## CITY OF BELLEVUE CITY COUNCIL

## Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

January 4, 2021 6:00 p.m. Virtual Meeting Bellevue, Washington

<u>PRESENT</u>: Mayor Robinson, Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis, and Councilmembers Barksdale, Lee, Robertson, Stokes, and Zahn

- ABSENT: None.
- 1. <u>Call to Order</u>

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 Stokes led the flag salute.

- 3. <u>Approval of Agenda</u>
- $\rightarrow$  Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to approve the agenda, and Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.
- $\rightarrow$  The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.
- 4. <u>Oral Communications</u>
- (a) Jared Axelrod, representing Amazon, expressed support for the draft State Legislative Agenda. He thanked the City for its response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its support for local businesses. He commended the City's private-public partnership approach to supporting economic development. He noted the City's partnership with Amazon to provide affordable housing. Mr. Axelrod said Amazon supports the proposed transportation package, especially improvements to I-405 and the Eastrail. He thanked City Manager Miyake, Deputy City Manager Berens, and Joyce Nichols, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, for their work.

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

There was no discussion.

- 8. <u>Consent Calendar</u>
- → Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to approve the Consent Calendar, and Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.
- $\rightarrow$  The motion to approve the Consent Calendar carried by a vote of 7-0, and the following items were approved:
  - (a) Council Minutes of December 7, 2020 Regular Meeting Council Minutes of December 14, 2020 Regular Meeting
  - (b) Resolution No. 9860 authorizing execution of an amendment to an existing Lease Agreement with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for access to state-owned right-of-way to construct and maintain the future Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail from I-405 to vicinity of 142nd Place SE.
  - (c) Resolution No. 9861 authorizing execution of a Professional Services Contract with Fehr & Peers for work with the Transportation Commission, the community, and staff to prepare a Mobility Implementation Plan recommendation to Council, in an amount not to exceed a contract total of \$405,000, plus all applicable taxes.
  - (d) Resolution No. 9862 authorizing execution of a 5-year professional services contract with Tri-Med Ambulance to provide Basic Life Support (BLS) nonemergency patient transport services.
  - (e) Resolution No. 9863 authorizing an increase in the construction contract amount with Award Construction, Inc. (Bid No. 20009) by \$150,000, plus all applicable taxes, for a total contract amount of \$1,437,326, plus all applicable taxes, for the 108th Avenue NE Complete Street Project (CIP Plan Nos. PW-R-199, PW-M-1, PW-R-46, PW-M-20, PW-R-182, G-38, and PW-R-156).
  - (f) Resolution No. 9864 authorizing execution of a four-year interagency agreement with the Washington State Department of Enterprise Services (DES) to provide contracting and project management services for energy efficiency projects.
- 9. <u>Public Hearing</u>: None.

## 10. <u>Study Session</u>

(a) Briefing on Temporary Expansion of Outdoor and On-street Dining on Main Street in Old Bellevue

City Manager Brad Miyake noted the efforts last summer of economic development, transportation, and development services staff with the Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA) to deploy additional outdoor dining space, primarily on Main Street.

Mac Cummins, Director, Community Development Department, described working with local businesses to respond to the pandemic and to develop innovative solutions together. He said the business community was enthusiastic about working with the City and is interested in future opportunities for outdoor dining.

Kris Goddard, Public-Private Partnerships Manager, said the City began working with restaurants and businesses when the restrictions of the Safe Start Washington plan had a severe impact on their operations. He noted examples of measures taken in Bellevue and other cities to accommodate outdoor dining, including street closures and sidewalk dining. The City engaged in the temporary expansion of outdoor seating. Mr. Goddard said City staff worked with local businesses and held a number of public forums in June and July to share ideas about how to move forward to help restaurants on Main Street in Old Bellevue. He thanked staff from multiple departments for their efforts in identifying solutions built on consensus and tailored to the needs and concerns of restaurants, retailers, and residents. Mr. Goddard presented a drawing of the temporary modifications made along Main Street and 102<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE.

Anthony Gill, Economic Development Specialist, said the Main Street dining program ran from late July through October 4. Five restaurants participated in the program, which provided at least 45 additional seats for dining customers. Mr. Gill said the BDA worked with restaurants to procure tables, chairs, traffic barriers, and other furniture. The BDA also assisted businesses with their permit applications and marketing support. Mr. Gill said that five BDA staff spent approximately 150 hours on the project and received sponsorship funding from Microsoft.

The feedback received by the City has been very positive, and businesses reported that they experienced increased foot traffic and the opportunity to attempt to recapture lost revenue. Some of the restaurant operators indicated that they wished retailers would have stayed open longer in the evenings to take advantage of the restaurant traffic. Mr. Gill said the City did not hear any significant concerns regarding parking, despite the loss of parking in some areas to accommodate outdoor dining. A survey with approximately 400 respondents reflected strong support for the patio dining areas. Mr. Gill said that approximately one in three restaurant customers also made a purchase at a nearby retailer, and 80 percent of the respondents said the patio areas made them more likely to visit Main Street again.

Mr. Gill said the program increased revenue for businesses as well as tax revenue for the City and provided a safer environment for the public and employees during the pandemic. He commended the BDA for their assistance to small businesses in the permitting process. He said the process has been streamlined somewhat and additional improvements will be identified. Mr. Goddard said the outdoor dining program was strongly supported by businesses and residents. He said the City is currently working with restaurants to provide guidance in response to the most recent update of the COVID-19 restrictions. He noted an interest in promoting and expanding outdoor dining citywide. He said this type of capacity building work is a primary goal and overarching strategy of the economic development plan.

Councilmember Zahn expressed support for all that the City is doing to work with local businesses. She asked about the level of financial support to businesses and encouraged moving forward to reach out to businesses citywide. Mr. Gill said that Microsoft donated \$40,000 to help support the overall costs of implementing and marketing the outdoor dining program. He noted the extensive effort of BDA and City staff to work with the business community. He said a number of restaurants citywide are interested in outdoor dining but do not have the space. He said staff continues to explore innovative solutions.

Ms. Zahn noted a business in Kirkland where customers can dine in their car. Mr. Goddard said that option is a possibility. He said the City would work with a business to identify modifications, including the use of a parking lot at a strip center or mall.

Councilmember Robertson thanked staff for their proactive and aggressive response to address the economic impacts of the pandemic and to assist local businesses. Responding to Ms. Robertson, Mr. Goddard said he believed that a temporary use permit could be issued to allow outdoor dining in a parking lot even if the remaining parking fell below the minimum parking requirements. Ms. Robertson expressed support for considering additional innovations and modifications to help businesses.

Ms. Robertson thanked the BDA and the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce for providing advice and helping the City communicate with businesses. She expressed appreciation for individuals and businesses, including Republic Services and Amazon, that continue to support restaurants and small businesses.

Councilmember Robertson encouraged City staff to maintain communication with the governor's office as COVID-19 restrictions are considered. She cited information indicating that the virus is spreading faster from gatherings in homes than in businesses. She encouraged continuing to advocate for the reopening of businesses where safe.

Councilmember Barksdale thanked staff and the City's partners for all of their hard work. He said he looks forward to expanding the outdoor dining program.

Councilmember Lee commended staff and the business community for their robust response to the economic impacts of the pandemic. He is pleased with the success of the outdoor dining program on Main Street. He expressed support for proactive citywide outreach to restaurants, including in Newport Hills and Factoria.

Councilmember Stokes concurred with his colleagues' comments about the benefits of the program. He said the City has been talking about outdoor dining for some time. He said this is an

example of being forced by the pandemic to implement new ways to resolve challenges. Councilmember Stokes suggested that outdoor dining will continue to be supported by the community beyond the pandemic. He noted that he has enjoyed outdoor dining spaces in other cities. Despite the current circumstances, he said it is exciting to see the implementation of expanding the use of outdoor spaces. He encouraged continuing to work with businesses to ensure safety in restaurants. He thanked City staff, the community, and local merchants who were involved in the program.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis thanked everyone for their work. He noted that, while not every restaurant is able to accommodate outdoor dining, it is great to have the option in the City's toolkit. He said he would like to see restaurants able to resume outdoor dining in April or May to kick off the summer season. He encouraged giving the business community the flexibility and tools they need. He noted opportunities in Lake Hills and the Crossroads area to work with small businesses.

Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Mr. Goddard said the City's right-of-way process waived the cost of the rental fees of the space. Typically, the City would charge a rental fee based on the number of feet used for a sidewalk café. The City did charge a permit fee of approximately \$230.

Mayor Robinson thanked staff for all of their work and partnership with the BDA, Chamber of Commerce, Microsoft, and others. She concurred with Councilmember Stokes that the City has been interested in facilitating outdoor dining for a long time. Ms. Robinson asked whether the Old Bellevue Merchants Association (OBMA) played a role in the program. She looks forward to expanding the program citywide, including to Crossroads, Wilburton, BelRed, Factoria, and Eastgate. Ms. Robinson asked why the parking space next to Gilbert's on Main Street is always blocked off and not used for parking or for tables.

Mr. Goddard said City staff initiated its work with the community by holding three meetings with the OBMA. He said a number of Old Bellevue businesses participated in the virtual meetings. The BDA joined the effort, contributing their staff's expertise in event planning, placemaking, and marketing. Mr. Goddard confirmed that building capacity in other neighborhoods is a key goal of the economic development plan. Regarding the parking space outside Gilbert's, he said the issue was raised and there was a decision to not use the space for tables because it created a potential safety threat from traffic coming from the south.

Mayor Robinson said she hopes the space can be reactivated for parking. She asked for a follow up from transportation staff.

(b) Placemaking and Small Business Support: Report on the Heart of Bellevue Recovery Campaign with the Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA)

City Manager Miyake introduced discussion regarding the Heart of Bellevue recovery campaign, which is a partnership with the Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA).

Kris Goddard, Public-Private Partnership Manager, recalled the downtown activation pilot program with the BDA in 2019. In response to the pandemic, the City worked closely with the BDA and other downtown stakeholders to implement a multifaceted recovery campaign designed to connect and support local downtown businesses.

Patrick Bannon, BDA President, said the pandemic forced everyone to think creatively and proactively throughout the Heart of Bellevue campaign. He noted the opportunity to review what worked well and what tools could be transferred to other efforts. He said the BDA's original plan last March was to build on the 2019 pilot activation. However, everything changed when people started working from home due to the pandemic.

Mr. Bannon said the Heart of Bellevue campaign was established to focus on connecting and promoting local businesses, placemaking, and economic activation in the downtown core. The campaign represents the spirit of the community and the work already underway before the pandemic to build on a strong foundation. The campaign launched on June 25, 2020 and encompassed direct outreach, creative assets, storytelling, placemaking, virtual programs, COVID-19 resources, and city collaboration.

Apryl Battin, BDA Director of Marketing and Partnerships, said the program involved extensive engagement with 117 small businesses, on-site and phone interviews, development of a new contact database, and direct mail outreach. The Heart of Bellevue was a multifaceted print, online, and social media marketing campaign that utilized e-newsletters, social media sites, blogs, advertising, posters, and handouts. Ms. Battin presented photos depicting the Heart of Bellevue banners throughout the downtown.

Ms. Battin said that the soul of the campaign are the stories shared by Bellevue's small business partners and the highlights of everyone's creativity and resiliency. The program focused on places to shop and dine in the downtown, and stories were collected through BDA outreach, an online intake form, and referrals. The campaign produced 120 blog spotlights, 196 social features, and 25 weekly newsletters.

Mr. Bannon commented on the importance of placemaking and the efforts to work with local businesses to implement smaller scale enhancements, despite the pandemic. He said the BDA reintroduced the yellow lanterns used in 2019 to provide color and a sense of place along the Grand Connection. He noted the previous presentation regarding the popular Old Bellevue outdoor dining program and thanked City staff for their extensive support of that effort. He said holiday lights were installed in Downtown Park, along the Grand Connection, and on Main Street.

Mr. Bannon said the storytelling program and space activations will be continued into 2021. The Heart of Bellevue campaign provided arts and cultural programming for online audiences including 39 virtual concerts (Summer Music Series and Jazz and Blues Music Series) involving 101 local artists (92 musicians and nine arts fair participants). Mr. Bannon said the artists were grateful for the opportunity to perform and to present their content. He noted that the Heart of Bellevue campaign also provided COVID-19 support for Bellevue businesses through online forums, small business and nonprofit resources, and other communications.

Mr. Bannon said that working with the City was crucial to the campaign's success and included biweekly meetings, engagement with City review and permitting staff, cross-promotion with the City's communications team, and ongoing lead generation for storytelling.

Ms. Battin highlighted comments and feedback from local business owners expressing appreciation for the assistance of the BDA and the City. She said the campaign's focus on relationship building puts Bellevue in a strong position moving forward. Additional campaign partners included Amazon, Microsoft, Puget Sound Energy, and Vulcan Real Estate. She said the campaign will continue to focus on building connections, engaging community, and supporting economic activity. Ms. Battin said it has been an honor to partner in such meaningful work.

Mr. Bannon thanked the City for its support and the great collaboration with staff. The team is currently discussing the feasibility of virtual programming and other events in 2021.

Mayor Robinson thanked Ms. Battin and Mr. Bannon for their work and report.

Councilmember Lee said this is a great example of a partnership. He concurred with the benefits of building relationships and connections between business owners. He said the City and BDA will continue to learn through their experiences with the business community. Mr. Lee praised BDA staff for their expertise and extensive involvement. He thanked everyone who worked on the Heart of Bellevue campaign.

Councilmember Barksdale thanked everyone for their work and expressed support for providing a platform for artists and performers. Responding to Mr. Barksdale, Ms. Battin said there is a virtual tip jar for the performers when watching online.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis thanked BDA staff for the presentation. He highlighted elements of the Heart of Bellevue campaign including direct outreach, storytelling, placemaking, and virtual programming. He thanked the City and BDA staff for providing resources to local businesses, including information and supplies related to the pandemic. He encouraged continuing with the campaign.

Councilmember Stokes thanked the BDA for creating opportunities for artists and musicians to perform. He commended the campaign's focus on connecting within the community. He said this is another example of an effective partnership with the BDA and Bellevue's business sponsors.

Councilmember Robertson thanked Mr. Bannon and Ms. Battin for their work with City staff and the community. She thanked Microsoft, Amazon, Vulcan, Puget Sound Energy, and everyone else who supported the Heart of Bellevue campaign. Ms. Robertson said she looks forward to learning more ways for the City to partner and to help businesses and the arts community.

Councilmember Zahn thanked everyone for their work. She noted that she especially liked the storytelling component of the campaign. She praised the ability of businesses and organizations to modify their operations in response to the pandemic restrictions. She expressed support for providing a platform for musicians and performers. She noted that she listened to a number of

the virtual performances and she could envision continuing to do so even after the pandemic ends. Ms. Zahn suggested a future hybrid approach mixing both virtual and live performances.

Mayor Robinson thanked Mr. Bannon and Ms. Battin for all of their work with the City and the community. Ms. Robinson noted that the downtown lights were festive and welcoming.

At 7:25 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared a short break. The meeting resumed at 7:31 p.m.

(c) Draft 2021 State Legislative Agenda

City Manager Miyake introduced discussion regarding the draft 2021 State Legislative Agenda. Once adopted, the document will serve as the basis for the communications by staff and the lobbyists on key issues representing the City's interests.

Joyce Nichols, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, said staff is seeking feedback and direction regarding the policy positions reflected in the draft 2021 State Legislative Agenda. The state legislative session begins on January 11 and runs for 105 consecutive days. Ms. Nichols said the overwhelming majority of the legislative session will consist of online virtual meetings. She said staff is looking for opportunities to advocate for the City through virtual meetings and forums. Ms. Nichols suggested that, given the virtual format of the legislative session, it will be especially important to be focused and deliberate in articulating the City's message.

Ms. Nichols said the State Legislative Agenda reflects the highest priorities for the City. Many items have carried over from previous years because it often takes years for there to be action on specific legislation. She said the policy statements are broad enough to provide flexibility when discussing legislation and considering amendments. She noted that top priorities for the legislature are recovering from the pandemic, transportation investments, affordable housing and homelessness, human services, climate and environment, and capital budget requests. One of the main tasks of the legislature during a long session is to adopt the new operating, capital, and transportation budgets.

Governor Inslee released his budget proposal in December, before the second federal COVID relief package was signed. As a result, the governor's budget does not reflect the new dollars that will be coming from the federal government. The governor proposes using \$1.6 billion from the State's reserves and combining it with a proposed capital gains tax and a new tax on health insurance premiums to fund new programs for the State. In the capital budget, the governor proposes using future bonding capacity to create a larger than normal pot of money this year that can be bonded for capital projects that will stimulate the economy. The proposal would increase the current bonding capacity of approximately \$3.3 billion.

Ms. Nichols said the governor's transportation budget is very constrained. However, he is trying to increase funding for grants that are already part of existing programs. He would like to dedicate \$724 million for roads and underground projects, including barriers to fish passage. Ms. Nichols recalled that the Connecting Washington plan was approved by the legislature in 2015. She said it will be important now to ensure that legislators understand what the next steps should be for a better transportation system. She noted that the SR 520/124<sup>th</sup> Avenue interchange

remains a high priority, and there are still a number of projects to be funded in the I-405 master plan. The meeting agenda packet provides more details on the governor's budget and other issues related to the legislative session. Ms. Nichols said that each chamber of the state legislature develops its own operating, transportation, and capital budgets, which is why it is so important to maintain ongoing dialogue with legislators.

Ms. Nichols noted that the City's legislative agenda has been published as a four-page document over the past few years. She described the layout of the information provided in the brochure, including a section highlighting the benefit of Bellevue's tax revenues, jobs, and economic activity for the State. She said staff will forward proposed legislation and other information to Councilmembers throughout the session. She emphasized the importance of ongoing communication between the Council, staff, and state legislators.

Councilmember Barksdale expressed support for the draft legislative agenda.

Councilmember Robertson expressed support for the legislative agenda as well, noting that it reflects many of the City's existing policies and the Council's agreement on new policies. She suggested reducing the agenda document to two pages, if possible.

Ms. Robertson recalled that, in the past, the Council held an annual legislative breakfast with the 41<sup>st</sup> and 48<sup>th</sup> district delegations. She wondered if something similar could be done via Zoom. Given the constraints of not being able to travel to the capitol in person to meet with legislators, Ms. Robertson suggested scheduling virtual meetings with elected officials and a couple of Councilmembers at each meeting. Ms. Robertson expressed strong support for the comprehensive transportation section of the legislative agenda.

Councilmember Zahn expressed support for the draft legislative agenda and for the suggestion to schedule virtual meetings with state legislators. She noted that she spoke with Ms. Nichols regarding the Bellevue College Connection project. Ms. Zahn suggested adding a section on incentivizing partnerships to advance transportation projects and removing restrictions on the use of state land. On the federal level, Ms. Zahn said she would like the City to be prepared to pursue any infrastructure and transportation funding that becomes available.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis expressed support for the draft legislative agenda. Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Ms. Nichols said that staff and the City's lobbyist work with legislators throughout the year. She said that some bills are filed before the legislative session begins. She praised the ability of Bellevue's legislators to work together and thanked them for their support of the City's priorities.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis expressed support for the transportation section of the draft legislative agenda. However, he suggested adding some urgency to the language given the growth in Bellevue with Amazon, Facebook, and other employers. Referring to the climate and environment section, Mr. Nieuwenhuis suggested stating a specific request for funds that would help the City advance its Environmental Stewardship Plan. Ms. Nichols said the transportation section is more specific because the projects and estimated costs are known. She suggested keeping the broader language in the climate and environment section while looking for opportunities throughout the session for specific items that support the City's Environmental Stewardship Plan. That could include funding for solar panels, infrastructure for autonomous and electric vehicles, and a number of other items. Ms. Nichols said the legislative agenda typically does not request specific dollar amounts for most projects.

Councilmember Stokes concurred with Mr. Nieuwenhuis that it could be beneficial to have an idea of the amount of money that might be requested for specific priorities. Mr. Stokes encouraged continuing to work with neighboring jurisdictions, particularly in the area of transportation and the I-405 master plan. He expressed support for the draft legislative agenda, noting that perhaps more information will be needed in the future. He concurred with suggestions to schedule Zoom meetings with legislators. He thanked staff and the lobbyist for all of their work.

Ms. Nichols confirmed that the City will continue to work with other cities to pursue legislative objectives, especially in the area of transportation projects.

Councilmember Lee expressed support for the draft legislative agenda. He thanked staff and the City's lobbyist for building and maintaining relationships within the state legislature on a continuous basis. He said the pandemic has reduced revenues and changed how government and other entities continue to function. He noted his support for addressing social and criminal justice issues. He said the Council's 2021-2022 budget has a strong focus on building human capital and human infrastructure. Mr. Lee encouraged virtual meetings with state legislators throughout the session.

Mayor Robinson expressed support for the draft legislative agenda and observed that the challenge is going to be telling the story of Bellevue's growth and significant infrastructure needs. She observed that it is imperative to be able to achieve the key goals of the Council's legislative agenda in order to succeed as a City.

Referring to Councilmember Zahn's interest in the Bellevue College Connection project, Ms. Nichols said the language in the transportation section reflects the City's work with the business community and other stakeholders to identify common transportation priorities. Ms. Nichols suggested adding the project as a specific priority at the end of the transportation section of the legislative agenda. She said the State is not typically the first funding source for transit projects, and she suggested that there are multiple ways to pursue funding for certain projects.

Ms. Nichols concurred with Councilmember Robertson's earlier suggestion to schedule a Zoom legislative breakfast or similar meeting. Ms. Nichols suggested that the Bellevue College Connector could be a topic for that conversation.

Ms. Nichols noted that Councilmember Barksdale raised the issue of storm water in a discussion with her. She said the state budget includes funding for grants to local governments for storm water retrofits and compliance projects.

Councilmember Zahn clarified that her suggestion is to add language asking the state legislature to incentivize partnerships to advance transportation projects and to remove barriers to partnerships, including restrictions on the use of State-owned land. She said other cities have expressed an interest in these items as well. Mayor Robinson suggested that Councilmember Zahn forward her proposed revision to Ms. Nichols.

Councilmember Robertson suggested incorporating the concept of transportation partnerships into the introductory paragraph of the transportation section. Mayor Robinson noted that the Council will have the opportunity to review the revised language before adopting the 2021 State Legislative Agenda.

Mayor Robinson cautioned against adding too many items and diluting the message of the legislative agenda. Ms. Nichols said staff will email the draft revisions to Councilmembers this week, in anticipation of placing the approval of the legislative agenda on the following week's consent calendar if agreeable to the Council.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis reiterated his suggestion to add more urgent language to the first paragraph of the transportation section.

- 11. Land Use: None.
- 12. Other Ordinances, Resolutions, and Motions
  - (a) Resolution No. 9865 authorizing execution of a two-year interlocal agreement with King County for jail services.

City Manager Miyake introduced discussion regarding Resolution No. 9865 authorizing the execution of a two-year interlocal agreement with King County for jail services.

Ms. Nichols recalled that the City contracts with three agencies for jail services: City of Issaquah, King County, and SCORE (South Correctional Entity). The contract with King County expired at the end of December because the Bellevue City Council was not in session after the King County Council adopted the agreement in mid-December. However, staff worked with the King County Executive's Office and there will be no break in coverage under the agreement.

Ms. Nichols described the two-year jail services interlocal agreement with the King County Jail. She noted that King County is currently evaluating how it wants to restructure and use its criminal justice and human services facilities.

Mark Tarantino, Police Major, said the SCORE facility is the City's primary jail. However, King County is currently the only one of the three jails that will house a City inmate booked on a felony investigation. The King County jail is also able to accommodate inmates with psychiatric and medical needs. The City uses the King County jail to house misdemeanor offenders when SCORE reaches capacity. Major Tarantino said this is a pay-as-you-go contract with no fixed cost and no guarantee of beds. He said the City's jail costs with King County were much lower in 2020 (\$41,027) than in 2019 (\$149,659). The cost of King County jail services is projected to

total \$96,000 in 2021 and \$97,000 in 2022. He requested Council direction to execute the twoyear interlocal agreement with King County for jail services.

Mayor Robinson thanked staff for the presentation.

Councilmember Robertson expressed support for the agreement and asked what the City will do if King County decides to close its jail.

Ms. Nichols noted that King County has a number of buildings in downtown Seattle, and the jail is located on valuable property. The jail is also outdated and expensive to operate. Ms. Nichols said she anticipates that King County will maintain some type of jail facility in downtown Seattle as part of the realignment of its operations.

Responding to Councilmember Lee, Ms. Nichols said that she and City Manager Miyake are working with the King County Executive's Office to determine the County's timeline and plans. City Manager Miyake suggested this would be a good regional issues topic for a future meeting to discuss the Council's concerns and feedback.

Councilmember Zahn expressed support for the interlocal agreement.

- → Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to approve Resolution No. 9865, and Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.
- $\rightarrow$  The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.
- 13. <u>Unfinished Business</u>: None.
- 14. <u>New Business</u>: None.
- 15. <u>Executive Session</u>: None.
- 16. <u>Adjournment</u>

At 8:43 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared the meeting adjourned.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC City Clerk

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