

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Session

January 4, 2016  
8:00 p.m.

Council Chamber  
Bellevue, Washington

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

ABSENT: None.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m., with Mayor Stokes presiding.

2. Roll Call, Flag Salute

All Councilmembers were present. Councilmember Slatter led the flag salute.

3. Approval of Agenda

→ Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to approve the agenda, and Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.

→ The motion to approve the agenda carried by a vote of 7-0.

4. Communications: Written and Oral

(a) Don Marsh, President of the Coalition of Eastside Neighborhoods for Sensible Energy (CENSE), clarified that he is not a spokesman for the East Bellevue Community Council (EBCC) as indicated in a recent news article. On December 18, a Superior Court judge affirmed the EBCC's authority over land use decisions related to Puget Sound Energy's transmission line project. Mr. Marsh said it is possible to live in a beautiful city and to have reliable power. He referred to Bellevue's Electrical Reliability Study, which acknowledged the possibility for outages in Lake Hills and proposed a solution. Mr. Marsh submitted his comments in writing.

(b) Barbara Benson expressed support for the East Bellevue Community Council's unanimous decision to deny PSE's proposed transmission line. She is angry about the thousands of dollars being spent on legal fees to defend the EBCC for doing its job. She encouraged the City and PSE to reach a compromise.

- (c) Steve Fricke expressed concern that there is a conflict of interest in having the City Attorney advise both the City and the East Bellevue Community Council, given the current litigation involving both parties. He said the EBCC missed a deadline to comment to the State Department of Ecology on an important shoreline issue because legal staff did not properly advise the EBCC. He acknowledged that the City Council approved necessary expenses for the EBCC's outside legal fees. However, he believes the City Attorney should not be involved in identifying candidates or selecting an attorney for the EBCC.
- (d) Will Knedlik, an officer of the Eastside Transportation Association, expressed concerns regarding Sound Transit's process for identifying Sound Transit 3 (ST3) package priority projects. He said the suburban cities were rushed to provide input without a clear understanding of a number of issues, including subarea equity in the use of Sound Transit revenues. He said the City Council's fiduciary duties require a full understanding of tax impacts, subarea equity, and the benefits for Bellevue taxpayers. He submitted his comments in writing.

5. Reports of Community Council, Boards and Commissions

Bill Capron, Chair of the East Bellevue Community Council (EBCC), said he would like to work with Puget Sound Energy to find a solution for the Lake Hills transmission line without engaging in litigation. He noted that the City Council previously granted funding for the EBCC's legal expenses. He said more funding will be needed for ongoing legal assistance in response to PSE's appeal of the Superior Court decision. Mr. Capron said the EBCC supports the need for reliable power and believes there are alternatives to PSE's proposed project. He suggested that improved vegetation management and maintenance of the distribution system would enhance electrical reliability. He observed that PSE's management of the distribution system is to react to failures.

Mr. Capron said there were a number of inaccuracies in *The Bellevue Reporter* print article. He and EBCC member Steve Kasner subsequently met with the publisher, and the online version of the article has been corrected. With regard to Sound Transit, Mr. Capron said the EBCC has no objections to a subway along 148<sup>th</sup> Avenue. However, an elevated train would not be acceptable.

6. Report of the City Manager: None.

7. Council Business and New Initiatives

Councilmember Robertson introduced a topic that she would like the Council to discuss in the future. She said the City has a strong tradition of recruiting and retaining high-performing employees. She expressed concern that employees have appropriate and adequate leave upon bringing a new child home. She noted the City's support of local and regional programs focused on children and families including the Wrap Around Services Program, Eastside Pathways, and the new Best Starts for Kids initiative.

Councilmember Robertson said she spoke to Human Resources staff about obtaining information on the City's current policies and benefits, as well as an analysis of what it would take to provide a more supportive policy. She said this work exceeds the eight-hour rule for Council initiatives. She will prepare a proposal for Council consideration to direct staff to conduct an analysis of parental leave policies. Ms. Robertson noted that this is a Mid-Biennium Budget year and suggested that this would be a good time to review a number of personnel-related policies including health insurance benefits.

Responding to Mayor Stokes, Ms. Robertson said many City employees are retiring or near retirement. She said it is important to ensure that the City's benefits continue to attract and retain desirable employees.

Councilmember Slatter said she looks forward to serving on the Council and working with the community. She said the new Mayor and Deputy Mayor bring strong knowledge and vision for leading the Council. She encouraged everyone in the community to provide input and to participate in planning and policy development.

8. Consent Calendar

→ Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to approve the Consent Calendar, and Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.

Mr. Chelminiak highlighted funding for Meydenbauer Park, improvements along SE Newport Way, and sports fields at Robinswood Park.

→ The motion to approve the Consent Calendar carried by a vote of 7-0, and the following items were approved:

- (a) Council Meeting Minutes  
Minutes for November 23, 2015 Extended Study Session  
Minutes for December 7, 2015 Study Session  
Minutes for December 7, 2015 Regular Session  
Minutes for December 14, 2015 Study Session  
Minutes for December 14, 2015 Regular Session
- (b) Motion to reject the bid protest from Kamins Construction Inc. and award Bid No. 15065, NE 24<sup>th</sup> Street and Bellevue Way NE Sidewalk (CIP Plan Nos. CD-22, PW-M-19, PW-W/B-56) to Westwater Construction Co., as the lowest responsible and responsive bidder, in the amount of \$225,655.00.
- (c) Resolution No. 9046 authorizing execution of a grant agreement with the State of Washington's Recreation Conservation Office (RCO) providing funds for Meydenbauer Bay Park Phase 1.
- (d) Resolution No. 9047 authorizing execution of a grant agreement with the State of Washington's Recreation Conservation Office (RCO) providing funds for

Robinswood Fields Synthetic Turf Replacement.

- (e) Resolution No. 9048 authorizing the execution of a Professional Services Agreement with Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. in the amount of \$638,351 to develop initial design to construct pedestrian and bicycle improvements on SE Newport Way, between 150<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE and Somerset Boulevard (CIP Plan No. PW-R-185).
- (f) Ordinance No. 6267 amending Ordinance No. 6104 by extending the existing boundaries of Residential Permit Parking Zone 2 to include NE 25<sup>th</sup> Street, between 162<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE and 164<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, restricting parking on the street to “No Parking 7am to 4pm, Except Saturday, Sunday, and Holiday, Except by Zone 2 Permit.”
- (g) Ordinance No. 6268 revising the compensation program for the City Manager of the City of Bellevue and establishing an effective date of January 1, 2016.

- 9. Public Hearings: None.
- 10. Land Use: None.
- 11. Other Ordinances, Resolutions and Motions: None.
- 12. Unfinished Business: None.
- 13. Continued Oral Communications: None.
- 14. New Business: None.
- 15. Executive Session: None.
- 16. Adjournment

At 8:30 p.m., Mayor Stokes declared the meeting adjourned.

Kyle Stannert  
Acting City Clerk

/kaw