

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Study Session

February 6, 2017  
6:00 p.m.

Council Conference Room  
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Stokes, Deputy Mayor Chelminiak, and Councilmembers Lee, Robertson, Robinson<sup>1</sup>, and Wallace

ABSENT: None.

1. Executive Session

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., and declared recess to Executive Session for approximately one hour and 10 minutes to discuss one item of potential litigation and to discuss the qualifications of candidates for appointment to elective office.

At 6:55 p.m., Deputy Mayor Chelminiak announced that the Council had completed the discussion regarding potential litigation, and would be extending the Executive Session until 7:40 p.m. for the second item.

The meeting resumed at 7:55 p.m., with Mayor Stokes presiding.

2. Study Session

Mayor Stokes noted that the Regular Session was cancelled and the Public Hearing would be postponed to February 21, 2017. The two Study Session items were postponed as well.

→ Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to postpone the Public Hearing scheduled for the later Regular Session to the February 21, 2017 Regular Session. Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.

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

(a) Discussion of City Council Candidates and Selection Process  
*[Moved from Regular Session Agenda]*

Mayor Stokes introduced discussion regarding the process for selecting an individual to complete the term of the vacant City Council position. The application period closed on February 2 at 5:00

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<sup>1</sup> Councilmember Robinson participated remotely via speakerphone.

p.m., and 43 applications were received. Mr. Stokes said the Executive Session included a discussion of the evaluation criteria and the qualifications of the applicants.

- Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to extend the Study Session to 8:15 p.m., and Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak said the number and quality of the applicants to fill the vacant Council position was impressive. He said the Council evaluated the candidates based on the following criteria: 1) How quickly would the candidate be able to get up to speed on Council issues, and how familiar are they with current issues?, 2) How well does the candidate demonstrate an understanding of the City and how it operates?, 3) How does he or she demonstrate a commitment to the direction that has been set for the City?, 4) What value does the applicant's background and experience bring to the Council?, 5) Does the candidate demonstrate the ability to work with the existing Council?, and 6) How does the candidate represent diversity in terms of race, religion, national origin, geographic area of the community, and/or other aspects of diversity?

- Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to invite the following applicants to interview as finalists for the vacant City Council position, based on the criteria considered by the Council. Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.

Grant Degginger  
John deVadoss  
Aaron Laing  
Scott Lampe  
Jared Nieuwenhuis  
Ernie Simas  
Stephanie Walter  
Janice Zahn

Councilmember Lee said he was astounded by the quality of individuals who are excited to be engaged with the City and the community. He thanked the applicants for their interest and for the value of their participation in local government. He noted that the engagement level reflects in part the City's outreach efforts, including through the Bellevue Essentials class.

Mayor Stokes noted that all of the candidates are involved in the community in some way. Most of the applications reflected on elements of the City Vision statement and on finding ways to do things better. He is pleased that so many people are interested in serving on the Council, and he encouraged them to stay engaged and to continue to look for opportunities to serve in the community.

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

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Deputy Mayor Chelminiak said the candidates must be asked the same questions. Each candidate will be allowed a three-minute opening statement and seven minutes to respond to the questions:

1) What do you see as the role of a City Councilmember? What does it take to perform the role well?, 2) What items within the Council vision excite you the most, and what item might be difficult to implement?, and 3) What do you think are the top one to three issues facing the City and how would you address them?

Councilmember Robertson asked that the City Clerk let candidates know they will be asked to provide three to five references. Mr. Chelminiak questioned how the references would be used.

Councilmember Wallace noted that all of the individual finalists have previously been vetted because they serve or have served on a Board, Commission, or the City Council. He questioned the need for additional references. Mr. Chelminiak observed that three to five references might be unnecessarily time-consuming.

Ms. Robertson suggested that the City Clerk could check some of the references with specific questions following the interviews. Mr. Wallace reiterated that the individuals are known by the Council. Ms. Robertson said the notice of the Council vacancy indicated that finalists would be asked to provide references. Councilmember Lee said he would like to see references.

Mayor Stokes said the Council will go forward with asking for references, as previously indicated to the applicants.

Responding to the Mayor, City Clerk Kyle Stannert said Council action is anticipated on February 27. He noted that February 21 is immediately after the holiday and that week is a school break.

(b) Results of the Development Services Customer Outreach Survey

*[Postponed.]*

(c) Proposed Adjustment to Municipal Boundary between Bellevue and Kirkland

*[Postponed.]*

At 8:15 p.m., Mayor Stokes declared the meeting adjourned.

Kyle Stannert, CMC  
City Clerk

/kaw