

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Session

December 5, 2016
8:00 p.m.

Council Chamber
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Stokes, Deputy Mayor Chelminiak, and Councilmembers Lee¹, 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

Councilmember Robertson led the flag salute.

3. Approval of Agenda

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

→ The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

4. Communications: Written and Oral

- (a) Kathryn Kitchen said that recent discussions about the proposed Eastgate shelter identify the residents as middle-class, middle-aged men who have lost jobs. She said studies actually indicate that a large percentage are recently incarcerated, addicts, mentally ill, and/or chronically homeless. She said it may feel compassionate to build the shelter. However, it is important to understand the residents and their distinctive needs. She noted that a number of homeless individuals are LGBT, who might be particularly vulnerable in this type of shelter. She asked the City to work with surrounding residents to create the right program and facility. Ms. Kitchen submitted her comments in writing.

¹ Councilmember Lee joined the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

- (b) Sid Golestane, President of the Sunset Ridge Homeowners Association, expressed opposition to the men's homeless shelter proposed for the Eastgate area. The condominium community consists of 71 units, including 17 units owned by single women. He said an online petition against the shelter has been signed by approximately 2,500 individuals. He expressed concern that the Bellevue Police Department's crime analysis is not capturing an accurate picture.
 - (c) Linda Nohavec said she has been researching the Eastgate Shelter pre-application documents provided by the City in response to a public disclosure request. She is disappointed and concerned about that lack of transparency related to the project. She said a Land Use Code Amendment was adopted in 2015 that would allow this use in the Eastgate transit-oriented development (TOD), and the Planning Commission has not reviewed the proposal. She said the previous week's Council meeting prompted discussions outside of the Council Chamber with faith-based congregations. She opined that there was a lack of facts among the groups, and the majority were not aware of other proposed locations, including in the Spring District. She said the Spring District is not considered a viable option because it could threaten commercial and other development. However, there are not the same concerns for Eastgate residents and property owners.
 - (d) Shahram Daneshmandi spoke about proposed Fire Station 10 in the Downtown. He expressed concern about the lack of transparency regarding the decision for locating the station. He believes the City is in violation of RCW 36.70A.140. A petition signed by more than 70 concerned and affected residents was sent to the Council on October 7. He suggested that McCormick Park was ignored in the siting analysis. He said sites east of I-405 were not considered due to a mistaken assumption about the bridges' ability to withstand earthquakes. He expressed concerns including traffic, noise, and wetland impacts. He submitted his comments in writing.
 - (e) Mitchell Smith, Vice President of the Bellevue Arts Museum, said he appreciates the City for working with the museum to develop a viable plan for the future. He said the museum is a cultural and artistic hub in the Downtown, and he requested the Council's ongoing financial support.
- 5. Reports of Community Council, Boards and Commissions: None.
 - 6. Report of the City Manager: None.
 - 7. Council Business and New Initiatives

Councilmember Robinson said Bellevue was recently designated as a TechHire community by the White House. The program focuses on training local individuals for higher paying, technology industry jobs, and makes Bellevue eligible for federal funding to provide opportunities and training for local residents to gain employment.

- 8. Consent Calendar

- Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to approve the Consent Calendar, and Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.
- The motion to approve the Consent Calendar carried by a vote of 6-0, and the following items were approved:
 - (a) Council Meeting Minutes
Minutes of November 14, 2016 Extended Study Session
 - (b) Resolution No. 9190 authorizing execution of a purchasing agreement with Pierce Manufacturing, Inc. to purchase one tractor drawn aerial (ladder) truck for the Fire Department, in an amount not to exceed \$1,228,918.00 plus applicable Washington State sales and vehicle taxes.
 - (c) Resolution No. 9191 authorizing the submittal of a grant application requesting up to \$150,000 from the State of Washington Recreation Conservation Office (RCO) to assist with the cost of trail renovations in Coal Creek Natural Area.
 - (d) Resolution No. 9192 authorizing execution of the ORCA agreement with King County for the purchase and distribution of the annual 2017 ORCA cards to City employees, in an amount not to exceed \$351,432.
 - (e) Motion to award Bid No. 16010 for Service Saddle Replacement 2016 to Bonner Brothers Construction, Inc., as the lowest responsible and responsive bidder in the amount of \$412,897.13 (CIP Plan No. W-99).
 - (f) Ordinance No. 6324 establishing parking restrictions in the Spring District area of the City.
 - (g) Resolution No. 9193 authorizing execution of Amendment 1, which extends by one year, the professional services agreement with Evergreen Adjustment Services for third party administrator claim services and increases the contract value, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000, for a contract total of \$150,000.00.
 - (h) Resolution No. 9194 authorizing the City Manager or his designee to execute a 4 year general services contract with Pacific Coast Attorney Services (PCAS) for legal messenger services, in an amount not to exceed \$360,000, plus any applicable taxes.
 - (i) Ordinance No. 6325 of the City of Bellevue updating the school impact fee schedule for Issaquah School District No. 411 and Renton School District No. 403; amending Section 22.18.100 of the Bellevue City Code; and establishing an effective date.
- 9. Public Hearings: None.

10. Land Use: None.

11. Other Ordinances, Resolutions and Motions

- (a) Ordinance No. 6326 adopting the Human Services Commission's 2017-2018 Human Services funding recommendations and authorizing the City Manager or his designee to enter into contracts with local human services agencies in accordance with the recommendations.

Mayor Stokes said that, after several Council discussions, three public hearings, budget retreats, and briefings, the Council has reached the end of its budget process and anticipates budget adoption this evening.

[Councilmember Lee joined the meeting at 8:20 p.m.]

Mayor Stokes suggested that the Council take action on each of the following actions, which are components of the Budget, and that Councilmembers defer overall comments to Agenda Item 11(j), adoption of the Budget umbrella ordinance.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak said Ordinance No. 6326 adopts the Human Services Commission's funding recommendations, which were presented to the Council on November 7. The Commission reviewed 97 applications. The proposed ordinance is consistent with Council discussion and direction on November 7, and includes \$150,000 in additional funding by the City to address homeless issues.

→ Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6326, and Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

- (b) Ordinance No. 6327 adopting recommendations for the use of 2017 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds as transmitted by the Human Services Commission; authorizing the City Manager or his designee to submit a proposal to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the 2017 CDBG Program; authorizing the City Manager or his designee to accept a grant award contract with HUD; creating a new project series within the Operating Grants and Donations Fund; and authorizing the City Manager or his designee to enter into agreements with grant sub-recipients

Mayor Stokes said that Ordinance No. 6327 adopts recommendations for the use of 2017 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. The grant totals \$923,000.

→ Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6327, and Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

- (c) Ordinance No. 6328 regarding development services under the Bellevue City Code; fees for applications requiring construction, land use, fire, survey, sign, transportation, utility, and clearing & grading review and inspection services; and repealing Ordinance No. 6263.

Mayor Stokes said Ordinance No. 6328 adopts development services fees related to review and inspection services for construction, land use, fire, survey, sign, transportation, utility, and clearing and grading requirements and standards.

- Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6328, and Councilmember Slatter seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

- (d) Ordinance No. 6329 establishing revised charges for water service, water consumption, and water standby capacity; repealing Ordinance No. 6201; providing for severability; and establishing an effective date.

Mayor Stokes said the next three ordinances relate to utilities rate adjustments necessary to keep pace with the costs of water and utilities services. He said the Environmental Services Commission reviewed the rate schedules in detail, and two reports were provided to the Council.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak said the budget approves the implementation of Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) for customer water meters.

- Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6329, and Councilmember Slatter seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

- (e) Ordinance No. 6330 establishing revised sewerage service charges; repealing Ordinance No. 6203; providing for severability; and establishing an effective date.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak noted that Ordinance No. 6330 provides the necessary resources to support the annual operating and capital needs of the Sewer Utility.

- Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6330, and Councilmember Slatter seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

- (f) Ordinance No. 6331 establishing revised storm and surface water drainage rates and charges for the Storm & Surface Water Utility of the City of Bellevue; repealing Ordinance No. 6204; providing for severability; and establishing an effective date.

Mayor Stokes said Ordinance No. 6331 establishes revised storm and surface water drainage rates and charges for the Storm & Surface Water Utility.

→ Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6331, and Councilmember Slatter seconded the motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

- (g) Resolution No. 9195 establishing substantial need under RCW 84.55.0101 to authorize the use of a limit factor for the tax year 2017 of one hundred one (101) percent.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak said the resolution is required by state law and is a declaration of substantial need regarding the property tax.

→ Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to approve Resolution No. 9195, and Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

- (h) Ordinance No. 6332 establishing the amount of property taxes to be levied for the year 2017, the first year of the City of Bellevue's 2017-2018 fiscal biennium.

Mayor Stokes said Ordinance No. 6332 establishes the amount of property taxes to be levied in 2017, including property taxes related to the 2008 Parks Levy and the recently adopted Fire Facilities Levy and the Neighborhood Transportation Safety and Connectivity Levy.

The City's base property tax rate is 78 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation (AV), which is the lowest rate in Washington state for any city with a population above 20,000. The Fire Facilities Levy property tax is 12.5 cents per \$1,000 AV, and the Neighborhood Transportation Levy property tax is 15 cents per \$1,000 AV.

Mayor Stokes said the total property tax rate for Bellevue is \$1.05 per \$1,000 AV, which is the lowest for Washington cities with a population above 20,000.

Mr. Stokes said that projects funded by the two new levies are not reflected in the budget and will be discussed by the Council next year.

→ Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6332, and Councilmember Slatter seconded the motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

- (i) Resolution No. 9196 providing for the banking of levy capacity pursuant to RCW 84.55.092.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak said the City is allowed to bank the one-percent property tax that it is not imposing at this time for future use. He said the City's banked capacity is currently 19 cents per \$1,000 AV.

→ Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to approve Resolution No. 9196, and Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

- (j) Ordinance No. 6333 adopting the City of Bellevue's 2017- 2018 Budget and 2017-2023 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan; setting forth the estimated revenues and appropriations; establishing job classifications and pay ranges; and establishing an effective date.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak highlighted Council changes to the preliminary budget: 1) \$50,000 for feasibility study for multicultural center, 2) \$200,000 annual support of Eastside Pathways program, 3) restoration of year-round restroom operations in five parks, 4) \$50,000 for the TechHire initiative, 5) \$150,000 for advanced transportation technology, 6) solid waste study for future planning, 7) addition of \$1.5 million to the existing \$2 million in the budget for the Grand Connection project, 8) addition of \$500,000 to the existing \$2 million in the budget for activities related to the Eastside Rail Corridor, and 9) establishment of the affordable housing contingency fund. Mr. Chelminiak said the Council is also preserving a general contingency fund for emerging needs.

Mr. Chelminiak thanked Councilmembers Lee and Wallace for their efforts related to advanced transportation technology.

→ Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6333, and Councilmember Slatter seconded the motion.

Councilmember Lee thanked the public for their input and involvement in the budget process. He complimented City staff for their good work related to the development of the budget. He noted the recent letter from the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce and suggested the consideration of the Chamber's suggestions.

Mr. Lee said the Council did not increase the property tax. However, the approval of two City voter levies and the Sound Transit ballot measure include property tax adjustments. He said it is important to be vigilant about taxes. He is pleased the City will be able to address longtime needs through voter approval of the Fire Facilities Levy and the Neighborhood Transportation Safety and Connectivity Levy.

Councilmember Lee said that, many years ago, the City Council often adopted the six-percent property tax levy allowed every year by state law. However, at one point the Council decided to not take the tax increases and to bank the property tax capacity, resulting in a low property tax rate for Bellevue over many years.

Councilmember Lee expressed support for the budget and thanked everyone for their hard work.

Councilmember Robinson observed that the budget provides a good balance between funding residential quality of life and economic development needs throughout Bellevue. The budget covers utilities, transportation, parks, human services, infrastructure, housing, public safety, and the environment, and is consistent with the Council's priorities. She thanked Bellevue residents for voting to support the levies which will allow the City to accomplish more neighborhood goals and to improve fire safety. She is excited about the City's participation in the TechHire initiative and with the City's financial support for affordable housing. She thanked City Manager Brad Miyake, Interim Finance Director Toni Call, and her fellow Councilmembers for a job well done.

Councilmember Robertson thanked residents for supporting the ballot measures, which will assist the City in its efforts to maintain the community's quality of life and public safety. She said this was a strong collaborative effort to produce a cohesive, bold and courageous budget. She highlighted funding for housing issues, the Grand Connection project, and human services. She observed that the budget is forward-thinking in including projects while supporting current needs as well. Ms. Robertson thanked the Council and staff for working so well together to develop the budget and expressed her support.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak said the budget captures the Council's priorities, and voter support of the two levies shows that residents support the Council's priorities as well. He is pleased with increased funding for human services and affordable housing. He complimented the new Police Chief and noted that the public safety budget restores the bike patrol. Mr. Chelminiak said he is pleased with the Chief's division of the community into three areas, with separate Police Captains overseeing each of those areas. He said the Fire Department and emergency medical services will benefit from funding in the Base CIP Plan as well as in the Fire Facilities Levy.

Mr. Chelminiak said the City will meet the economic upturn with adjustments to development services fees and continued efforts to improve the permitting process. He complimented staff for working with key stakeholders to focus on needed service improvements. Mr. Chelminiak said he looks forward to allocating levy funds next year. He highlighted the City's funding of its Diversity Advantage program, Grand Connection project, Eastside Railyard Corridor, and parks.

Mr. Chelminiak thanked Councilmember Wallace for their work together on the long-term financing plan. Mr. Chelminiak thanked the Mayor and Council for their collaboration throughout the budget process.

Councilmember Slatter said this is her first budget action. She recalled that the Council set priorities during its retreat at the beginning of the year, which are now reflected in the budget. She said budgets are typically aspirational documents of what the City wants to achieve for the community. She offered her heartfelt thanks to staff for their hard work and for the time they spent with her to increase her understanding during her first budget process.

Councilmember Slatter said this is a compassionate, visionary, and thoughtful budget. She noted that Bellevue has high quality neighborhoods, cultural diversity, a strong economy, and a vibrant and safe community. She observed that the three most prominent issues this year have been transportation, growth and development impacts, and human services. She said the budget addresses those needs for the present and the future. She thanked the public for their feedback during the budget process and their partnership in supporting the levies. She thanked her fellow Councilmembers for being a great team in the budget process. Ms. Slatter expressed support for the budget.

Councilmember Wallace said this is his fourth budget process. His extensive review this year indicated that this is a good comprehensive, well-balanced budget with little to raise issues for him. He said the City is in good financial shape. The budget does not increase taxes and leaves the City with a good ending fund balance. Mr. Wallace said he is proud of the collaborative effort of City staff and the Council.

Mr. Wallace thanked everyone who pays taxes that benefit the City, whether residents, shoppers, property owners, or others. He said the Council does not take that for granted and is grateful for the resources to support effective local government.

Mayor Stokes said the budget covers a broad range of programs and services. He said the City maintains its road system and overall infrastructure to a high standard. He thanked all of the City Councils over the years who have contributed to creating a wonderful community.

Mayor Stokes said the budget establishes a solid vision for the future, including innovation and strong regional leadership. He thanked Deputy Mayor Chelminiak and Councilmember Wallace for working closely with staff to identify ways to streamline and enhance the effectiveness of the budget. Mr. Stokes said he appreciates the input and contributions of everyone on the Council. He said the successful budget process is an example of the positive working relationship between staff and the Council. Mayor Stokes thanked the City Manager for his work with the Council.

Mayor Stokes said he is particularly pleased with the City's support of the Eastside Pathways program, which is a partnership model not found in any other cities in Washington state. He expressed enthusiasm about the Grand Connection and Eastside Rail Corridor projects, as well as the hard work of the City's economic development staff. He is eager to address homelessness and affordable housing, and he looks forward to discussing the levies next year.

Mayor Stokes said he is very happy to be engaged with this City, a desirable community due to the efforts of many individuals and organizations. He said this has been a great year and he thanked everyone for their work.

→ The motion adopting the City of Bellevue's 2017- 2018 Budget and 2017-2023 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan carried by a vote of 7-0.

12. Unfinished Business: None.

13. Continued Oral Communications

- (a) Saghar Rasoulamini, City Liaison for Students of Bellevue College, thanked the Council for including the students' priorities in the budget. She said students look forward to the TechHire program and to efforts to address affordable housing. She said students will continue to engage with the City as students grow with the community. She thanked Councilmembers for all of their work.

14. New Business: None.

15. Executive Session: None.

16. Adjournment

At 9:06 p.m., Mayor Stokes declared the meeting adjourned.

Kyle Stannert, CMC
City Clerk

/kaw