

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

Thursday  
January 7, 2021  
6:30 p.m.

Zoom

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Knezevic at 6:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Vanja Knezevic (Chair), Diann Strom (Vice Chair), Neal Hines, Anne Howe, Negin Khanloo, Ken Wan, Ling Zhuang

**COUNCIL LIAISON:** Conrad Lee

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Brian Bartle, Utilities Deputy Director; Lucy Liu, Utilities Resource Management and Customer Service Assistant Director; Linda De Boldt, Utilities Engineering Assistant Director; Brian Landau, Utilities Planning Manager; Cherish Jackson, Utilities Senior Administrative Assistant; Erin Hislop, Utilities Conservation and Outreach Program Administrator; Abe Santos, Utilities Senior Engineer; Angela Chung, Utilities Senior Engineer; Laurie Hugdahl, Minutes Taker

**2. TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF BYLAWS**

Chair Knezevic and Deputy Director Brian Bartle read introductory statements regarding online meetings.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Motion made by Commissioner Howe, seconded by Commissioner Wan, to approve the agenda. The agenda was approved unanimously (7-0).**

**4. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION**

Senior Administrative Assistant Cherish Jackson read a written communication from Mr. David Plummer who expressed concerns the Watermain Replacement Program presentation on the agenda tonight. He expressed frustration that there

would be no different information than was presented at the Council and referred to attached copies of tables and charts and links for further information on this topic.

There were no other oral or written communications.

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

Councilmember Lee wished everyone Happy New Year and thanked them for working so hard. He complimented staff and the Commission on the responsible budget in the midst of challenges and uncertainty. He spoke to important items in the budget including the cross-culture diversity community center, Community of Color conversations, and the Environmental Stewardship Initiative. He expressed optimism and hope for the new year.

**6. STAFF REPORTS**

None

**7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A) 11/5/20 MINUTES**

**Motion made by Vice Chair Strom, seconded by Commissioner Khanloo to approve the 11/5/20 minutes as presented. Upon a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).**

**8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

**a) Environmental Outreach in a COVID-19 Environment**

*Erin Hislop, Conservation and Outreach Program Administrator, Utilities*

Ms. Hislop made a presentation describing how the City has continued to do environmental outreach in a COVID-19 environment. Virtual community workshops including: Greener Living, Zero Waste, and Safer Cleaning were held in partnership with King County Library System. The Great Bellevue Scavenger Hunt was held from October 2-30, 2020 and was very popular. Curbside pickup and contactless delivery opportunities were provided. Creative partnerships were made with the Bellevue Farmers Market, Bellevue Art Museum, local Farmers Markets, and King

County Library System. Media channels were utilized to provide relevant messages. The City partnered with multifamily property managers and provided supplies to multifamily properties to assist with composting and recycling. Multifamily composting was added to several multifamily properties. A Zero Waste Challenge at Home was held for youth and families. Support for businesses continued throughout the year and included cost saving actions, virtual and contactless support, targeted outreach to food generating businesses, and recycling assistance for paint retailers and motor oil recycling collections. In support of distanced learning the following were provided: youth virtual classroom presentations and remote curriculum, partnership with youth organizations, and at-home activity guides. In spite of the pandemic, the City has managed to maintain a level of service continuity, meet some dynamic needs, and find creative opportunities that might improve the programs and protect the environment long-term.

#### Questions:

Commissioner Zhuang was very happy to hear the City is still committed to zero waste during the pandemic. She asked for suggestions for dealing with the challenge of increased boxes, packaging and single-use plastics resulting from people being at home and doing more internet shopping. Ms. Hislop commented that the Republic recycling center has been a great resource for dealing with a lot of those harder to recycle items. The virtual workshops the City has held have helped to educate the public about those resources. She noted that the City has an Environmental Purchasing Policy and a green shopping guide for city purchases. Commissioner Zhuang asked if there is a policy to help deal with internet shopping waste. Ms. Hislop replied that there are groups working on EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) at the WA State level, but there is nothing in place she is aware of currently.

Commissioner Khanloo expressed frustration at the poor recycling habits of people in her building and lack of encouragement by the property management. She asked about any active policies the City has regarding this. Ms. Hislop commented there is no requirement for multifamily residents to participate in recycling. In terms of education and outreach, she spoke to the importance of meeting with the property manager and getting them on board. Commissioner Khanloo suggested looking into requiring something related to recycling during the development process via the Planning Commission.

Vice Chair Strom thanked Ms. Hislop for her hard work and creativity reaching people during the pandemic.

**b) Utilities Watermain Replacement Program - Informational Briefing**  
*Linda De Boldt, Assistant Director – Engineering Division, Utilities*  
*Abelardo Santos, Senior Engineer - Project Management Section, Utilities*

Assistant Director De Boldt and Senior Engineer Santos made a presentation regarding the Watermain Replacement Program. Assistant Director De Boldt spoke to the importance of the Watermain Replacement Program for maintaining the high quality water system and reviewed numbers related to and a map of the water infrastructure system. The underground pipe infrastructure is aging and poses a risk for failure, so system renewal is needed. Replacement costs will steadily increase over the next 75 years. The utility is proactive at managing the risk for pipe failures and is strategically replacing the pipes. She highlighted the City's experience with watermain breaks over the past few years and the impacts of main breaks.

Senior Engineer Santos discussed further details of the Watermain Replacement Program. The goals of the program include replacing five miles of pipe per year, focusing on asbestos cement pipe, opportunities for seismic mitigation, opportunities for improved fire flow, and a 100 to 125-year replacement cycle. Other factors for project selection include alignment with other city projects and coordination with other state and local governments, private developers, and franchise utilities.

Assistant Director De Boldt discussed financial strategies for the \$80M Watermain Replacement Program including the use of the R&R Fund, R&R Contribution, Rate Funded CIP, and Rate Funding for CIP/R&R. She stressed that Bellevue is positioned to meet the challenges of aging watermain. The City is actively replacing AC main now. The watermain replacement program will continue with future CIPS. The 5 miles per year approach is still prudent and the infrastructure R&R approach is in place.

**Questions:**

Commissioners Hines asked if the technology of sending the “pig” into pipes is something that is done for water pipes. Senior Engineer Santos explained that using pigs is not typically done because of the pressure in the pipe; however acoustical testing is used. Commissioner Hines asked about designs prone to failure. Senior Engineer Santos explained that they focus on the AC pipes. It appears that the thinner the pipe width, the less useful life they have, so the City is focusing on replacing the 4” pipes first.

**c) Lake Washington Sewer Lake Line Management Plan Update**  
*Angela Chung, Senior Engineer*

Senior Engineer Chung gave an update on the Lake Washington Sewer Lake Line Management Plan. The Lake Line Infrastructure is aging and may begin to present potential service level, financial and environmental risks. The project goals are to better understand, identify, and prioritize the Lake Washington Lake Lines and key operational and capital investment strategies to phase future repair, replacement and operations of the Lake Washington Sewer Lake Lines. Senior Engineer Chung summarized facts regarding the lake lines and discussed challenges of working on these aging lines. The Bellevue Project Team represents the complexity of the project and represents all the different things being considered for the management plan. The project spans many divisions of the city and has subject matter experts for finance, legal, GIS, survey, outreach, and real property, along with many consultants. The Lake Line Management Plan Framework will be followed to create the Management Plan. The steps include:

- Existing Conditions Data Gathering
- Define and Prioritize Lake Line Service Areas
- Develop Toolbox & Run Alternatives Analysis for Each Service Area
- Policy Development
- Develop Management Strategy
- Lake Line Management Plan
- Public Engagement

Existing Conditions Data Gathering included technical, environmental, operational, real property and financial data. The primary goal of this task was to gather and locate the information, and also to get all this data into one location. The next step was to define and prioritize service areas. Service areas were broken down into manageable evaluation sizes. The reach/service area was from pump station to pump station and resulted in 17 different reaches throughout the lake line. It captures important components of the system including pipes and pump/flush stations. A result of gathering all of the information was to create a Lake Line System Database in GIS, a quick reference guide, and an expanded quick reference guide.

Commissioner Hines asked if there have been active reports of leaking from residents. Ms. Chung replied she has not heard of any other than those from construction projects.

Reach Prioritization for Future Projects will help the City optimize the remaining useful life (probability of failure factor) of each reach and try to minimize the risk and consequences of failure. The next step taken was to develop a toolbox. The toolbox/project options included three main

options per reach including: options within the lake, options on shore, and upland options. Ms. Chung discussed potential examples of each option. Each technology will need to be evaluated along with the cost, the impact and the ability to maintain the pipe along with a long-term lifecycle analysis.

Public Engagement will involve six different communities (Yarrow Point, Hunts Point, Medina, Bellevue, Beaux Arts, Unincorporated King County) along with different permitting agencies having jurisdiction over these area. Due to the pandemic, the public involvement plan had to be adapted and included a City of Bellevue dedicated website, online open houses, presentations via Zoom, and mailers to the public via snail mail or email.

The City put together three Lake Line Multi-Agency Workshops which involved 3-60 people from 12 agencies. These workshops included presentations and opportunities to exchange ideas. Participating agencies included: Bellevue, Redmond, Renton, Bremerton, Skyway, Sammamish, Shoreline, Seattle, Mercer Island, Edmonds, Everett, King County, and Lake Oswego (Oregon). The workshops were incredibly successful and received a lot of positive feedback from all the agencies.

Remaining project tasks are to complete developing the toolbox and run the alternatives analysis for each service area. Policy development and management strategy development will follow. It will all be put together in the Lake Line Management Plan and incorporate public engagement. The project schedule was reviewed. There were no further questions.

#### **10. REVIEW OF COMMISSION & COUNCIL CALENDARS**

Deputy Director Brian Bartle reviewed the current Commission and Council Calendars. Commissioner Zhuang requested an AMI update. Deputy Director Bartle indicated they could find a spot to add that.

#### **11. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion made by Chair Knezevic seconded by Vice Chair Strom, to adjourn the meeting. Upon a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.