

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

October 3, 2022
6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers
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

Deputy City Clerk Karin Roberts called the roll and all Councilmembers were present. Mayor Robinson led the flag salute.

(a) Domestic Violence Action Month Proclamation

Councilmember Robertson read the proclamation recognizing October 2022 as Domestic Violence Action Month and urged all citizens to speak out against domestic violence and to support local efforts, including those by LifeWire [www.lifewire.org or 425-746-1940]. Domestic violence affects one in three women and one in four men during their lifetime, and domestic violence offenses comprise nearly half of all crimes against persons in Washington state.

(b) National Disability Employment Awareness Month Proclamation

Councilmember Zahn read the proclamation recognizing October 2022 as Disability Employment Awareness Month and urged all residents to support disability equity and to take steps to recruit, hire, develop and advance individuals with disabilities to foster full participation in society and economic self-sufficiency.

Blayne Amson, ADA/Title VI Civil Rights Program Administrator, thanked the Council for the proclamation. He noted that several Disability Allyship Resource Team (DART) members were in attendance. DART is one of three employee resource groups that work on a volunteer basis to provide City employees with important information, resources and support related to race, gender, sexuality and disability. Mr. Amson said the groups include members of the identity groups as well as employee allies. He noted that the groups are part of the City's commitment to diversity, equity, access and inclusion. He said the DART group has a subcommittee that focuses on issues related to disability employment.

Mr. Amson said that in 2018, the City received the Governor's Public Employer of the Year award for its supported employment program, which partners with local employment agencies and allows the City to tap into the talented pool of people with disabilities. He thanked the Council for their support.

(c) Proclamation Condemning Antisemitism

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis read the proclamation condemning antisemitism, as defined by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), and urged everyone to support Bellevue's Jewish community. He thanked Dr. Linda Whitehead, Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Officer, and her staff for their work. Reports of antisemitic incidents increased 60 percent in Washington state from 2017 to 2018. In Seattle, reports of hate crimes and incidents increased nearly 400 percent from 2012 to 2018. Mr. Nieuwenhuis encouraged victims of antisemitism in Bellevue to report the incidents so the Bellevue Police Department can respond and track them.

Regina Friedland, speaking on behalf of the American Jewish Committee (AJC), thanked the Council, Dr. Whitehead and staff for the proclamation and for their support of the Jewish community. She noted that the IHRA definition of antisemitism is a comprehensive resource that describes antisemitism in its many forms. She said Bellevue is the first city in the Pacific Northwest to take this vital step against hatred.

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) Graciela Lang expressed concerns regarding panhandling and public safety. She said panhandlers have been aggressive and hostile when she has declined to give them money. She suggested there should be a non-emergency phone number to report similar incidents. She expressed concern regarding the health and welfare of children who are accompanied by adults engaged in panhandling. She said panhandlers should not be

allowed to obstruct public rights-of-way. Ms. Lang said that giving money to panhandlers does not help them but rather enables them. She encouraged people to instead donate to the many human services organizations listed on the City's web site.

- (b) Flavio Ribeiro expressed support for the recommendations in the report produced by the Trees 4 Livability group. As a technology worker, he was attracted to live in Bellevue due largely to its trees and natural environment, and he has interviewed many individuals who have expressed the same sentiment. He expressed concern regarding the removal of trees on residential properties. He said it is everyone's responsibility to protect trees for future generations.
- (c) Peter Marshall, a resident of the Enatai neighborhood, commented regarding the proposed development of the Isola property near Cougar Mountain and Coal Creek trails. He encouraged the City to acquire and preserve the property as public open space.
- (d) Emmanuel Solis encouraged the City to enact effective and immediate tree preservation policies. As a resident of northeast Bellevue for 10 years, he has documented the removal of 50 mature trees estimated to be 50-100 years old. He expressed concern regarding the redevelopment of residential properties to remove trees and build large homes. He urged the City to act now to preserve trees and to protect and expand the tree canopy.
- (e) Zachary Cooper thanked the Council for adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism. He said this will help to combat anti-Jewish actions and intimidation on the Eastside. He said the City of Bellevue joins a growing number of states and cities that have endorsed the definition. He thanked the Council for supporting the Jewish community.
- (f) Bill Westre, a founding member of the People for Climate Action (PCA) group, commented regarding the proposed budget for the City's Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI). He noted that PCA recently submitted questions to the City regarding the total ESI spending level for 2023-2024, proposed staffing levels, and the responsibilities and tasks of ESI staff.

Mayor Robinson noted that Mr. Westre's email was forwarded to staff for a response.

- (g) Betsi Hummer thanked the Council for their work on behalf of Bellevue residents and expressed support for the proposed public safety budget. She is happy to see funding to continue the Community Crisis Assistance Team (CCAT) program involving police officers and mental health professionals and the Fire Department's CARES (Citizen Advocates for Referral and Education Services) program. She thanked the City for the foresight to fund officers to support growth and transit facilities, including future light rail. She encouraged the City to consider allowing take-home vehicles for police officers and providing child care for public safety employees. She thanked the City for acknowledging the Bellevue Green and Clean effort by residents.

- (h) Alex Zimmerman, President of StandUp America, said he recently attended a meeting of the Planning Commission. He asked about the costs for taxpayers related to Amazon moving to Bellevue.
- (i) Heidi Dean expressed concern that there is a home on the property identified for a new park in the Eastgate area. She said the home is in good condition and was fully updated in 2018. She expressed concern that the City is engaging in the same behavior of developers who are redeveloping homes and removing trees. She asked whether other Eastgate properties are available to be developed as a park. She said the proposed Eastgate Park property is 10,300 square feet, or one-quarter of an acre. She expressed concern regarding the small size of the park, noting that many areas of Bellevue have larger mini parks and neighborhood parks. She encouraged the City to identify a larger site in the Eastgate area for a park that will better meet the recreational and public gathering needs of residents.
- (j) Leslie Geller, a member of the Eastgate Community Association Board, said she was excited to see that the City is preparing to purchase a property for a park in the Eastgate area. However, she had not previously considered Ms. Dean's perspective. Ms. Geller acknowledged that the property is a small lot. However, it is located near most Eastgate residents and would provide open space. Ms. Geller encouraged the City to move forward to purchase and develop the lot.

5. Reports of Community Councils, Boards, and Commissions

- (a) Parks and Community Services Board Capital Investment Program (CIP) Budget Recommendation Letter [*Written information only.*]

City Manager Brad Miyake noted the letter in the meeting packet transmitting the recommendations of the Parks and Community Services Board regarding the Capital Investment Program (CIP) budget.

Councilmember Stokes, liaison to the Parks and Community Services Board, encouraged everyone to review the proposed budget, which provides funding related to the BelRed Arts District and other projects.

6. Report of the City Manager

- (a) Arts and Culture Program Biannual Update [*Written update only.*]

City Manager Miyake noted the written update provided in the meeting packet.

Councilmember Lee expressed an interest in more information about individual programs.

7. Council Business and New Initiatives

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to approve the remote participation of Councilmember Barksdale and Councilmember Zahn during the October 10 Regular Meeting. Councilmember Stokes 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 September 19, 2022 Regular Meeting

(b) Ordinance No. 6678 authorizing the: (1) award of Bid No. 22041, for 2022 Pipe Defect Repair - Phase 1 construction (Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan Nos. D-64 and S-24), to Interwest Construction, Inc., as the lowest responsible and responsive bidder; in an amount not to exceed \$4,084,313.22, plus all applicable taxes; (2) amendment of the 2021-2027 CIP Plan to transfer \$330,350 from the NE 8th Street Culvert at Kelsey Creek Project (CIP Plan No. D-105) to the Storm Water System Conveyance Infrastructure Rehabilitation Program (CIP Plan No. D-64); and (3) amendment of the 2021-2027 CIP Plan to transfer \$969,650 from the Water Quality Retrofit Program (CIP Plan No. D-109) to the Storm Water System Conveyance Infrastructure Rehabilitation Program (CIP Plan No. D-64).

(c) Resolution No. 10145 authorizing execution of all documents necessary for the acquisition of property, land, and improvements in the Eastgate neighborhood area, at 14700 SE 39th Street, including a purchase and sale agreement, in an amount not to exceed \$1,100,000, plus related costs.

(d) Resolution No. 10146 authorizing execution of Amendment No. 1 to Design-Build Cooperative Agreement GCB 2477 for City reimbursement of a change order for the 114th Avenue NE Sidewalk Widening, in an amount not to exceed \$205,041 plus all applicable taxes.

9. Public Hearing: None.

10. Study Session

(a) Preliminary 2023-2024 Operating Budget and 2023-2029 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan

City Manager Miyake introduced the Council's ongoing discussion regarding the Preliminary 2023-2024 Operating Budget and 2023-2029 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan.

Toni Call, Director of the Finance and Asset Management Department, said the presentation would focus on public safety, homelessness, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding and the Safe, Clean and Vibrant City budget outcome area. Ms. Call noted upcoming budget discussions on October 10 and 24, with a public hearing scheduled for November 7. Adoption of the budget is tentatively set for November 21.

Fire Chief Jay Hagen described plans for Fire Station 10 in downtown Bellevue. The project went out to bid on September 22 and the application period closes on November 3. Construction is anticipated to extend over a 12-18 month timeline. The proposed budget funds the final staffing need of six full-time employees (FTEs) in 2023, upfront costs for new apparatus and other items, and capital funding for construction.

Police Chief Wendell Shirley said that, like the Fire Department, the Police Department is experiencing an increased demand for services related to growth and changes in the community. There has been a 37 percent increase in calls for service over the past 10 years while the total number of patrol officers has remained the same. Chief Shirley noted a 19 percent increase in crime from 2017 to 2021. In addition, officers staff more than 30 large events annually, with each event ranging from one day to 36 days.

Chief Shirley commented on the need for enhanced community engagement and targeted enforcement of specific crimes and/or locations. He said additional officers will complement patrol by responding to 911 calls, engaging in community policing, increasing visibility and allowing more time for officers on calls.

Chief Shirley said that with 52,000 daily transit riders coming to Bellevue with the implementation of light rail, he recommends establishing a transit unit. He said light rail service will accommodate regional travel from and through Bellevue for large events (e.g., sporting events, concerts). Chief Shirley said he anticipates, based on comparable cities, an increase in calls for service, especially for property crimes, theft, motor vehicle theft, assault crimes and robberies. He said the transit unit will be specially trained and will patrol platforms, park and ride lots and restrooms. In addition, the officers will be available for rapid deployment to large-scale events. Chief Shirley said the transit unit will coordinate with Sound Transit, social services agencies, the Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA), neighborhood associations and others.

Assistant Police Chief Andrew Popochock recalled the Community Crisis Assistance Team (CCAT) pilot program from May through August 2021. The program involves dispatching a mental health professional with police officers in response to certain calls. During the pilot program, 33 percent fewer people were booked into jail or admitted to the hospital, and 72 percent of CCAT responses were initiated by 911 calls. CCAT officers were able to spend 82 percent more time on the calls and police use of force decreased by 24 percent.

Chief Hagen said an additional goal of the CCAT program is to connect individuals in crisis with ongoing case management, especially to address issues related to mental health, substance abuse and/or housing challenges. He said the program builds on the Fire Department's CARES (Citizen Advocates for Referral and Education Services) program, which involves graduate students in social work to respond to certain situations. Chief Hagen noted the receipt of a federal grant totaling \$915,000, which will help to support the programs.

Councilmember Barksdale asked whether the Bellevue Police Department is coordinating with King County Metro regarding the creation of a police transit unit. Chief Shirley said they have discussed the unit with Metro. However, while they have their own transit police, they are experiencing a staffing shortage and might not be readily available to respond to incidents in Bellevue as quickly as desired.

Assistant Chief Popochock noted that the Bellevue Police Department needs officers who are specifically trained to work within the light rail infrastructure in Bellevue (e.g., tunnel, elevated rails).

Responding to Mr. Barksdale, Chief Shirley said he has not considered contracting with the King County Metro transit police. However, the Bellevue Police Department will continue to coordinate with them for consistency.

Councilmember Barksdale expressed an interest in a comparison of creating an in-house transit unit versus contracting with King County Metro. Mayor Robinson suggested a review of the City's history with Sound Transit related to transit officers as well.

Councilmember Zahn said she wants to ensure the budget is adequate to support the increasing needs of a growing community. Responding to Ms. Zahn, Chief Shirley said the City is reimbursed for police support related to large events, such as the Rock 'n' Roll Marathon. However, the City is not typically reimbursed for police support at smaller events, including rallies and protests.

Chief Hagen said the Fire Department has coordinated with Sound Transit and with Bellevue's regional response partners (City of Kirkland and City of Redmond) to address needs related to the introduction of light rail. He noted that assistance from the response partners would be necessary to respond to a major emergency in the light rail tunnel. He said Bellevue and Eastside partners have been able to achieve the funding necessary to provide the training and specialized equipment needed to respond to emergencies at grade, on the elevated rail and in the tunnel.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis acknowledged the need for the additional public safety resources in the proposed budget. He thanked the Police Department for their effectiveness in targeting specific crime hot spots and expressed support for the proposed transit unit. Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Chief Shirley said the transit unit officers will be selected from current officers.

Mayor Robinson expressed support for the CCAT program and noted that the data looks very promising. She said she has heard from the community about similar programs that there is a big benefit to having police and mental health professionals arrive in different vehicles. Chief

Shirley acknowledged that some models follow that practice. In Bellevue, the two units may arrive separately, but they wait to approach the situation together to better ensure safety. Ms. Robinson said she would be interested in an analysis of the pros and cons of different approaches and whether there would be budget impacts.

Responding to Councilmember Robertson, Chief Shirley said the budget includes the addition of 21 officers (19 commissioned officers and two non-commissioned support staff). He said staff's review of current staffing needs was informed by the 2018 staffing study.

Councilmember Robertson expressed support for the proposed transit unit. She noted that she is a member of the King County Regional Transit Committee, which has discussed Metro transit policing, and she believes that a Bellevue transit unit is needed.

Councilmember Stokes said he appreciated the attitude that the Police Department needs to be learning, adapting and growing. He encouraged the ongoing monitoring of programs to ensure they are responding to current needs, including mental health issues and situations.

City Manager Miyake noted that the CCAT program will continue to evolve with input from the Council, staff and the community. Chief Shirley confirmed staff's commitment to follow best practices, continue to learn and to work with regional partners.

Councilmember Lee expressed his confidence in the Police and Fire Departments. He asked whether the City could negotiate with Sound Transit regarding funding for police officers for the light rail system. Mayor Robinson suggested adding that question to the memory bank list.

Mr. Lee expressed an interest in the issue of whether police officers and mental health professionals should or should not travel in the same vehicle.

Chief Hagen said there has been a multi-year, multi-department effort to prepare for the arrival of light rail and its potential impacts including security concerns, earthquakes and other emergencies. He noted that the City has received funding from Sound Transit to buy new rescue tools. The Fire Department has leveraged grants to obtain heavy rescue training as well.

Councilmember Lee urged the City to continue to seek funding from Sound Transit and/or other regional sources.

Councilmember Barksdale said he appreciated the CCAT's work and asked whether there is money in the budget for related regional collaboration and program evaluation. He asked whether the City has considered hiring a mental health professional who could respond to incidents without Police or Fire personnel. He mentioned a group known as Law Enforcement Action Partnership that conducts assessments of that option.

Chief Hagen said the City participates in the Mobile Integrated Healthcare Network. He noted that he would follow up with more information regarding whether the group is involved in program evaluations.

Ms. Call said there is sufficient money in the budget to accommodate some type of regional evaluation with interested partners. Responding regarding the dispatch of mental health professionals without law enforcement, Ms. Call said staff would follow up with more information.

Responding to Councilmember Barksdale regarding the body worn camera program, Ms. Call said the budget provides staffing to support the review and redaction of videos to protect individual privacy.

Councilmember Zahn said she appreciated the holistic view of safety and public safety reflected in the budget. Noting the enhanced patrol emphasis on certain crimes and locations, she asked whether more funding has been provided for investigative activities.

Responding to Ms. Zahn, Chief Hagen said the CCAT program includes five mental health professionals who are City employees that work with police officers. The CARES program involves graduate students in social work.

Assistant Chief Popochock said the CCAT program provides coverage from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 a.m. daily, with the ability to expand that coverage when call volumes are higher. Chief Shirley confirmed that there are sufficient investigative resources. He said the body worn camera program has not yet been implemented and is still under discussion by the unions.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis expressed support for the CCAT program and said it is important to maintain Bellevue's standards. While he supports regional cooperation and learning from other cities and governments, he wants to ensure that their practices align with Bellevue's interests and standards. He recalled that one finding of the CCAT pilot program was that a number of individuals preferred talking to a police officer instead of a mental health professional or social worker. Mr. Nieuwenhuis expressed concern about sending mental health professionals on calls without the support of law enforcement officers, noting that such situations can be highly unpredictable.

Mayor Robinson expressed support for continuing to explore best practices and programs in other jurisdictions.

Councilmember Robertson expressed support for both the CCAT and CARES programs.

Councilmember Stokes expressed support for exploring other agencies and programs to learn from their experiences and to be flexible in considering changes to Bellevue's programs. He thanked staff for their work and expressed support for the public safety budget proposal.

Councilmember Lee asked about the City's efforts to combat violence and hate crimes. He expressed support for school resource officer (SRO) programs in schools. He asked whether the City charges for public safety personnel who support large community events.

Mayor Robinson asked staff to come back with information regarding the policies for public events with a police presence.

At 8:00 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared a short break. The meeting resumed at 8:10 p.m.

Bianca Siegl, Assistant Director, City Manager's Office, provided information regarding the homelessness outreach program, which has three components: 1) facilities (shelters, safe parking, housing), 2) compassionate enforcement, and 3) direct services (outreach, prevention, supportive services). The budget includes \$450,000 for a safe parking pilot program over a 12-month period, \$400,000 to support successful shelter programming, and \$600,000 for supplemental outreach and housing access. The budget proposal provides an outreach staff position to maintain the City's response levels and to focus on specific issues and needs, including vehicle residences.

Ms. Siegl said staff will return to the Council to discuss the details of the safe parking program before it is implemented next year.

Ms. Call introduced discussion regarding the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). She recalled that the City received \$20 million and the initial \$8 million was appropriated by the Council in 2021 to address housing stability and small business recovery. The funding must be incurred or under contract by December 31, 2024 and spent by December 31, 2026. Of the remaining \$12 million, the budget proposes \$10 million for human services and \$2 million for small business recovery.

Toni Esparza, Assistant Director, Parks and Community Services Department, said there continues to be an unprecedented demand for human services in the community due largely to the pandemic. On October 24, staff will present the recommendations of the Human Services Commission for funding allocations from three sources: 1) Human Services Fund, 2) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, and 3) Housing Stability Program funds (HB 1590 revenue). Ms. Esparza said the critical areas of need include housing stability, homelessness services, behavioral health services, food insecurity, legal aid, domestic violence and sexual assault survivor services, and efforts to address racial and ethnic discrimination.

Ms. Esparza said the Council allocated \$7 million in ARPA funding in 2021 to address housing stability for low- and moderate-income households, and those funds are largely depleted. Over the past six months, approximately \$800,000 have been distributed monthly to the community for housing stability. At the current pace, approximately 580 residents or 200 households have been receiving monthly support.

For the remaining \$10 million in ARPA funding, Ms. Esparza said staff recommends that \$2.4 million be immediately allocated to ensure funding is available through the end of this year to respond to continuing needs related to housing stability. The remaining \$7.6 million is allocated in the 2023-2024 operating budget to additional housing stability assistance (\$2.7 million), critical 24-hour shelters (\$1.6 million), requests for proposals (RFP) for organizations working to address certain critical needs (\$3.1 million) and staffing costs for program administration (\$303,000).

Ms. Esparza recalled that the last set of applications for human services grants took place in March. She said new agencies continue to emerge in the community and existing agencies continue to develop new services.

Jesse Canedo, Chief Economic Development Officer, said the City has been engaged with the business community throughout the pandemic over the past few years. He said the most recent business survey reflects continuing confidence in Bellevue and its economic recovery. While larger companies are generally doing well, their absence is noticed in the downtown because employees have not fully returned to their offices. He noted the negative impact on downtown restaurants and retailers.

Mr. Canedo said the budget provides funding to support temporary programs for existing businesses that improve a business's productivity, improve customer acquisition, improve employee training and retention, and provide access to resources and spaces that support business resiliency. He noted that staff will also pursue partnership opportunities with nonprofit organizations.

Nathan McCommon, Deputy City Manager, highlighted the budget proposal investing \$300,000 in the Safe, Clean and Vibrant City outcome to enhance outdoor clean-up efforts and to address graffiti. If approved by the Council, the City will add one staff to the neighborhood team to organize and mobilize volunteer participation for targeted litter and debris collection Citywide. This includes funding related equipment and the development of standards and metrics.

Councilmember Lee encouraged regional partnerships to address mutual priorities and technologies. He thanked staff for all of their work.

Councilmember Stokes concurred with Mr. Lee's suggestion. Responding to Mr. Stokes regarding staff's work with small businesses, Mr. Canedo said the City is working with regional partners who are currently developing related programs. He said direct assistance could include grants to business organizations.

Responding to Mr. Stokes, Ms. Esparza said the human services RFPs will be issued in January. She said the City is involved in ongoing partnerships with agencies to ensure the City is connecting with new, emerging agencies and with agencies serving underrepresented communities.

Councilmember Robertson expressed support for the human services and small business grants, especially as the community recovers from the impacts of the pandemic. She noted an NPR news article about a lack of vetting of organizations by King County. In one case, an organization's executive had lied about his credentials and was a registered sex offender working with youth. She said she hopes the City's RFPs and contracts contain safeguards to ensure that agencies have vetted their staff and conduct criminal background checks.

Ms. Robertson expressed support for the proposed funding for the Safe, Clean and Vibrant City outcome to address litter and graffiti. She thanked staff for including the Council's priorities in the overall budget.

Mayor Robinson thanked Councilmember Zahn for initially suggesting that Bellevue explore a safe parking program. Ms. Robinson thanked federal elected officials for bringing ARPA funds to Bellevue and noted the importance of providing rental assistance and childcare. She thanked staff for their work with small businesses and thanked Councilmember Barksdale for his ongoing advocacy for small businesses.

Mayor Robinson commended the proposed program for enhanced outdoor clean-up across the community. She encouraged the City to partner with existing volunteer organizations. She thanked Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis for his focus on graffiti. Ms. Robinson suggested that the City provide resources for the community to respond to graffiti incidents.

Mayor Robinson expressed strong support for the overall budget and thanked staff for their work.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis expressed support for the safe parking pilot program and for funding related to the men's homeless shelter and outreach staff. He asked about plans for the budget allocation to provide compassionate enforcement of vehicle residences. He said there are still many individuals in the community in dire need of services and assistance. He encouraged a continued strong focus on housing stability and preventing homelessness. He expressed support for small business assistance and for efforts to ensure a clean and vibrant community.

Councilmember Zahn thanked her colleagues for supporting the safe parking pilot program. She noted the importance of increasing direct outreach services to the community. She suggested efforts to encourage the public to shop and spend locally. She expressed support for partnerships to focus on maintaining a clean community. Responding to Ms. Zahn, Ms. Siegl said there is funding to continue the 12-month safe parking pilot program into a second year if desired.

Councilmember Barksdale thanked staff for reflecting the Council's priorities in the budget. Responding to Mr. Barksdale, Mr. Canedo said staff intends to explore opportunities for working to connect small businesses with developers who are willing to consider providing affordable commercial spaces.

Mr. Barksdale expressed an interest in more information regarding long-term funding for rental assistance. Referring to the community clean-up initiative, he suggested involving Bellevue Essentials graduates and working with companies to support volunteer efforts by the employees.

(b) Discussion of A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH) 2023 Administrative Budget and Work Program

City Manager Miyake introduced discussion regarding the ARCH (A Regional Coalition for Housing) 2023 Administrative Budget and Work Program.

Emil King, Assistant Director, Community Development Department, said ARCH is an important regional agency for providing affordable housing. He noted that the proposed increase in the ARCH budget is included in the City Manager's Preliminary Budget. He said staff is

seeking Council direction to prepare legislation approving the ARCH 2023 budget for future formal action.

Lindsay Masters, ARCH Executive Manager, noted that ARCH is celebrating its 30th anniversary. The organization was established in 1992 through an interlocal agreement between King County and the cities of Bellevue, Kirkland and Redmond. ARCH members now include 15 jurisdictions in East King County.

ARCH has produced or preserved more than 5,200 units of affordable housing using \$88 million from local member jurisdictions that also leveraged approximately \$1 billion in other public and private funding. ARCH has assisted 10 cities in adopting local incentive or inclusionary housing programs, yielding 2,800 affordable units with another 800 units in the pipeline.

Ms. Masters said ARCH established monitoring systems and procedures to ensure continued affordability and compliance with housing requirements. She said ARCH has helped hundreds of low- and moderate-income households to achieve home ownership, creating more than \$90 million in appreciation for the homeowners. She noted that ARCH has worked on more than 50 policies, plans, code amendments and regulations for cities aimed at creating more housing.

Ms. Masters said ARCH has been recognized as an effective model for housing collaboration and innovation. The model has been replicated in the South King Housing and Homelessness Partners (SKHHP) program and in both Snohomish County and Pierce County.

Ms. Masters presented the 2023 ARCH administrative budget, which continues the multi-year plan for a phased increase in capacity. The budget proposes two new full-time equivalent (FTE) positions focused on program administration and the stewardship of affordable units created through incentives (e.g., multifamily tax exemption program). The budget includes one-time funding for consultant support and an evaluation of longer-term planning needs among ARCH members. Ms. Masters said the new costs have been allocated to base member dues and projected increases in fee revenue. The proposed 2023 contribution for Bellevue is \$429,021, an increase from \$344,457 in 2022. Ms. Masters said the funding is included in the City Manager's Preliminary Budget.

The ARCH work program contains six primary components: 1) affordable housing investment, 2) policy and planning, 3) incentive program administration, 4) stewardship of affordable housing, 5) outreach and education, and 6) administration. Key priorities of the work program include a housing needs analysis for all member cities, report on housing production and preservation, analysis to demonstrate how Comprehensive Plans can accommodate housing needs, new compliance tools for evolving programs, policies to reduce the cost burden of affordable housing in partnership with cities, and strategic planning to guide ARCH into the future.

Ms. Masters said that ARCH activities in Bellevue include the continued implementation of the Affordable Housing Strategy, housing incentive programs (e.g., voluntary density bonus, multifamily tax exemption, and impact fee waivers), monitoring affordable rental and ownership homes, housing needs assessment advice and data support, affordable housing agreements for the

Sound Transit Operations and Maintenance Facility transit-oriented development (TOD) area in the BelRed corridor, Next Right Work initiatives, and the Housing Stability Program (HB 1590 sales tax funding).

Mayor Robinson thanked staff for the presentation and commended ARCH for all of their work. She expressed an interest in more data regarding affordable housing and the affordability levels of housing units. She expressed support for the work program, including the item to research rental protection policies. She asked whether the City and/or ARCH can make it easier for people to use vouchers in Bellevue to obtain housing. She asked how to make rental housing more equitable in Bellevue. She has heard comments from the public about individuals being charged different amounts to move into certain rental properties.

Ms. Masters said she would be happy to speak with the King County Housing Authority regarding a potential role for ARCH in facilitating the voucher program. She noted that ARCH does a good job of partnering with opportunities for project-based vouchers. However, she acknowledged that there are tenant vouchers that are difficult to place. Regarding the issue of fair housing investigations and enforcement, Ms. Masters said ARCH members have not collectively funded those activities in the past and she acknowledged that more could be done. Mayor Robinson encouraged ARCH to work with the King County Housing Authority regarding coordinated entry.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis thanked staff for the presentation and expressed support for the work program priorities. Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Ms. Masters said administrative costs are allocated to all member cities' dues based on population.

Councilmember Robertson complimented the Bellevue Planning Work Plan attached to the ARCH memo in the meeting packet. She expressed support for the proposed ARCH budget. Regarding the Eastside housing levy item, Ms. Robertson said she was unsure about whether that is needed by Bellevue. While she is not opposed to a discussion, she would like ARCH to continue to be the trusted adviser and not a policy advocate. She expressed concern that planning efforts could overlap with policy development, with the latter being the role of the City Council.

Councilmember Zahn expressed support for the budget and work program and commended the benefits of ARCH to the community. She said she looks forward to more data in the future to help target housing needs, including by income levels. She asked whether adequate resources are available to conduct broad community outreach related to rental assistance, including to individuals for which English is not their first language. She recalled that staff and the Council have briefly discussed the potential for a housing levy in the past.

Mike Kattermann, Director of the Community Development Department, confirmed that the housing levy was one of 16 items included on the Next Right Work list. However, it was identified as something that could be deferred and discussed with ARCH in the future. He noted his understanding that ARCH is facilitating conversations around different funding sources.

Ms. Masters said ARCH hosted a number of focus groups this summer to discuss revenue options, including a property tax levy. She said the input will be summarized and discussed with

the ARCH Board to consider how to share the information with member cities to inform the development of policies.

Councilmember Stokes said it will be helpful to have more information regarding housing needs and affordable housing issues. He expressed support for Mayor Robinson's suggestion to discuss coordinated entry in the future. He concurred with Councilmember Robertson about ARCH's role as an adviser rather than a policy advocate. Mr. Stokes thanked Ms. Masters and staff for their work in the ARCH program. He expressed support for the budget and work program.

Councilmember Barksdale expressed support for the ARCH budget and work plan. In the future, he said it would be helpful to review both the housing needs data and U.S. census data.

Councilmember Lee commended ARCH's work over the past 30 years. Regarding ARCH's role in the complex issues related to affordable housing, Mr. Lee asked where they put all of their resources. He expressed concern about approving the budget and work plan due to the increased complexities and a larger affordable housing program. He expressed concern about the increase in ARCH's budget. He said he is not quite comfortable about ARCH's role and where to allocate the resources, especially given the complexity of the issues.

Mr. Lee concurred with Councilmember Robertson's comment about ARCH's role as a trusted adviser for the City. He wants to know that the resources will be used by ARCH to achieve the desired outcomes. He expressed concern about approving the budget and noted he would like more information.

Mr. Kattermann said ARCH is an efficient use of funding to achieve broad benefits for the Eastside and Bellevue. He said ARCH does a good job of tracking the dollars from all of the member cities as well as other agencies that provide project funding. He said the money is well accounted for and well spent. He said the regional accomplishments related to affordable housing would not be possible by the City working alone.

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to direct staff to prepare legislation approving the ARCH 2023 Administrative Budget and Work Program, consistent with and pursuant to the ARCH Interlocal Agreement, for consideration on a future consent calendar. Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

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

11. Land Use: None.

12. Other Ordinances, Resolutions, and Motions: None.

13. Unfinished Business: None.

14. New Business: None.

15. Executive Session: None.

16. Adjournment

At 9:31 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared the meeting adjourned.

Karin Roberts, CMC
Deputy City Clerk

/kaw