

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Extended Study Session

February 13, 2017
6:00 p.m.

Conference Room 1E-113
Bellevue, Washington

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

ABSENT: None.

1. Executive Session

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak opened the meeting at 6:01 p.m., and declared recess to Executive Session for approximately 45 minutes to discuss two items of pending litigation.

At 6:46 p.m., Deputy Mayor Chelminiak announced that the Executive Session would be extended for approximately 15 minutes to discuss one item of property acquisition that was originally scheduled for the Executive Session at the end of the meeting agenda.

The meeting resumed at 7:01 p.m., with Mayor Stokes presiding.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

→ The motion to approve the agenda carried by a vote of 6-0.

3. Consent Calendar

Mayor Stokes noted that the Consent Calendar carried over from the previous week. The February 6 Regular Session was cancelled due to weather conditions.

→ Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to approve the Consent Calendar, and Councilmember Lee 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 Minutes:
 - Minutes of January 9, 2017 Extended Study Session
 - Minutes of January 17, 2017 Study Session
 - Minutes of January 17, 2017 Regular Session
 - Minutes of January 23, 2017 Extended Study Session
 - (b) Approval of Draft 2017 State Legislative Agenda and Draft 2017 Statement of Legislative Policy.
 - (c) Resolution No. 9219 authorizing execution of a one-year extension of the General Services contract with Behavioral Interventions, Inc. for electronic home detention monitoring equipment.
 - (d) Motion to award Bid No. 17002, Richards Road Medians - SE 21st Place to SE 26th Street (CIP Plan Nos. CD-22 and PW-R-46) to Trinity Contractors, Inc., as the lowest responsible and responsive bidder, in the amount of \$164,305.80.
 - (e) Resolution No. 9220 authorizing execution of Amendment 1 to the Professional Services Agreement with Parsons Brinkerhoff, Inc. in the amount of \$90,000, increasing the total contract amount to \$180,000, to provide additional engineering support needed during the construction of 120th Avenue NE, Stage 3, from NE 12th Street to NE 16th Street (CIP Plan No. PW-R-168).
 - (f) Re-adopting Resolution 9188 authorizing execution of a General Services contract with Total Landscape Corporation for landscaping services at various park sites and facilities for a two-year term, in an amount not to exceed \$161,219.92.
 - (g) Re-adopting Resolution 9189 authorizing execution of a General Services contract with Monarch Landscaping, d/b/a Signature Landscape Services LLC, for landscaping services at various park sites and facilities for a two-year term, in an amount not to exceed \$92,907.16.
 - (h) Resolution No. 9221 determining the anticipated shortfall in revenues for providing municipal services to the annexations areas of Eastgate, Hilltop, Tamara Hills and Horizon View (Eastgate Annexation Areas), setting a new threshold amount for the State of Washington fiscal year July 2017 to June 2018, continuing a sales and use tax, as authorized by RCW 82.14.415, Ordinance 6045 and Ordinance 6063 at the existing rate for such fiscal year; and authorizing certification of the City's true and actual costs to provide municipal services to the annexed areas.

- (i) Motion to award Bid No. 16106 for Richards Road Inlet Station Replacement to Kar-Vel Construction, as the lowest responsible and responsive bidder, in the amount of \$562,690.93 (CIP Plan Nos.W-67 and W-109).
- (j) Resolution No. 9222 authorizing execution of Amendment No. 1 to the Professional Services Agreement with McMillen Jacobs Associates in the amount of \$210,000, increasing the total contract amount to \$300,000, to provide additional construction management and claims support needed during the construction of 120th Avenue NE, Stage 2, from NE 7th Street to NE 12th Street (CIP Plan No. PW-R-164).
- (k) Resolution No. 9223 authorizing execution of an Amendment to the Professional Services Contract with Balmori Associates to increase the total contract value by \$48,000 to \$298,000, and to provide additional schematic design alternatives for the I-405 crossing of the Grand Connection Visioning.
- (l) Ordinance No. 6341 amending the 2017 City of Bellevue T Pay Plan for “Non-Affiliated City Manager” by 5% and authorizing execution of Amendment No. 1 to the City Manager’s employment agreement between the City and Brad M. Miyake related to the City Manager’s compensation program.

4. Oral Communications

- (a) Darel Harrison expressed support for the proposed homeless men’s shelter in the Eastgate area, which provides close access to transit as well as health and social services. She said it will be operated by two stellar organizations: Congregations for the Homeless and Imagine Housing. She said Bellevue has a wonderful opportunity to provide well-planned homeless housing.
- (b) Don Castle addressed the negative stereotypes of homeless individuals. He has volunteered with Congregations for the Homeless for a number of years. He shared two stories about men who he got to know at the shelter and who were ultimately able to get their lives back on track. He said that most men in the shelter want to work. Mr. Castle said he feels safe at the shelter. He thanked the Council for their leadership and support.
- (c) Hester Winn said she has worked for Imagine Housing for the past eight years. She asked the Council to support the proposed Eastgate shelter and permanent housing. She said the location has good access to transit, a grocery store, social services, and other businesses. She said Congregations for the Homeless have been successful in the operation of the existing shelter and day center. She thanked the Council for being a leader in addressing homelessness.
- (d) Betsi Hummer recalled that she was before the Council on January 9 to comment on the Bellevue College street vacation proposal. She thanked the Council for addressing the community’s concerns. She thanked Nora Johnson and other City staff for attending the East Bellevue Community Council meeting to provide more information. Ms. Hummer

said residents also met with Ray White at Bellevue College to discuss their concerns and to learn about the college's long-term plans. She thanked the Council for delaying the public hearing and for hosting two more community meetings.

- (e) Julie Wheeler expressed concerns regarding the location of the proposed Eastgate homeless shelter. She noted the national heroin epidemic and said the shelter will prohibit drug and alcohol usage at the facility. However, Ms. Wheeler said individuals can easily buy drugs from dealers at the adjacent Park and Ride lot. She believes the community would not be concerned about transitional housing, but there are concerns about the proposed low-barrier shelter concept.

5. Study Session

(a) Council Business and New Initiatives

- Councilmember Robertson moved to allow Councilmember Wallace to participate remotely during the February 21 Study Session and Regular Session. Deputy Mayor Chelminiak seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

Councilmember Wallace referred to the State Legislative Agenda adopted by the Council. He noted language referring to \$2 million to fund construction of the men's homeless shelter, which implies that the City of Bellevue will receive \$2 million. He clarified that the City is supporting the Congregations for the Homeless request for a \$2 million grant. Mayor Stokes said staff will revise the language.

Mayor Stokes recommended the appointment of Sanjay Kumar to the Environmental Services Commission.

- Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to appoint Sanjay Kumar to the Environmental Services Commission. Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

East Bellevue Community Council (EBCC) Chair Bill Capron recalled the recent fire at the mosque in East Bellevue. He said everyone was pleased that it was determined to not be a hate crime. He commended the significant outpouring of support from the community, including approximately 500 individuals who showed up to Sammamish High School within 48 hours. Local churches stepped forward to offer assistance, and the community is raising the funding needed to rebuild the mosque.

Mr. Capron commented on Puget Sound Energy's transmission line looping project in Bellevue. He recalled that the EBCC denied the application due to the planned route along NE 8th Street and 148th Avenue, which are designated urban boulevards. He said the court initially ruled in favor of the EBCC, which was appealed by PSE. However, the Court of Appeals reversed the

earlier ruling. Mr. Capron said the EBCC would like to appeal the case to the Washington State Supreme Court.

Mr. Capron said the EBCC is requesting funds for legal counsel services to pursue the Supreme Court appeal. He suggested routing the transmission line along 156th Avenue, Lake Hills Boulevard, and 164th Avenue. He said that alignment would provide the opportunity for overall improvements through those areas. He would like to maintain the current character of the urban boulevards, and he would like the option to discuss alternative alignments with PSE.

Mayor Stokes said the first step would be to file a notice of appeal to the State Supreme Court requesting that the court accept the case. Related legal fees are estimated at \$7,000. The second step anticipates \$20,000 in legal fees to handle the appeal. The case relates to PSE's permits for a 115kV line between two substations in the Lake Hills neighborhood.

Responding to Deputy Mayor Chelminiak, Deputy City Attorney Bob Hyde said there are four criteria under the rules of appellate procedure. The party seeking review must convince the Supreme Court that: 1) the Court of Appeals decision is in conflict with another Court of Appeals decision, or 2) the Court of Appeals decision is in conflict with a Supreme Court decision, or 3) the issue involves a significant question of state or federal constitutional law, or 4) the case involves an issue of significant statewide interest. Responding to Mr. Chelminiak, Mr. Hyde said he assumes the EBCC would argue that the case would be of significant statewide interest. However, Mr. Hyde said he does not believe that to be the case.

Mr. Chelminiak questioned what would happen if the matter went back to the EBCC now without further litigation. Mr. Hyde said that, if there is no appeal or the Supreme Court was not willing to accept the case, the EBCC would be required to pass a new resolution within 60 days of the final court action that is consistent with the Court of Appeals' ruling. The EBCC would be required to approve the conditional use permit (CUP) approved by the City Council.

Councilmember Wallace recalled that the City Council reviewed the CUP application based on the Hearing Examiner's record. Mr. Chelminiak noted that the Council may overturn a Hearing Examiner's decision only if it is determined to be not supported by substantial evidence. Otherwise, the Council is to give significant weight to the Hearing Examiner's decision.

Responding to Mr. Wallace, Mr. Hyde said the EBCC reviewed the same record and evidence as the City Council, but came to a different conclusion regarding the Hearing Examiner's decision. In further response to Mr. Wallace, Mr. Hyde said the Court of Appeals reviewed each of the EBCC's determinations from a factual standpoint based on the record and determined that each of the EBCC's findings were in error.

Councilmember Lee questioned the legal position of the EBCC's case. Mr. Hyde said the City Council has an obligation under the law to fund necessary expenses of the EBCC within its jurisdiction. However, the City Council makes a determination about whether requests are necessary expenses. Mr. Hyde said the City Council approved the CUP and is on the opposite side of the EBCC in this case. If the requested funds are provided to the EBCC, the City would have the opportunity to present a contrary position before the State Supreme Court.

In further response to Mr. Lee, Mr. Hyde said the City Council and EBCC disagree about the merits of the case. Mr. Hyde said the Supreme Court accepts a small percentage of the petitions for review. He said the EBCC's attorney has indicated she would need approximately \$7,000 to complete the petition for review.

Councilmember Robinson noted that the City Council serves all Bellevue residents. She questioned whether Mr. Hyde would advise the Council to provide the requested funds. Mr. Hyde said the decision is the Council's. In further response, Mr. Hyde said that, given that the City was successful in the appeal, as the attorney representing the City, he would be duty bound to support the City's position. The EBCC is represented by separate legal counsel. In further response, Mr. Hyde said that most of the petitions for review submitted to the State Supreme Court on civil matters, as opposed to criminal matters, are not accepted by the court.

→ Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to direct staff to prepare a resolution for Council action denying the East Bellevue Community Council's funding request for \$7,000 as necessary expenses to cover legal services. Councilmember Wallace seconded the motion.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak reiterated the Council's previous request over the years that the City Council not be involved in quasi-judicial matters.

Mr. Chelminiak said the genesis of the current City Code related to electrical facilities was the expansion of the Lochleven substation. He said PSE was not required to conduct a public process or to consider alternatives. At that time, the Council approved legislation designating electrical facilities as essential public facilities.

Mr. Chelminiak said PSE engaged the public with regard to the Lake Hills transmission line. However, PSE is not required to study alternatives based on public input. The Hearing Examiner made a decision, and the Court of Appeals has ruled in favor of PSE and the City as well. Mr. Chelminiak said there has been public discussion about the need for the project. He opined that there are significant studies indicating the need for the transmission line looping project. He noted that the City spent approximately \$300,000 for an electrical reliability study.

Mr. Chelminiak said the matter needs to move forward. He said mediation was offered with regard to the shoreline permit and focused on whether to move the alignment or to underground the transmission line. He said he has no problem, if undergrounding is desired by the EBCC, directing staff to find out how much it would cost the residents and businesses in the East Bellevue Community Council area to fund undergrounding through a local improvement district (LID). He said that is the appropriate process, and he said it is the EBCC that is requesting the underground option.

Mr. Chelminiak observed that it is fruitless to pursue the matter further. He said he wished the decision involved a geographic determination because if the EBCC denial prevailed, the EBCC could veto any essential public facility. Mr. Chelminiak said this is unfair and needs to be addressed under state law.

Councilmember Robertson spoke in favor of granting the funding request for State Supreme Court petition for review. She said the corridor affects more individuals than those living in the East Bellevue Community Council area. She said the City funded the land use appeal and Court of Appeals, and it would be worthwhile to fund the EBCC's petition to the State Supreme Court. She noted that the appeals judges wrote a comprehensive decision, but she feels the City owes it to Bellevue citizens to fund the next step toward a final decision. She said she would not support the motion.

Councilmember Wallace acknowledged that he likely would have chosen a different route based on the three alternatives studied. However, the matter came to the Council with a closed Hearing Examiner record. He said any alignment would require mitigation, and the Council's decision was based on the record. The EBCC determined that the Hearing Examiner decision was flawed, and the first judge ruled in its favor. However, the Court of Appeals overturned that ruling. Mr. Wallace opined that it is unlikely the State Supreme Court will accept the case, and he would like to move forward. He concurred with the interest in an alignment that does not use 148th Avenue. However, the Council cannot dictate alternatives.

Councilmember Robinson questioned whether there is a way for the EBCC to negotiate mitigation with Puget Sound Energy. Mr. Hyde said he was unable to answer that question.

Councilmember Lee said he typically defers to the public that the Council represents. He questioned the cost to the City and whether the City could help to reach a point in which a decision could be more clear. He said that Deputy Mayor Chelminiak and Councilmember Wallace raise good points regarding this matter. However, the City funded the EBCC's legal services up to this point and he is willing to provide an additional \$7,000.

Mayor Stokes observed that the Court of Appeals' legal opinion is strong, including with regard to precedence. He said the designation of urban boulevard does not legally preclude or prohibit the project. He said there have been suggestions about alternative alignments affecting other neighborhoods. However, he said the City needs to consider the overall benefits to the community. Mr. Stokes said the appeals court ruling is clearly based on facts and the law.

Mr. Lee expressed an interest in the estimated cost of undergrounding the project, if desired by property owners within the EBCC area. Mr. Chelminiak said Puget Sound Energy previously provided cost estimates.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 4-2, with Councilmembers Lee and Robertson dissenting.

(b) Bellevue College Master Plan Briefing

City Manager Brad Miyake introduced a presentation of the Bellevue College Campus Master Plan. He introduced Jill Wakefield, Interim President of Bellevue College; Ray White, Vice President of Administration, Bellevue College; and Brodie Bain, Perkins+Will.

Ms. Wakefield noted that the college is currently interviewing the semi-finalists for the new president. She thanked Mr. Miyake for the tour of Bellevue and an overview of the City

organization. She thanked Councilmember Robinson for meeting with her regarding common interests and how the college and City might work together. Ms. Wakefield said the Bellevue College Board of Trustees recently adopted the 30-year campus master plan.

Mr. White said Ms. Bain worked with the college on the master plan process over the past 18 months. He noted that current efforts are focused on 10-year planning. He said the master plan includes the flexibility for the potential development of the homeless shelter on adjacent property and does not include anything that would jeopardize the transportation connector project.

Mr. White said the plan reflects the natural topography of the campus and the college's expansion. He said the current parking lots are identified as future building sites. He noted that development over the next 30 years provides opportunities for sustainable infrastructure and iconic elements and views.

Ms. Bain described the current site map and the future layout reflected in the master plan. She said the existing buildings are internally focused to provide a strong courtyard feel and sense of place. She said the plan reflects a campus that is more accessible and welcoming to the broader community. She highlighted elements of the master plan, noting the challenge of parking and campus vehicle circulation. She commented on the goal of making the campus more visible from 148th Avenue. Mr. White said the long-term plan is to orient vehicle access to the edges of the campus and to focus on bike and pedestrian access throughout the center of the campus.

Ms. Bain said the master plan envisions partnerships with businesses and other colleges. She noted plans to recycle rainwater for watering the campus and to implement an efficient heat exchange system throughout campus and student housing.

Ms. Bain said the college plans to retain the stand of conifer trees on the south end of the campus. She described the zones identified on campus: academic, community partnership, service, housing, and athletics. She highlighted the 2016, 2026 and 2036 campus layouts. She described elements of the master plan that address community, social equity, identity, and natural systems.

Councilmember Robertson said this is an exciting plan, including the addition of student housing. She noted that students and visitors are currently using the Park and Ride lot when necessary, and she encouraged adequate parking on campus. She encouraged wayfinding improvements on campus. Responding to Ms. Robertson, Ms. Bain said the design envisions using the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) model on campus. Ms. Robertson suggested exploring systems used at other colleges that place security pillars throughout campus to request help and to speak to security personnel.

Responding to Councilmember Robinson, Mr. White identified properties that the college would like to acquire over time. He said the college is interested in acquiring properties at any time.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak noted the pending street vacation request and said he will be interested in understanding how student housing will interface on SE 24th Street. Mr. White said the first phase of student housing will provide 350-400 beds. Mr. White said the college intends to connect the roadway from SE 24th Street in the future. Mr. Chelminiak noted residents'

concerns about overflow parking into the neighborhood. Mr. White said that college representatives have talked to neighbors about the border, and most have indicated that they prefer pedestrian access onto campus versus a physical barrier. Mr. Chelminiak thanked him for the presentation.

Mayor Stokes thanked the guests for coming. Ms. Wakefield said the college wants to continue to work with the City and residents.

At 8:26 p.m., Mayor Stokes declared a short break. The meeting resumed at 8:34 p.m.

(c) Council Interviews for Filling Council Vacancy

Mayor Stokes said the City received 43 applications for the vacant Council position, and eight finalists were selected for interviews this evening. Each person will be allowed to speak for 10 minutes, with three minutes for an opening statement and seven minutes to reply to three questions previously provided to them: 1) What do you see as the role of a City Councilmember and 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 community and how would you address them?

Kyle Stannert, City Clerk, said names were drawn to determine the order of the candidate interviews.

1. Jared Nieuwenhuis said he is the son of Dutch immigrants and a first generation American. His parents taught him a strong work ethic and the importance of family and community. He said he believes in the Bellevue way, which is proactive and pragmatic with substantial citizen involvement. He said he lives in the Lake Hills area and he described his volunteer activities. He is a businessman in the technology sector who wants to see the economy continue to grow. He commented on the need to protect the character of single-family neighborhoods and to keep crime low. He said he understands the value of teamwork and of the community working together.

Mr. Nieuwenhuis said the role of a City Councilmember is to engage in collaborative leadership and a strategic approach to meet the needs of a growing, dynamic community. He said the Council must work effectively with City staff and residents. He noted the importance of being a good listener. With regard to the Council Vision, he is most excited about multimodal solutions to traffic congestion. He believes that homelessness will be a difficult issue to solve. He said it has always existed in Bellevue but it has become increasingly visible. He noted the need for a shelter while mitigating impacts and keeping the community safe. He said there is a need for a broader range of affordable housing as well. Mr. Nieuwenhuis said mobility must be a top priority, and projects should be implemented as quickly as possible to demonstrate congestion relief for the public. He said solutions to challenges need to fit the Bellevue community rather than mirror other cities' solutions. He expressed support for the Fire Facilities levy and Downtown fire station. However, he said it is important to protect surrounding property owners from noise and property value impacts. Mr. Nieuwenhuis said he would support

programs to reduce neighborhood crimes and to further invest in the effectiveness of the Police Department.

2. Stephanie Walter said she has lived and worked in Bellevue for nearly 30 years, and has benefitted from its parks, arts, schools, infrastructure, government, safety, utilities, mobility, businesses, medical facilities, and people. Ms. Walter said that, a few years ago, she organized neighbors to address the issue of individual room rentals. The City Council ultimately adopted an ordinance focused on the problem of transient room rentals. Ms. Walter said she is currently the Vice Chair of the Planning Commission. She would like to put her experience, work ethic, and fair-minded approach to work for Bellevue. She believes in open, frequent, and two-way communication to produce positive relationships and outcomes. She would look forward to collaborating with the Council, Boards, Commissions, City staff, and the public in a manner of respect and conviction to seek the best results. She noted that all of the applicants for the vacant Council position would serve Bellevue well. She would be honored to serve if selected by the Council.

Ms. Walter said the role of a City Councilmember is to develop the vision that balances diverse interests and stakeholders, appoint the City Manager, pass ordinances for the benefit of the community's safety and welfare, approve capital and operating budgets, appoint Board and Commission members, establish policies for the effective and efficient delivery of municipal services, develop goals and performance measures for City government, and to facilitate economic development. Performing the role well requires vision, energy, commitment, critical thinking, analytical ability, ability to listen to opposing points of view, ability to reconcile multiple interests, fairness, passion, and patience. She said all aspects of the Council Vision are important and difficult. However, the Vision item that excites her most is parks and open space. Ms. Walter said that is also the most difficult priority to maintain given the ongoing development. With regard to her top priorities, Ms. Walter noted infrastructure and mobility, public safety, sense of community, economic growth and stability, and aspirational items such as Meydenbauer Bay Park and the Tateuchi Center.

3. Janice Zahn said her family immigrated from Hong Kong in 1976. She recently completed a race and racism workshop that enlightened her further about the challenges for communities. She believes she can serve a minority majority city well. She leads a staff of more than 50 employees and is responsible for large construction management with the Port of Seattle. She currently serves on the Bellevue Transportation Commission and volunteers with The Sophia Way, PTA Board, and Girl Scouts. Ms. Zahn said she wants to work with the Council to make Bellevue even better. She is willing to work hard and has already launched her campaign for a City Council seat and raised \$15,000. She said her strengths include her collaborative leadership style, public contracting and construction knowledge, creative problem solving, drive for fiscal responsibility, and commitment to open government.

Ms. Zahn said the role of a Councilmember is to work collaboratively with the Council to set sound policy that aligns with the mission and strategic vision for the community. She said a Councilmember should lead with integrity and transparency. A Councilmember needs to be forward thinking without forgetting short-term impacts. She appreciates that

Councilmembers are accessible and approachable to the public. Ms. Zahn said it is essential to drive performance outcomes that are focused on the public. She thanked the Council for submitting the neighborhood transportation levy to the voters to support needed projects. She fully supported the levy and worked with Councilmember Robertson to write the Pro statement in the voters pamphlet. Ms. Zahn said she is most excited by the regional leadership and influence component of the Council Vision. Her experience with the Port of Seattle, national Transportation Research Board, and state Project Review Committee prepares her for regional collaboration. Ms. Zahn said she sees the biggest challenge and opportunity to be how the City implements the economic development targets while honoring transportation and mobility initiatives. She said it is essential that the City's decision-making process is open and transparent. She said it is important to evaluate how the vision of "diversity is our strength" is reflected in policies, investments, and priorities. Ms. Zahn said that balancing neighborhood livability and smart growth is the top issue facing the community. She encouraged continued efforts to strengthen transportation options, work with the school district, enhance parks, protect neighborhoods, and to improve the overall quality of life. She said solutions may involve partnerships with employers, business owners, developers, community leaders, nonprofit organizations, and residents. She noted the importance of increasing the affordable housing stock. Ms. Zahn said performance metrics are important as the City assesses the effective use of funds. She said she is inspired by the Council's leadership and would like to serve with them.

4. John deVadoss said he believes he has a debt to pay to society. He said his volunteer activities and serving on the Planning Commission are a way to give back to the community. He was born in India, grew up in East Africa (Tanzania), and came to the United States for graduate school.

Mr. deVadoss said a City Councilmember is a non-partisan role. Serving well requires an aspirational vision for the community, belief in the abilities and future of the community, and a commitment to timely results. He said the most exciting aspect of the Council Vision is economic development. Technology is changing every aspect of work and life, and Bellevue is in a unique position to be a leader in harnessing technology, investments, and innovation. Mr. deVadoss said that the biggest challenge is not one issue but the overall delivery of results in a timely fashion. He noted that the Downtown Livability Initiative over the past few years is a challenge in terms of the timely implementation of projects. Another example is the Vision Zero program adopted by the Council during the past year. He said the program was launched in Sweden 22 years ago. Mr. deVadoss said the challenge for the Council is aspirational vision, leadership, and delivering timely results. His top priorities include balancing strong, healthy neighborhoods with growth and transparency in government. He suggested developing a roadmap with every neighborhood to engage residents in planning. Mr. deVadoss said he prefers the word opportunity over challenge. He noted the strong list of Council candidates and said all would serve the community well. He believes he has value to add to the City Council.

5. Aaron Laing said he serves on the Planning Commission. He said his lifelong interest in serving the community was instilled in him by his mother. He is a member of a multi-

cultural family living in the Enatai neighborhood. He loves Bellevue and wants to see it continue to grow as an inclusive, vibrant, welcoming, and safe community. He would bring his same community first, collaborative approach on the Planning Commission to the City Council. He served as Co-Chair of the Downtown Livability Citizen Advisory Committee and has served on other community boards.

Mr. Laing said the role of a City Councilmember is to listen to the community and to work collaboratively with fellow Councilmembers to set policy to implement the community's vision. He said the value of a seven-member Council is the breadth of skills and diversity of experiences of its members. Performing the role well requires humility, a willingness to listen, preparedness, an open mind, and a willingness to act. He said the aspect of the Council Vision that excites him the most is the Grand Connection project. Once implemented, it will serve as a profound connection physically, socially and economically. Mr. Laing said he does not see items in the Vision as particularly difficult because the Council has organized the 20-year Vision into achievable components. The top issues for him are transportation mobility, housing affordability, and civic engagement of an increasingly diverse population. He has been a strong advocate of the multifamily tax exemption (MFTE) program targeted at encouraging affordable housing, and he was happy to see it endorsed by the Council. He said the elderly and families with young children are the most vulnerable in terms of housing affordability. He said there needs to be a strategy to allow older adults to age in place. He noted that older apartments tend to have more two-bedroom and larger units, while new apartments tend to be studios and one-bedroom units. Mr. Laing said mobility includes bikes and pedestrians. He said the City's tools to increase civic engagement, including outreach and education programs (e.g., Bellevue Essentials, Cultural Conversations) and the use of technology, are very important.

6. Ernie Simas noted his experience with the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce, Eastside Chambers Coalition, Bellevue Transportation Commission, and the Downtown Livability Citizen Advisory Committee. He understands the importance of everyone having a voice. He said it is important to keep the impacts to the entire community in mind when considering policies affecting the Downtown. He expressed support for the Council Vision, which embraces the future while respecting the past. He said Bellevue is a well-run city that will continue to grow. He said Bellevue's neighborhoods are integral to the community's character, culture and future. He said the Lake Hills Shopping Center redevelopment is a good example of the importance of promoting neighborhood character. Mr. Simas noted the importance of public safety and Bellevue's parks as well. He supports plans for a new Downtown fire station.

Mr. Simas said the role of a Councilmember is to reflect the needs and desires of the community, as well as to implement projects that might lack initial support but that the Council determines to be of long-term benefit to the community. The role of a Councilmember is to find solutions, work with others, and to have a strong understanding of budgeting and economics. He said Bellevue needs to maintain a robust business environment. It is important to listen to each other, and vigorous debate is healthy. The role of the Councilmember is to leave the city better over time. Mr. Simas said his philosophy is to listen to others and, when disagreements occur, to reevaluate his

position. Mr. Simas said the item in the Council Vision that excites him the most and will be the most difficult to implement is mobility and infrastructure. The top three priorities for Bellevue are mobility, preparing for the future, and continuing to make Bellevue and the region the most desirable place to be for businesses and families. He said the City needs to continue to advocate for a full interchange at SR 520 and 124th Avenue and for improvements to the I-405/SR 520 interchange. He said the City needs to continue to think about technology and innovation, and the role it will play in future transportation modes (e.g., autonomous vehicles). He said energy technology will continue to change as well. Mr. Simas said zoning is important as density increases through development and redevelopment. He said the Eastside and the region need to maintain a robust bus system, even with the implementation of light rail. He is an optimist by nature and believes he would be an asset on the Council.

- At approximately 9:50 p.m., Councilmember Robertson moved to extend the meeting to 10:30 p.m. Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.
 - The motion carried by a vote of 5-0, with Councilmember Robinson temporarily away from the table.
7. Grant Degginger said he has lived in Bellevue since 1982. He spent seven years on the Planning Commission and served on the City Council, including as Deputy Mayor and two terms as Mayor. He said Bellevue continues to be a success story with its diversity, high achievement in schools, strong economy, and valuable City services for a community with high standards. As a Councilmember, he worked on issues related to securing a long-term water supply for Bellevue, building a coalition to support the completion of the SR 520 bridge project on the Eastside, supporting the electrical reliability study, planning the new City Hall, and advocating for light rail and expanded bus transit serving the Eastside.

Mr. Degginger said the role of a City Councilmember is to be a leader in the community who helps shape, guide, and deliver a strong quality of life. A Councilmember must be a problem solver, policy maker, and advocate for Bellevue in the region and nation. Ideal skills for a Councilmember include setting a vision and direction for the community, and bringing people along with that vision. He said a Councilmember must be willing to take actions for the long term (e.g., acquiring land for the future Meydenbauer Bay Park). Other important qualities include empathy, listening, good judgment, fairness, and making fact-based decisions. Mr. Degginger said it is important to be collaborative and to respect all views in building consensus within the Council and the community. It is also important to have the humility and interest in finding solutions without concern about who receives the credit. Mr. Degginger said the project that excites him the most is the Grand Connection, which will be transformative for Bellevue and a signature feature. He commended the Council for placing the neighborhood transportation levy before the voters. He noted the need to address Eastgate area traffic congestion on both sides of I-90 and to provide sidewalks and other connections that improve school safety. Mr. Degginger sees the top priorities as transportation, affordable housing, embracing diversity as an asset, and economic development. He said the City can bring people of

different cultures and backgrounds together and promote civic engagement. He believes his previous service on the City Council and knowledge of current issues would be helpful in assisting the Council to complete its impressive work plan.

8. Scott Lampe noted his service on the Bellevue Transportation Commission and the East Main Station Area Planning Citizen Advisory Committee. He described his experience tutoring a Hispanic student who later became the first person in his family to go to college. He shared a story about a Chinese immigrant from Tibet who became a friend, started his own business, and later brought his family to the United States. He said these examples capture the best of Bellevue's multicultural development and illustrate how Bellevue offers opportunities for everyone.

Mr. Lampe said the role of a Councilmember is being part of a body that sets the vision, establishes measurable goals, and provides policy direction to ensure the efficient and effective delivery of a broad range of municipal services. A Councilmember must possess a keen sense of judgment and the ability to balance competing objectives. Mr. Lampe described his experience working to balance the goal of optimizing transit-oriented development near the light rail East Main Station with the interest in maintaining a view corridor from City Hall of Mount Rainier. He noted his lengthy involvement with East Link light rail planning on behalf of his neighborhood. He said it is important to be able to understand the motivations of multiple parties, weigh options based on facts, and to think about the long-term benefits. Mr. Lampe said he was appointed to the Sound Transit Citizen Oversight Panel, which provided the opportunity to work collaboratively despite broad disagreement. Mr. Lampe said a Councilmember also serves as an ambassador for the City and must be able to develop relationships locally and regionally. With regard to the Council Vision, Mr. Lampe said he is most excited about the goal of achieving human potential. He recently visited the men's homeless shelter east of I-405 and was pleased to see a well-functioning facility. However, he is aware of the challenges related to siting a new facility currently proposed for the Eastgate area. He believes the most difficult area of the Vision to implement is transportation and mobility. He said regional cooperation is essential to address the issue of affordable housing. Mr. Lampe said his history of community involvement, understanding of the issues facing the City, and attention to the diversity of citizens, prepare him to serve on the City Council.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak said he would like the opportunity for Councilmembers to follow up with the candidates over the phone to ask additional questions.

Deputy City Attorney Bob Hyde said the statute governing the appointment of individuals to otherwise elected positions requires that interviews of candidates take place in a public session. Speaking with the candidates outside of a Council meeting would violate the Open Public Meetings Act.

6. Council Discussion of Upcoming Items: None.
7. Continued Oral Communications: None.

8. Executive Session

At 10:10 p.m., Mayor Stokes declared recess to Executive Session for approximately 20 minutes to discuss and evaluate the qualifications of candidates for appointment to elective office.

At 10:30 p.m., City Clerk Kyle Stannert announced that the Executive Session would be extended by 10 minutes.

At 10:40 p.m., Mr. Stannert announced that the Executive Session had been extended to 11:00 p.m., and the meeting would be adjourned upon completion of the session.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Kyle Stannert, CMC
City Clerk

/kaw