

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Session

March 6, 2017
8:00 p.m.

Council Chamber
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Stokes and Councilmembers Lee, Robertson, and Robinson

ABSENT: Deputy Mayor Chelminiak and Councilmember Wallace

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 p.m., with Mayor Stokes presiding.

2. Roll Call, Flag Salute

All Councilmembers except Deputy Mayor Chelminiak and Councilmember Wallace were present. Councilmember Robinson led the flag salute.

Mayor Stokes said the Council would not be addressing the selection of an individual to fill the vacant Council seat this evening due to the absence of two Councilmembers.

3. Approval of Agenda

→ Councilmember Robertson moved to approve the agenda, and Councilmember Robinson seconded the motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

4. Communications: Written and Oral

- (a) Paul Brallier commented on the Downtown Fire Station site alternatives. He said the Fire Department conducted studies in 2008 and 2014, and both cited the need for a fire station in the downtown business core. He said that was the last time there was any information released to the public on the studies. He believes there are flaws in the selection criteria. He said the potential collapse of freeway bridges was used as a criteria in locating the station on the west side of I-405. However, he has not seen any analysis to support that criteria. Mr. Brallier said there are multiple bridges over I-405. He opined that the location does not meet the target response time of three minutes to high-rise buildings.

He would like to see a traffic analysis of potential fire station locations on the east side of I-405, which he believe would provide better response times for the Downtown.

- (b) Betina Finley presented photos of old growth trees, a park, and wetlands adjacent to the location selected for Fire Station 10. She said residents have worked with the City over the past 65 years to protect single-family housing in the surrounding neighborhood. She suggested there are three better site alternatives with quicker response times to the Downtown core and the BelRed corridor, including the City-owned Lincoln Center site. She said there was no discussion about alternatives in the Wilburton area during the earlier Study Session. She asked the Council to not place the fire station in the Northtowne neighborhood and to consider locations that will better serve the Downtown and areas of growth to the east and south.
- (c) Susan Wampler said Mayor Stokes commented during the November 14, 2016 Council meeting that he wanted to assure the public that Bellevue is committed to protecting and serving everyone in the community. He encouraged the public to contact City staff or the Police if they are feeling unsafe or need help. Ms. Wampler expressed concern that the fire station plan that takes several homes of long-term residents. She said residents do not want the fire station in their backyards. She asked the Council to consider other locations.
- (d) Pamela Johnson said she watched the last discussion to fill the vacant Council position. She said there are some great candidates. However, Aaron Laing stands out above the rest in terms of his interest in protecting the neighborhoods. Ms. Johnson introduced JD Yu and Don Marsh, who concur with Ms. Johnson's support of Mr. Laing.
- (e) Heidi Dean, a Newport Hills resident, said she was in attendance with Joe Pham from the Monthaven area and Warren Halverson from the Bridle Trails neighborhood. She said they support Aaron Laing to fill the vacant Council position. She said all of the candidates are impressive and have a broad range of professional and civic experience. However, Mr. Laing is someone that the majority of neighbors support. She said he is thoughtful and takes an analytical approach to solving problems, and his family represents the diversity of Bellevue. She said his professional background would serve the community well.
- (f) Steve O'Donnell, a Somerset resident, addressed the Council candidates. He said there were different opinions among residents in discussing the candidates. However, everyone felt they could support Aaron Laing. He urged the Council to come together and support Mr. Laing. He introduced Sally Mccray from the Downtown business owners community and Reggie John from the Sherwood neighborhood, who support Mr. Laing as well.
- (g) Tom Kussy expressed concerns about the men's homeless shelter proposed for the Eastgate area. He said the homeless are portrayed as victims of bad circumstances and that is probably mostly true. However, if that is true, he questioned the need for a low barrier shelter. He questioned whether it is fair to expose the majority of shelter clients to others who may be mentally ill or have addiction problems. He said that, even if the residents are well behaved in the shelter, they may engage in negative behavior outside of

the shelter. He said he understands that the low barrier model is a funding requirement. However, he expressed concern that the shelter is being pushed onto the community. He asked the Council to consider the impacts to families, residents, commuters, and students. He noted the need for a plan that works for everyone in terms of safety and security.

- (h) Lisa Leitner left binders of information, which she would like the Council to review. She noted meeting minutes and other documents in the binders regarding the selection of a location for the homeless shelter. She expressed concern that the community was not involved in early 2016 when the site selection was finalized. She said City staff originally listed concerns that the public is now voicing. Ms. Leitner said she has not heard of any developer offering land or of any residents wanting the shelter in their neighborhood. She said Bellevue is a community that wants to help others, which is evidenced by the response to the recent mosque fire. She requested respect from the City's leaders in working with residents regarding the homeless shelter.
- (i) Julia Tai said she lives near the proposed Eastgate shelter site. She recently heard that the City is forming a citizens advisory committee to address the low-barrier shelter. If correct, she would like to know the: 1) scope of responsibility for the CAC, 2) list of members, 3) recommendations sought by the Council, and 4) deadline for the CAC's recommendations. She requested a response via the City's public communications, www.Nextdoor.com, the City's web site, and/or a City news release.
- (j) Kathryn Jacoby, Imagine Housing, encouraged approval of the Eastgate men's homeless shelter. She said it is a good location near transit and other services. She said the community's fears are unsupported by data, and there are already homeless people in Bellevue. She said the Police report no increase in crime around the current shelter. She said no one deserves to be homeless. She thanked the Council for its willingness to invest time in making the right decision.

5. Reports of Community Council, Boards and Commissions

Nathan Relyea, President of the Teen Advisory Board, Bellevue Youth Theatre, introduced himself, and Ellen Gorbach introduced herself as the Board's Vice President. She handed out bookmarks listing the theatre's upcoming productions. Nathan said their annual benefit raised more than \$45,000. Ellen thanked Councilmembers Lee and Robinson for their attendance and donations. Nathan said the theatre received \$50,000 presented by King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci to complete the video wall at the new facility. He thanked the City and other donors for their ongoing support, and a group of students sang a song.

Members of the Bellevue Youth Link Board introduced themselves and invited the Council to the annual Gumbo Night. They provided an update on Youth Link activities, including the winter coat drive for children. They described their primary objectives for 2017 focused on youth homelessness, career planning and mentorship, and equity. They anticipate engaging in partnerships to better understand the equity issues affecting youth in the community. Additional priorities include tutoring programs, bullying prevention, sidewalks/paths, mental illness services for students, and adult knowledge classes (e.g., how to complete tax forms and other life skills).

They said students have indicated they would like more access and information regarding mental health services, more drug awareness information, and increased access to mental health counseling. The group thanked the City for its ongoing support.

Mayor Stokes thanked Helena Stephens for her longtime work with Bellevue Youth Link. He said the Council will be interested in their work to address youth homelessness as the Council addresses homelessness and affordable housing.

6. Report of the City Manager: None.

7. Council Business and New Initiatives

(a) Presentation by Sammamish High School Teacher and Students

Councilmember Robinson welcomed Sarah Beckerman, a teacher from Sammamish High School, and three of her students to present information on a class project. The youths described their project to raise awareness of mental health issues. They reported that many young people in juvenile jails and homeless shelters suffer from mental illness. The students' project is focused on four goals: 1) work with the Police to understand how to better deal with the mentally ill, 2) work with teachers to help them become better able to accommodate mental illness, 3) remove the stigma of mental illness, and 4) provide more resources to mentally ill youth and help to make them feel more welcome and comfortable.

Councilmember Robinson thanked them for coming to talk about their important project. Mayor Stokes said their input will be helpful in addressing homelessness, affordable housing, and related issues.

(b) Update on Council Selection Process

[Postponed.]

8. Consent Calendar

Mayor Stokes highlighted Agenda Item 8(j) approving the construction contract for Phase 1 of Meydenbauer Bay Park, which will be a great asset for the community.

→ Councilmember Robertson moved to approve the Consent Calendar, and Councilmember Robinson seconded the motion.

→ The motion to approve the Consent Calendar carried by a vote of 4-0, and the following items were approved:

(a) Council Minutes:

Minutes of February 13, 2017 Extended Study Session

Minutes of February 21, 2017 Study Session

Minutes of February 21, 2017 Regular Session

- (b) Resolution No. 9226 authorizing execution of a Schedule 74 Underground Conversion Project Construction Agreement with Puget Sound Energy for the 124th Avenue NE - NE Spring Blvd to NE 18th Street (aka Ichigo Way) Project (PW-R-166).
- (c) Resolution No. 9236 authorizing execution of an Interlocal Agreement with King County to accept \$361,587 in grant reimbursement funds from the 2017-2018 King County Solid Waste Division Waste Reduction and Recycling Program Grant to implement waste reduction and recycling programs; and to appropriate unanticipated and future revenues to the Solid Waste Fund; and authorizing expenditures of said grant funds.
- (d) Resolution No. 9237 authorizing: 1) termination of a \$500,000 State of Washington Recreation Conservation Office (RCO) Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) funded Grant Agreement; and 2) execution of a \$1,000,000 RCO Grant Agreement with combined WWRP and Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) funding for the construction of Inspiration Playground in Downtown Park.
- (e) Resolution No. 9238 authorizing execution of a professional services agreement with Murray, Smith & Associates, Inc. for engineering services, for the Meydenbauer Bay Park Sewer Line Replacement project - services during Construction, in the amount of \$179,482 (CIP Plan No. S-69).
- (f) Resolution No. 9239 authorizing execution of an amendment to the Agreement for Professional Services with Pacifica Law Group LLP, outside counsel for the City with regard to the acquisition of properties needed for the Transportation CIP project involving the expansion of 124th Ave. NE. in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.00.
- (g) Resolution No. 9240 authorizing execution of a professional services contract with Reid Middleton, Inc. to provide structural plan review services in an amount not to exceed \$400,000.
- (h) Resolution No. 9241 authorizing execution of a professional services contract with Lani O'Connor to provide building code plan review services in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.
- (i) Resolution No. 9242 authorizing execution of a professional services contract with Hart Crowser to provide geotechnical and structural peer review services for shoring installations in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.
- (j) Resolution No. 9243 authorizing execution of a contract with IMCO General Construction to construct the Meydenbauer Bay Park Phase 1 project, in an amount not to exceed a total contract value of \$14,589,500.79.

9. Public Hearings: None.
10. Land Use: None.
11. Other Ordinances, Resolutions and Motions: None.
12. Unfinished Business: None.
13. Continued Oral Communications

Betsi Hummer thanked the Council for considering, what she calls, the Michelle Wannamaker Eastgate traffic relief project. She expressed appreciation for Ms. Wannamaker's advocacy before the Transportation Commission. Ms. Hummer said she appreciated Councilmember Robertson's suggestion during the earlier Study Session to use funds from the Bellevue College street vacation compensation fee for transportation projects. Ms. Hummer noted that college traffic impacts the adjacent interchange, and college employees and students are inconvenienced by the traffic as well.

14. New Business: None.
15. Executive Session: None.
16. Adjournment

At 8:50 p.m., Mayor Stokes declared the meeting adjourned.

Kyle Stannert, CMC
City Clerk

/kaw