

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Extended Study Session

March 23, 2015
6:00 p.m.

Conference Room 1E-113
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Balducci, Deputy Mayor Wallace, and Councilmembers Chelminiak, Lee, Robertson, Robinson, and Stokes

ABSENT: None.

1. Executive Session

Mayor Balducci called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. At her request, the Council agreed to take Item 3(a) before recessing to Executive Session.

3. Study Session

(a) State of the County Report by King County Councilmember Jane Hague

King County Councilmember Jane Hague presented the State of the County report. As Vice Chair of regional coordination for the County Council, she will continue to focus on transparency and regular communication. She said regional coordination is about building lasting regional partnerships. She is pleased with the County's efforts on behalf of transportation, public safety, and working with Bellevue on the Eastside Rail Corridor.

Councilmember Hague said the County Council recently approved placing the emergency radio system levy on the April 28 ballot. The Public Safety Emergency Radio Network (PSERN) system is equally owned by King County, City of Seattle, Valley Communications Center, and the Eastside Public Safety Communications Agency (EPSCA). The project will need funding for nine years, and the ballot measure approves a levy lid lift of seven cents per \$1,000 AV. The cost for a median-income household will be \$26.46 annually.

Ms. Hague said the County Council has been heavily focused on transportation and Metro services issues. She recalled that the voters rejected a ballot measure last April that would have funded 650,000 hours of transit service. As a result, a number of measures enabled Metro to retain 500,000 service hours and to eliminate only 150,000 hours of service. In addition, the King County Executive and County Council have created a regional task force to address how to use service hours most effectively while providing geographic equity. Councilmember Chelminiak serves on that task force. A report is expected within the next six to eight weeks.

Councilmember Hague noted that the City of Seattle recently approved a ballot measure to buy additional transit service.

Ms. Hague said the County continues to work with Bellevue on human services issues. The County Executive and County Council are focusing on a Best Starts for Kids human services initiative to place before the voters on the November ballot. She said King County has lost \$17 million in human services funding over the past decade. She congratulated Bellevue on its new Bellevue Youth Theatre and said she looks forward to the City's deliberations regarding the Tateuchi Center.

Councilmember Hague said she is chairing the planning effort for the Eastside Rail Corridor which will provide 42 miles of dual use transportation.

Mayor Balducci thanked Councilmember Hague for the report. Ms. Balducci said she looks forward to the City's participation as an associate member in the Eastside Rail Corridor planning, even though the City does not own any portion of the corridor. Mayor Balducci said the City Council set aside \$1 million in the budget to support planning efforts. Ms. Hague observed that the Eastside Rail Corridor will enhance the City's improvements in the Spring District.

Deputy Mayor Wallace extended his thanks to the County for the agreement enabling the City to purchase the former Metro parcel next to City Hall, which is an important component of Sound Transit's light rail project.

Mr. Wallace noted an editorial in the previous day's paper about the potential to straighten 120th Avenue NE as part of the stated mitigation for Sound Transit's Operations and Maintenance Satellite Facility (OMSF) in the Bel-Red corridor. He noted the road goes through the Metro bus facility and he questioned the viability of that proposal.

Ms. Hague said the County Council is interested in the number of buses that will be displaced, with estimates ranging from 90 to 200. The King County Executive is authorized to sign an agreement without the County Council's approval, and the Council is actively considering how it can best influence the final decision.

Councilmember Stokes said he is excited about the potential for the Best Starts for Kids initiative.

Mayor Balducci announced that the Council would recess to Executive Session.

Deputy Mayor Wallace suggested taking up Agenda Item 3(d) before the Executive Session, and Councilmembers agreed. Mayor Balducci suggested moving forward with staff's presentation first and resuming discussion following the Executive Session.

- (d) Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 6221 accepting an increased CDBG grant award contract from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); accepting the amended 2015 Community Development Block Grant

(CDBG) recommendations of the Human Services Commission; authorizing the expenditure of additional CDBG funds available for 2015; and authorizing execution of revised 2015 agency contracts as recommended by the Commission. *[Item postponed from March 16, 2015.]*

City Manager Brad Miyake introduced discussion of Ordinance No. 6221, which accepts an increased Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) grant award. This item was postponed from the March 16 Council meeting to allow time for additional questions from and study by the Council.

Patrick Foran, Director of Parks and Community Services, said the ordinance accepts increased grant funds and the Human Services Commission's amended 2015 CDBG recommendations, and authorizes the expenditure of additional CDBG funds available in 2015 and the related execution of contracts.

James McEachran, Chair of the Human Services Commission, noted the summary of revised CDBG funding recommendations in the Council's desk packet. The Commission recommends \$23,000 to extend the Eastside Winter Shelter through April 2015; \$5,000 for support of the development of the biennial Human Services Needs Update currently underway; \$99,000 to support architectural design and engineering activities related to the new Boys and Girls Clubs of Bellevue facility; \$70,000 to serve more households through the City's Major Home Repair program; and \$28,000 to serve more households through the Senior Services Minor Repair program. Mr. McEachran highlighted services provided by these organizations and programs.

Mr. McEachran said the Commission did not recommend the funding of: 1) \$68,000 requested by Congregations for the Homeless to provide a permanent low barrier shelter, and 2) \$65,000 for design work for the Salvation Army's Eastside Corps Community Center. Mr. McEachran said the Commission learned that the permanent shelter project would be receiving funds from another source for site development work. Currently, Salvation Army is provided \$15,000 in operating support for the Emergency Financial Assistance Program. Salvation Army will not be precluded from applying for CDBG funds in the future.

As a result, the Human Services Commission recommended moving \$68,000 to the Boys and Girls Clubs project to allow them to meet their full funding request for a clubhouse in Downtown Bellevue. Mr. McEachran said the Commission has been engaged in a thoughtful and thorough process over three meetings to develop its additional recommendations.

At 6:24 p.m., Mayor Balducci declared recess to Executive Session for approximately 90 minutes to discuss one item of potential litigation.

The meeting resumed at 8:02 p.m., with Mayor Balducci presiding. She said the Council did not complete its discussion of the Executive Session item. However, Oral Communications will be taken next, followed by Agenda Items 3(b) and 3(c).

Mayor Balducci said Agenda Items 3(e), (f), (g) and (h) would be postponed to the March 30 Special Meeting. Item 3(i) will remain on the agenda pending the completion of the Executive Session. It is possible that Item 3(i) will be postponed to another meeting.

Deputy Mayor Wallace suggested deciding now to postpone Item 3(i) to the next meeting. Mayor Balducci said the Council could address that immediately before resuming the Executive Session.

2. Oral Communications

- (a) Geoff Bidwell presented a memo by HJH Engineering regarding Sound Transit's East Link light rail project. The firm is under contract with Sound Transit, and the memo lays out an engineering work plan to cross the Mercer Slough to Issaquah and to integrate the design with the current East Link project. Mr. Bidwell expressed concerns regarding significant environmental impacts to the Mercer Slough. He questioned whether the Council was aware of this effort. He questioned why the City did not take this information into consideration when it issued the shoreline permit for the East Link project in late 2014. *[Mr. Bidwell left copies of the memo for the Council.]*
- (b) Robert Rosell, representing the Enatai Neighborhood Association, said he has been attending East Link-related meetings for more than seven years. As the project has evolved, residents have been told that effective mitigation to minimize the impacts was still in the planning stages. He said residents are getting anxious to learn how noise will be effectively mitigated during construction and the system's ongoing operation. He said what was originally a daytime and evening transit service has turned into a project with trains running 21 or more hours daily due to the siting of Sound Transit's Operations and Maintenance Satellite Facility (OMSF) in Bellevue. Mr. Rosell said the increased capacity of the South Bellevue Station/Park and Ride will increase traffic congestion, and reflective concrete surfaces at the station and along the route will bounce noise into the neighborhood. Sound Transit's response is that the noise level of that area is high enough already to mask the increased noise. He asked the Council to reject that assertion. Mr. Rosell said Sound Transit's mitigation is the minimum required by state or federal governments. He said the project should use walls that absorb, rather than reflect, noise and that do not block views of the Mercer Slough Park. *[Mr. Rosell submitted these and additional written comments.]*
- (c) Joe Rosmann submitted written comments regarding the complexities of attempting to mitigate the present design of the light rail line along Bellevue Way and 112th Avenue. He expressed concerns regarding environmental impacts to the Mercer Slough, noting that Sound Transit's planned mitigation actually increases the harm to the environment. He said his written submittal presents two scenarios of how the benefits and detriments of Sound Transit's mitigation options lead to greater problems rather than eliminate environmental impacts. If Sound Transit chooses to cross the Mercer Slough Nature Park, as indicated in its consultant's memo, the park will be challenged along both its west and south sides. *[Mr. Rosmann submitted his comments in writing.]*

- (d) Suzanne Baugh said the East Link light rail project is critically important to Bellevue and the Eastside. With continued growth of the region's population, the system will provide additional mobility options for citizens and will be a valuable contributor to Bellevue's future economic vitality. Ms. Baugh said light rail will shape Bellevue's land use, promote density in appropriate locations, and help employers attract young educated and creative workers and residents. She said Sound Transit and the City have been working together since 2006, and the project has been modified based on the City's priorities. Sound Transit is providing mitigation requested by Bellevue. Ms. Baugh said two outstanding items are finalizing the amendment of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and finalizing plans for the maintenance facility. She observed that Bellevue has gotten everything it has requested, and she hopes these items will be approved by the Sound Transit Board. Ms. Baugh said citizens are expecting the Council's leadership to move the light rail project forward. *[Ms. Baugh submitted her comments in writing.]*
- (e) Betsy Blackstock said she is a strong supporter of the Light Rail Permitting Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and regularly attends their meetings. She believes the committee has been very effective in asking questions and developing recommendations. However, she expressed concern that certain CAC recommendations are not reflected in staff's draft documents. Ms. Blackstock said the CAC is looking out for neighborhoods and the City as a whole. She recalled that the Light Rail Best Practices Committee released its report in 2008. She referred the Council to page 84 of that report, which states that mitigation will be put into place prior to construction of the light rail project. She and her husband live 600-700 feet from the rail line. Ms. Blackstock said the current CAC is doing a good job of referring back to the Best Practices Report. She asked the Council to hold the public hearing on the final project before it takes action.

Mayor Balducci confirmed that the public hearing would be held before a Council vote.

- (f) Lt. Darryck Dwelle, Administrator of the Eastside Salvation Army, spoke to the agency's request for human services funding. He noted that a question has been raised about whether the organization collaborates with others. He said the Salvation Army collaborates with Bellevue Parks and Recreation, Crossroads Community Center, Bellevue Lifespring, Bellevue Hopelink, Jubilee Reach, Northwest Hope-Net, Bellevue Nursing Network, YWCA, Eastside Baby Corner, Medical Teams International, Eastside Pathways, City of Kirkland, City of Bothell, City of Woodinville, Emergency Feeding Program, Bellevue School District, King County/Bellevue Library System, and the King County Youth Action Task Force. The Salvation Army's meal program works with Eastside Unitarian Church, St. Peter's United Methodist Church, St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Bellevue First Methodist Church, Embassy Bible Fellowship Church, Temple B'Nai Torah, St. Louise Parish, Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Christ the King Lutheran Church, Holy Family Parish, Bellevue Kiwanis, Bellevue Rotary, St. Madeleine Sophie Church, Church of the Resurrection, Overlake Park Presbyterian, Good Samaritan Church, and LDS Church Bellevue. Mr. Dwelle said these are groups the Salvation Army works with on a monthly basis, and many more are involved throughout the year. The Salvation Army's objective is to create relationships to meet the community's needs. *[Lt. Dwelle submitted written materials.]*

3. Study Session [Resumed]

(b) Council Business

There were no reports.

(c) Water System Plan Interest Statement

City Manager Brad Miyake recalled the Council's March 9 discussion regarding the Water System Plan Interest Statement. He noted the revised draft in the meeting materials for the Council's consideration.

Councilmember Lee said he does not see any statements that the City should look forward to self-sufficiency or independence in obtaining water resources.

Paul Bucich, Assistant Director of Utilities, said the City collaborates with the Cascade Water Alliance as its primary means of obtaining water. If the City develops an alternative source, there are contract provisions requiring Bellevue to share those resources with other CWA members and/or to reduce its allocation. Mr. Bucich said the Water System Plan identifies a number of existing water rights held by the City through the absorption of other water utilities, and the City is exploring how best to utilize those resources.

Councilmember Robinson said she received comments from the public last year regarding concerns about fluoride in the water. Citizens referenced a study in Asia that indicated children had died due to fluoride in the water. Staff's review of that study demonstrated that fluoride levels in those water sources were roughly a million times higher than what is found in Bellevue's water.

Mayor Balducci noted a Council consensus in support of the revised Water System Plan Interest Statement.

At 8:37 p.m., Mayor Balducci suggested resuming discussion of Agenda Item 3(d) before returning to Executive Session, and postponing the remainder of the agenda including Item 3(i), East Link Project Update. The Council concurred.

- (d) Continued Discussion of Ordinance No. 6221 accepting an increased CDBG grant award contract from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); accepting the amended 2015 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) recommendations of the Human Services Commission; authorizing the expenditure of additional CDBG funds available for 2015; and authorizing execution of revised 2015 agency contracts as recommended by the Commission.

Mayor Balducci stated that this is a difficult issue. She has a tremendous amount of respect for the Human Services Commission and her inclination is to take their advice. The Commission is well-informed about the community's needs and does a great job of balancing its recommendations to fund services responsive to those needs. Ms. Balducci said she is struggling with the recommendation to increase funding for the home repair program, which previously received an allocation greater than its request.

Ms. Balducci noted that one purpose of CDBG programs is to provide capital funding. She said the Salvation Army provides significant services in the Crossroads community including after-school programs, meals, and other programs. She would like to be able to contribute toward the organization's capital campaign. However, she acknowledged that she does not have the information and experience of the Human Services Commissioners. Mayor Balducci said she would like to find a way to try to support the Salvation Army's mission.

Councilmember Lee expressed support for providing some funding for the Salvation Army. He appreciates the Human Services Commission's hard work and difficult decisions. However, the Council makes the final decisions on behalf of the community. He said the Salvation Army provides much-needed services for the community, including immigrants who often have difficulty finding assistance. He acknowledged concerns by some in the community about the Salvation Army's collaborative efforts. However, he observed that the organization is involved in many partnerships that benefit the community and it has made a commitment to the community to build a facility in Bellevue.

Mr. Lee suggested providing funding support to the Salvation Army and working with the organization to help it grow and strengthen its partnerships. He acknowledged that this would take funding from the Home Repair Program and questioned how that will impact that program. He believes there is good justification to move some of that money to the Salvation Army.

Councilmember Chelminiak concurred that the Salvation Army provides important community services. He expressed support for the Home Repair Program, which provides needed capital repairs for residents in older neighborhoods. He supports increased funding for the winter shelter and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Bellevue. The City has a long partnership with the Boys and Girls Clubs, and the new Downtown facility will provide adult programs as well. Mr. Chelminiak said the Salvation Army is a strong organization and the City should be a part of it. However, he is not sure that this is the right source for the requested funding. He said the Human Services Commission was very deliberate in studying and evaluating the funding requests, and his preference is to support the Commission's recommendations.

Councilmember Robinson expressed support for the Human Services Commission's recommendations. She said the CDBG program has strict guidelines, and the Commission has spent extensive time evaluating the funding applications based on those guidelines. She likes the Salvation Army and suggested that they be given guidance to help them develop a future funding request. She suggested that, in the future, the Commission prioritize requests that are not initially funded to be prepared for this type of situation in which additional funding becomes available.

Councilmember Stokes concurred that the Human Services Commission carefully reviewed the applications and developed its recommendations. He said the issue of collaborative efforts should be explored and understood. However, he supports approval of the Commission's recommendations at this time.

Mayor Balducci recalled that the funding request from the Salvation Army was received late in the budget process at the end of last year. She suggested reconsidering the request later this year during the mid-biennial budget update.

Deputy Mayor Wallace concurred with the Mayor's suggestion to address the funding request later in the year, before or during the budget update. He disagreed with the notion that the Salvation Army is not collaborative and expressed strong support for their services and effectiveness in the community. He said he was unsure about where those assertions are originating.

Councilmember Lee observed that, if a human services organization is actually experiencing difficulties, the City should engage them and see what it can do to help them succeed.

Mayor Balducci noted that the City Manager, Parks and Community Services Director, and Human Services Commission have heard the Council's questions and feedback.

- Councilmember Stokes move to adopt Ordinance No. 6221, and Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

4. Executive Session

At 8:45 p.m., Mayor Balducci declared recess to Executive Session to continue discussion of the item of potential litigation. She said the meeting would adjourn from that session.

The Executive Session was concluded at 10:12 p.m., and the meeting was adjourned.

Myrna L. Basich, MMC
City Clerk

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