019-2025 Renovation and Refurbishment Plan, and 4) Recreation Program Plan.

Mr. Shiosaki thanked Toni Esparza, Colin Walker, Shelley McVein, and Shelley Brittingham for their hard work.

Mayor Robinson commended staff for their efforts and for achieving a perfect score for the accreditation process.

7. Council Business and New Initiatives

There was no discussion.

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 November 23, 2020 Regular Meeting
  - (b) Motion to award Bid No. 20057 SE Eastgate Way Illumination - Richards Road to 139th Avenue SE (CIP Plan No. PW-R-46) to Northeast Electric LLC as the lowest responsible and responsive bidder, in the amount of \$329,455.00, plus all applicable taxes.
  - (c) Motion to award Bid No. 20053 for 2020 Pipe Defect Dig and Repair to Interwest Construction, as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, in an amount not to exceed \$935,935.00 plus all applicable taxes (CIP Plan No. D-64 and CIP Plan No. S-24).
  - (d) Motion to award Bid No. 20054 for 2020 Defect Repair - Trenchless Package to Michels Corporation, as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, in an amount not to exceed \$1,339,049.00 plus all applicable taxes (CIP Plan No. D-64, S-24, S-66).
  - (e) Resolution No. 9856 authorizing the execution of a one-year administrative services contract between the City of Bellevue and Premera Blue Cross for calendar year 2021 medical and prescription drug third party administrator services, in an amount not to exceed \$810,000, plus all applicable taxes.
  - (f) Motion to approve payment of claims and payroll for the period November 1, 2020 through November 30, 2020.
  - (g) Ordinance No. 6547 updating the school impact fee schedule for Issaquah School District No. 411 and Renton School District No. 403; amending Section 22.18.100 of the Bellevue City Code; and establishing an effective date.
  - (h) Ordinance No. 6548 amending the 2019-2020 Interest & Debt Redemption - Regular Fund to increase the appropriation by \$61,053,378 to reflect the final accounting for the sale of bonds approved under Ordinance 6543.

9. Public Hearing: None.

10. Study Session

- (a) Initiation of Work Plan regarding Implementation of House Bill 1590 and Expenditure of Those Funds

City Manager Miyake recalled that the provisions of House Bill 1590 were discussed with the Council on October 12. At that time, the Council adopted a resolution to allow the City to collect a one-tenth of one percent sales tax for the purposes of affordable housing and related services. The Council also directed staff to develop a work plan for the use of the revenues.

Mac Cummins, Director, Planning and Community Development Department, recalled that the Council voted in October to impose the sales tax allowed under House Bill 1590 beginning January 1, 2021. He said staff is seeking Council direction to initiate the HB 1590 work plan to include: 1) interest statement, 2) outreach and regional collaboration, 3) funding prioritization and categories, and 4) timing. He said staff anticipates updating the Council at least once per month until the funds are allocated to move forward with implementation. He said the purpose of HB 1590 is consistent with a number of the City's existing policies related to the continuum of care model, Affordable Housing Strategy, Comprehensive Plan, human services, and regional collaboration.

Mr. Cummins said staff proposes one study session discussion for each of the four topics referenced above, beginning with the interest statement in early January.

Toni Esparza, Assistant Director, Parks and Community Services Department, said that House Bill 1590 provides the option of funding for several areas that City policies have already identified as interconnected. She noted that prevention and early intervention services are critical and help to avoid more costly actions later. She said that revenue generated through HB 1590 can be used for affordable housing and for mental and behavioral health services. She highlighted the key principles of the City's human services policies, including that fairness and equity will be provided to those disproportionately affected by poverty, discrimination, and victimization.

Mr. Cummins said the City has a number of affordable housing policies that are relevant to the goals of HB 1590. He said affordable housing is identified as a significant issue of concern in both the human services needs update and the 2019 business survey. Almost one-third of Bellevue households spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing, and nearly one-third of senior renters spend more than half of their income on housing. Mr. Cummins noted a lack of housing choices for lower income households, especially those earning 30 percent or less of the area median income (AMI). He said the current median single-family home sales price in Bellevue is \$1.4 million.

Mr. Cummins noted that the Affordable Housing Strategy contemplates the entire spectrum of housing and the need for housing at the lower income levels. Most of the City's efforts to create more affordable housing have resulted in units at the 80-percent AMI level. Mr. Cummins said

that having a funding source dedicated to housing for households earning 60-percent AMI or below fits nicely with the objectives of the City's Affordable Housing Strategy. Mr. Cummins presented information regarding household income and housing need by cost burden (30%, 50%, 80% and 100% AMI). He highlighted a graph depicting the AMI levels for different job classifications in Bellevue. He suggested discussing the possibility of issuing debt supported by the HB 1590 tax collections.

Mr. Cummins said that HB 1590 funds can be used for capital construction projects related to housing and for mental and behavioral health services. He noted the recommended strategy for the use of City funds as well as partnerships and regional collaboration.

Ms. Esparza recalled that in the 2019-2020 human services needs survey, 20 percent of the respondents indicated that mental health is a major or moderate concern, and 67 percent of the service providers indicated that many clients need mental health services but cannot afford them. During the recent human services funding cycle, the Human Services Commission recommended allocating approximately \$868,000 to mental and behavioral health services. Ms. Esparza said the pandemic has increased the need for mental health services. She commented briefly that the work plan will address regional collaboration and outreach with King County, developers, and partner agencies (e.g., A Regional Coalition for Housing).

Mr. Cummins said staff will begin public outreach and collaboration and will update the Council every 3-5 weeks beginning in January. He said the first discussion with the Council in January will be to develop the interest statement. He suggested that Councilmembers provide questions and comments to staff in preparation for the January study session.

Councilmember Stokes thanked staff for their work and for their ingenuity and commitment to moving forward expeditiously. He said HB 1590 provides the needed opportunity to create housing in this time of crisis. He said the challenge of affordable housing is a regional problem and he encouraged continued partnerships and collaborations. He observed that a number of innovative housing solutions have been implemented in other communities. Mr. Stokes thanked staff for addressing equity. He said the community and economy will recover and become stronger in the long run.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis thanked staff for moving so quickly to develop the work plan. He said he looked forward to future discussions, including the consideration of issuing debt. He said he believed the Council supported imposing the HB 1590 tax because the City can move certain initiatives forward more quickly acting by itself. However, he acknowledged the importance of, and support for, continued regional involvement.

Councilmember Zahn said she is pleased to move forward with urgency. She noted the importance of regional cooperation. Responding to Ms. Zahn, Mr. Cummins said staff is exploring all potential affordable housing solutions. He said the City will begin collecting the HB 1590 tax in January, and the first monies will not be available to spend until at least after the first quarter. In further response to Councilmember Zahn, Mr. Cummins said the proposed budget includes a limited term employee (LTE) to coordinate the remainder of the Affordable Housing Strategy and to conduct related code review and revisions.

Councilmember Robertson said she was happy with how quickly staff was moving forward. She expressed support for the proposed work plan process. She highlighted the importance of public outreach, an analysis to identify which tools and projects generate the most units and identifying early wins to be implemented as soon as possible. She suggested reconvening the Affordable Housing Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and/or other developers, business groups, nonprofit developers, and local government partners to solicit input. Ms. Robertson encouraged the development of housing at all affordability levels throughout the community. She said she hoped the tax revenues can be used to preserve affordable housing units when opportunities arise. Ms. Robertson noted public comments earlier in the meeting regarding the proposed shelter and supportive housing. She expressed an interest in working to develop a project that works well for Bellevue.

Councilmember Barksdale thanked staff for their work to move this effort forward. He said it will be helpful to identify outcomes and measures of success, including the number of people served.

Councilmember Lee thanked staff for their hard work. He said it is important to consider solutions that are right for Bellevue. He concurred with the importance of continued regional collaboration, including with ARCH (A Regional Coalition for Housing). He highlighted the need for mental and behavioral health services and the importance of providing supportive services to individuals experiencing homelessness. He questioned whether an economic zone could be created to collect fees to support affordable housing funding.

Mayor Robinson thanked staff for the presentation and expressed support for moving forward as quickly as possible. She encouraged a strong focus on the prevention of homelessness. She spoke in favor of providing housing for the more than 350 Bellevue School District students who are currently experiencing homelessness. She said that getting those students into stable housing is a top priority for her. She expressed support for staff's recommended approach to develop the HB 1590 work plan. She concurred with the importance of providing supportive services along with housing assistance.

Mr. Cummins said staff would return in January to discuss the interest statement.

11. Land Use: None.

12. Other Ordinances, Resolutions, and Motions

City Manager Miyake noted the six proposed ordinances related to adopting the annual Comprehensive Plan Amendments (CPAs). He recalled that on November 16, the Council heard recommendations from the Planning Commission and staff regarding four privately initiated CPAs and one City-initiated policy CPA.

Thara Johnson, Planning Manager, recalled that the four privately initiated CPA proposals went through threshold review and final review by the Planning Commission and the City Council.

The policy CPA is related to the implementation of Action C-1 of the City's Affordable Housing Strategy.

- (a) Ordinance No. 6558 adopting the 100 Bellevue Way SE (20-102643 AC) 2020 amendment to the Comprehensive Plan of the City of Bellevue pursuant to the Growth Management Act, Chapter 36.70A RCW, and Chapter 35A.63 RCW; and establishing an effective date.
  - Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6558, and Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.
  - The motion carried by a vote of 6-0, with Councilmember Stokes temporarily absent from the meeting.
- (b) Ordinance No. 6559 adopting the Glendale Country Club NE (20-102772 AC) 2020 amendment to the Comprehensive Plan of the City of Bellevue pursuant to the Growth Management Act, Chapter 36.70A RCW, and Chapter 35A.63 RCW; and establishing an effective date.
  - Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6559, and Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.
  - The motion carried by a vote of 6-0, with Councilmember Stokes temporarily absent from the meeting.
- (c) Ordinance No. 6560 adopting the NE 8th Street Partners (20-102741 AC) 2020 amendment to the Comprehensive Plan of the City of Bellevue pursuant to the Growth Management Act, Chapter 36.70A RCW, and Chapter 35A.63 RCW; and establishing an effective date.

Noting the temporary absence of Councilmember Stokes, the Mayor declared a recess at 7:35 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 7:41 p.m. with all Councilmembers present.

- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6560, and Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.
- (d) Ordinance No. 6561 adopting the Safegard Self Storage (20-102660 AC) 2020 amendment to the Comprehensive Plan of the City of Bellevue pursuant to the Growth Management Act, Chapter 36.70A RCW, and Chapter 35A.63 RCW; and establishing an effective date.



- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6561, and Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.
  - (e) Ordinance No. 6562 adopting the C-1 Affordable Housing Strategy (20-112885 AC) 2020 amendment to the Comprehensive Plan of the City of Bellevue pursuant to the Growth Management Act, Chapter 36.70A RCW, and Chapter 35A.63 RCW; and establishing an effective date.
- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6562, and Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.
  - (f) Ordinance No. 6563 adopting the city's 2020 amendments to the Comprehensive Plan as separately set forth in Ordinance Nos. 6558, 6559, 6560, 6561 and 6562 pursuant to the Growth Management Act, Chapter 36.70A RCW, and Chapter 35A.63 RCW; and establishing an effective date.
- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6563, and Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.
  - (g) Resolution No. 9859 adopting the Bellevue Environmental Stewardship Plan which sets forth direction to guide the City's environmental stewardship activities over the next five years.

Emil King, Assistant Director, Community Development Department, opened the staff report regarding the proposed adoption of the final Environmental Stewardship Plan.

Jennifer Ewing, Environmental Stewardship Program Manager, recalled the nearly two-year planning process to update the Environmental Stewardship Plan. She noted that the revisions requested by the Council during the last discussion were outlined in the agenda memo and had been added to the plan. Those included strengthening the section on public-private partnerships and addressing how environmental stewardship planning could be incorporated into neighborhood area planning and services. Ms. Ewing said the plan identifies 77 actions over a five-year period as well as short-term and long-term targets for the community and for municipal operations. Next steps include developing the 2021 work plan, including early win projects, and providing the first progress report next spring.

- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to approve Resolution No. 9859, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

- (h) Ordinance No. 6549 adopting the Human Services Commission's 2021-2022 Human Services Fund funding recommendations and authorizing the City Manager or his designee to enter into contracts with local human services agencies in accordance with the recommendations.

City Manager Miyake noted that the remaining actions are related to the overall adoption of the 2021-2022 Budget and the 2021-2027 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan.

Toni Call, Director, Finance and Asset Management (FAM) Department, recalled the budget process since May. She said the budget maintains funding for public safety and human services and largely retains current staffing. She noted the investments to address homelessness, affordable housing, and equity programs. Ms. Call highlighted the Council's numerous discussion topics throughout the budget process, which included three public hearings.

Ms. Call said that following the final public hearing on November 23, the Council provided staff with a series of budget amendments to be considered and brought back on December 7 for further discussion. On December 7, the Council provided direction to fund nine of the budget amendments. All of those are included in tonight's final budget package. Ms. Call thanked everyone for their hard work and active engagement throughout the process.

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6549, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

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

- (i) Ordinance No. 6550: 1) adopting recommendations for the use of 2021 Community Development Block Grant funds as transmitted by the Human Services Commission; 2) authorizing the City Manager or his designee to submit a proposal to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the 2021 CDBG Program; 3) authorizing the City Manager or his designee to accept a grant award contract with HUD; 4) creating a new project series within the Operating Grants and Donations Fund; and 5) authorizing the City Manager or his designee to enter into agreements with grant subrecipients.

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6550, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

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

- (j) Ordinance No. 6551 regarding development services under the Bellevue City Code; fees for applications requiring construction, land use, fire, survey, transportation, utility, and clearing & grading review and inspection services; repealing Ordinance No. 6489.

- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6551, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.
  - (k) Ordinance No. 6552 establishing revised charges for water service, water consumption, and water standby capacity; repealing Ordinance No. 6440; providing for severability; and establishing an effective date.
- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6552, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.
  - (l) Ordinance No. 6553 establishing revised sewerage service charges; repealing Ordinance No. 6441; providing for severability; and establishing an effective date.
- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6553, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.
  - (m) Ordinance No. 6554 establishing revised storm and surface water drainage rates and charges for the Storm & Surface Water Utility of the City of Bellevue; repealing Ordinance No. 6442; providing for severability; and establishing an effective date.
- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6554, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.
  - (n) Ordinance No. 6555 amending Chapter 4.50, Section 4.50.010(A) of the Bellevue City Code to adjust the fee for basic life support emergency medical services transport and establishing an effective date.
- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6555, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.
  - (o) Resolution No. 9857 establishing substantial need under RCW 84.55.0101 to authorize the use of a limit factor for the tax year 2021 of One Hundred One (101) percent.

- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to approve Resolution No. 9857, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

Councilmember Lee expressed concern regarding the property tax adjustment. He opined that the consideration of a tax increase should be related to a specific need or use. Responding to Mr. Lee, Ms. Call said the property tax is intended to support the operating budget/General Fund. Ms. Call confirmed that the budget includes a one-time transfer to reallocate sales tax revenues from the CIP Plan to the General Fund to bridge the gap caused by the economic impacts of the pandemic.

Councilmember Stokes expressed support for the motion.

Councilmember Robertson noted that the property tax adjustment is below the inflation rate and was considered before the pandemic. She expressed support for the tax and noted her commitment to fully funding public safety.

Councilmember Lee said he fully supports public safety funding. However, he reiterated his concern regarding the property tax increase.

Councilmember Zahn observed that the tax adjustment is minimal and the money is urgently needed given the delay in additional funding from the federal government in response to the pandemic.

Mayor Robinson recalled that pre-pandemic budget projections showed expenses exceeding revenues within the next couple of years. She said it is prudent to continue with the planned property tax adjustment in order to provide the level of service expected in Bellevue.

- The motion carried by a vote of 6-1, with Councilmember Lee dissenting.

- (p) Ordinance No. 6556 establishing the amount of property taxes to be levied for the year 2021, the first year of the City of Bellevue's 2021-2022 fiscal biennium.

- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6556, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

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

- (q) Resolution No. 9858 providing for the banking of levy capacity pursuant to RCW 84.55.005, 84.55.0101 and 84.55.092.

- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to approve Resolution No. 9858, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

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

- (r) Ordinance No. 6557 adopting the City of Bellevue's 2021-2022 Budget and 2021-2027 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan; setting forth the estimated revenues and appropriations; establishing job classifications and pay ranges; and establishing an effective date.

City Manager Miyake said that Ordinance No. 6557 adopts the City's 2021-2022 Budget and 2021-2027 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan. The budget is the culmination of extensive work by staff and the Council throughout the challenges of the pandemic. Mr. Miyake thanked the Council, Leadership Team, staff, and the public for all their work.

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6557, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis thanked the Leadership Team and staff for all their work. He thanked the first responders who have provided critical services during the pandemic. He thanked the public, the Boards and Commissions, and others who provided input to the budget process. He thanked Mayor Robinson, City Manager Miyake, and Director Call for their leadership. He thanked his colleagues for working together to develop compromises that everyone could support.

Mr. Nieuwenhuis noted the uncertainties caused by the pandemic and said the City must continue to adapt to the ongoing impacts. He recalled that the City acted quickly to reduce expenditures and to balance the budget. He said the primary focus of the 2021-2022 budget is to provide the funds needed to continue to deliver critical services (e.g., public safety, public health, and human services) during this unprecedented time. He said the budget maintains full funding for the Police and Fire Departments and continues to fund the infrastructure needed to support growth. Key priorities include Vision Zero, transportation grants, economic development, public-private partnerships, human services, and neighborhood transportation projects. He highlighted the budget amendments proposed by individual Councilmembers to address the timing of Vision Zero implementation, growth corridor pedestrian-bike improvements, Communities of Color coordinating team, enhanced stakeholder group for public engagement, early win actions under the Environmental Stewardship Plan, support for small businesses, Bellevue College Connector, cross-cultural center feasibility study, and retaining the Fire Department training administration position. Mr. Nieuwenhuis said he feels confident that Bellevue is a resilient city positioned for a rapid recovery.

Councilmember Barksdale concurred with Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis's summary and comments. Mr. Barksdale commended staff for their hard work and thanked the community for their time and input. He thanked his colleagues for the thoughtful discussions and expressed appreciation for the support of the racial equity initiative. He said he appreciated everyone rallying to support the community and human services providers.

Councilmember Robertson thanked City Manager Miyake, Director Call, and all the staff involved in the budget process. Ms. Robertson thanked the public for their input, which is reflected in the individual budget amendments. She said the budget is the primary policy document of the Council. This budget demonstrates that the Council values the people of

Bellevue and values keeping Bellevue a great place to do business and to live. Ms. Robertson said the budget is responsible in that it balances priorities and is responsive to the community's needs.

Ms. Robertson recalled that the budget includes a temporary reduction in parks maintenance services and the delay of some park projects. She cited the Council priority referring to the high-quality built and natural environment and to a proposed update to the parks and recreation master plan to include an analysis of the level of service for a growing population and the creation of a financial strategy to provide those services. Councilmember Robertson requested a future update on that concept and suggested this might be an appropriate time to develop specific parks strategies.

Councilmember Stokes thanked staff for their leadership and facilitation throughout the budget process and acknowledged the difficulty in balancing the budget given the economic impacts of the pandemic. He expressed appreciation for the hard work of emergency shelter operators including The Sophia Way, Congregations for the Homeless, LifeWire, and others. He said the budget provides financial assistance to four shelters. Mr. Stokes praised the emphasis on equity and human services. He commented on the importance of community partnerships. He said the budget supports residents and businesses and the overall community.

Councilmember Zahn commended the City's response to the pandemic and the efforts to help the business community, residents, and community organizations. She highlighted funding for affordable housing initiatives, public safety, and economic development. She thanked her colleagues for their support of the budget amendments related to the timing of Vision Zero implementation and the growth corridor pedestrian-bike improvements. She encouraged moving the Environmental Stewardship Plan forward with urgency. She said she appreciates the emphasis on racial equity, including as reflected in the Communities of Color budget proposal and the cross-cultural center study. Ms. Zahn encouraged continued partnerships and efforts to obtain grant funding. She expressed support for considering the community court concept in the future. She said the budget allows the Council to act with focus and urgency. She thanked the public for their input and participation in the budget process.

Councilmember Lee thanked City Manager Miyake, Ms. Call, and all City staff who worked on the budget. Mr. Lee highlighted the emphasis on social and racial equity, public safety, and increased funding for human services. He thanked Mayor Robinson for her leadership and his fellow Councilmembers for their discussions and suggestions. Mr. Lee said the budget is focused on helping the community. He commended City Manager Miyake for his leadership and for understanding of the Council's vision. Mr. Lee spoke to the importance of transparency, problem solving, and community engagement.

Mayor Robinson said the budget is responsive to the emerging needs of the community. She thanked residents, businesses, faith-based organizations, and others for their involvement in the budget process. Mayor Robinson thanked City Manager Miyake for his guidance throughout the process. She thanked the Council for working together toward the best result. Mayor Robinson thanked City staff for their hard work and expertise.

→ The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 6557 carried by a vote of 7-0.

13. Unfinished Business: None.

14. New Business: None.

15. Executive Session: None.

16. Adjournment

Mayor Robinson read a poem that she wrote to recap the year and wished everyone happy holidays.

At 8:44 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared the meeting adjourned.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC  
City Clerk

/kaw