

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Session

March 20, 2017
8:00 p.m.

Council Chamber
Bellevue, Washington

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

ABSENT: None.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 p.m., with Mayor Stokes presiding.

2. Roll Call, Flag Salute

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

3. Approval of Agenda

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak suggested moving Agenda Item 7, Council Business, to occur following Agenda Item 8, Consent Calendar.

→ Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to approve the agenda, as amended. Councilmember Wallace seconded the motion.

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

4. Communications: Written and Oral

- (a) Jack McCullough noted that he was speaking on behalf of the owner of the Lincoln Executive Center. Representatives of the company attended every meeting of the Eastgate/I-90 Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and worked closely with the CAC in developing the land use plan, particularly the transit-oriented development (TOD) location. He expressed support for the proposed Eastgate Land Use Code Amendment (LUCA) discussed during the earlier Study Session. Mr. McCullough said his client will submit a master development plan that includes office, high-rise residential, pedestrian amenities, retail, and other improvements. He proposed completing the redevelopment in phases: 1) office and structured parking, 2) pedestrian amenities and retail businesses,

and 3) residential development. Mr. McCullough distributed copies of a letter he sent last fall. He said the developer does not want to be forced into providing residential development too early in the process.

- (b) Matt Dykstra said he recently met with his neighbors who live in Harmony at Madrona Park. Residents are in favor of helping the homeless but are opposed to placing a low barrier shelter in the Eastgate residential area. He expressed concern about exposing residents and children to unsafe elements. He said the owners of the Harmony's 116 units voted unanimously to ask the City to take the time to evaluate the best location for the shelter.
- (c) Terry Lemke spoke in support of the Eastgate homeless men's shelter and congratulated the City Council for being proactive on the issue of homelessness. He volunteers with Congregations for the Homeless (CFH), which does a good job of screening its residents. He said he is not aware of any security issues at any of the churches involved with CFH in helping the homeless. He said helping others is the right thing to do.
- (d) Jim Young said he previously served on the Bellevue Transportation Commission and as a member and Board Chair for Congregations for the Homeless. He said Imagine Housing and CFH are experts in dealing with homelessness on the Eastside. He encouraged the City to move forward with the process of finding an appropriate location. He said there needs to be a place for homeless men to be helped.
- (e) David Bowling spoke in support of the Eastgate homeless shelter. He thanked the Council for working to determine the best place to site the shelter. He said shelters are a place for men to begin transitioning out of homelessness. Mr. Bowling said he cares about the safety of this community and helping those in need. He thanked everyone in the community for their input and research.
- (f) Karen Morris said she has been involved in advocating for homeless services before the state legislature. She said she has not seen signs of the regional cooperation that is often cited. She would like more information on the extent of regional cooperation and what it entails. On the local level, she said public meetings were held too early in the process when little information was presented or made available. She noted that the statistics presented related to Congregations for the Homeless were for a different program than the one proposed for Bellevue. She requested that the correct information be made available to the public, and she hopes it will be included in the upcoming report. Noting her background in statistics, she observed that the public safety statistics provided have been too general. Ms. Morris said she has lived near a homeless encampment numerous times. She said volunteers at the shelter do not see the daily behavior and impacts in the adjacent neighborhood.
- (g) Linda Nohavec referred to the Eastgate Land Use Code Amendment and the land use classification matrix that outlines the new residential districts. She said Items 13 and 15 list hotels, motels and transient lodging as a permitted use in the OLB (Office-Limited Business) zoning. She observed that the public is not aware that the City has defined

homeless shelters to fall within that category. Ms. Nohavec opined that the City has never adopted standards or a definition for “shelter” or “homeless shelter.” She said the terms are defined in Seattle’s code. She expressed concern that shelters will be permitted without a public process. She asserted that City staff has made mistakes in other zoning situations. She noted a Police Department internal memo dated 3/2/2016 that references the men’s low barrier shelter. She said the memo contradicts much of the information conveyed by Police during the public meeting.

- (h) Pamela Johnston recalled the adoption of the Bridle Trails tree code in 2006. She said the Board of the Bridle Trails Community Club recommends that the City create an urban forest master plan that outlines the strategy for how Bellevue will meet its goal of maintaining a 40-percent tree canopy. She read comments of support from letters submitted by individual residents.

Mayor Stokes said he would like the City Manager and Council to address the comments that staff has not provided full and accurate information regarding the shelter. Councilmember Wallace noted that the table mentioned by Ms. Nohavec refers to a note stating that transient lodging is a conditional use. However, he suggested clarifying the table, perhaps by adding shelter as a specific use.

5. Reports of Community Council, Boards and Commissions

(a) Bellevue Library Advisory Board Report

Councilmember Robertson, Council liaison to the Bellevue Library Advisory Board, said the Board provides input and advice about Bellevue libraries to the King County Library Board. Ms. Robertson introduced Bellevue Library Board President Chad Davis, Board Member Cris Dreher, and Debra Westwood from the King County Library System (KCLS).

Mr. Davis said the objectives of the Bellevue Library Advisory Board are to create dialogue, provide insights, and raise awareness. He said Bellevue libraries offer programs focused on priority issues such as education, community, diversity, changing demographics, and economic empowerment. Every student in the Bellevue School District has access, through their student identifications cards, to the KCLS’s extensive digital materials. The Study Zone and Tutor.com programs offer free tutoring and homework help, both in person and online. The libraries offer citizenship classes, classes for English-language learners, world language storytime for children in a number of languages, and many other programs.

Mr. Davis said the KCLS partners with business organizations, arts programs, and other types of organizations. He said the Bellevue Friends of the Library and the Newport Way Library Association provide volunteers and monetary contributions to library programs. He invited everyone to visit the Newport Way Library to see the new artwork that was recently purchased.

Mr. Davis said library usage in Bellevue is high with 2.5 million items checked out in 2016, which does not include digital resources. There were nearly 1.5 million visitors to the libraries in 2016, and 60,000 individuals participated in library programs. Mr. Davis noted that the issues of

homelessness, drug use, and mental illness are a challenge for a public institution that is trying to serve all people. He said the libraries receive good support from the Bellevue Police Department. Mr. Davis noted that parking at the library is a challenge as well, especially with the recent opening of the KidsQuest Museum.

Mr. Davis said the KCLS is developing a new three- to five-year strategic plan and is soliciting public input on its website. He said the Bellevue Library Board will have three openings with terms beginning in June, and he encouraged interested individuals to apply.

Mayor Stokes thanked Mr. Davis for the update and said the libraries are an amazing asset for the community.

Responding to Councilmember Robinson, Ms. Westwood said the Newport Way art piece was commissioned in honor of a former president of the Newport Way Library Association. Her family participated in choosing the art, which was privately funded.

Councilmember Robertson thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. She thanked the Bellevue Library Board for their work as a liaison between the community and the KCLS. She encouraged the public to visit the City's website for information on the Boards and Commissions, including vacant positions.

Councilmember Lee expressed appreciation for the library's support of community events. He said the libraries provide gathering places and activities throughout Bellevue.

6. Report of the City Manager: None.

[Agenda revision]

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 Minutes:

Minutes of February 27, 2017 Extended Study Session

Minutes of March 6, 2017 Study Session

Minutes of March 6, 2017 Regular Session

(b) Resolution No. 9244 authorizing execution of a Professional Services Contract with SAFEbuilt to provide building code plan review services in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.

- (c) Resolution No. 9245 authorizing execution of a Professional Services Contract with Kolke Consulting Group, Inc. to provide On-Call Plan Review Services in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.
- (d) Resolution No. 9246 authorizing execution of a Professional Services Contract with BHC Consultants to provide On-Call Plan Review Services in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.
- (e) Resolution No. 9247 authorizing execution of a Professional Services Contract with Golder Associates, Inc. to provide On-Call Plan Review Services in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.
- (f) Initiating a Comprehensive Plan Amendment proposal into the 2017 CPA work program, under *LUC 20.30I.B.1.a*, for Complete Streets policies within the Transportation Element, as recommended by the Transportation Commission. Under *LUC 20.30I.B.1.b*, amendment proposals initiated by Council will be reviewed by the Planning Commission and acted upon by Council.
- (g) Ordinance No. 6347: 1) authorizing execution of a grant agreement (and supplements if necessary) with the Washington State Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) to accept up to \$500,000 in state Complete Streets funding to support construction of pedestrian and transit access improvements at the intersection of 106th Avenue NE and NE 6th Street; 2) amending the 2017-2018 General Capital Investment Program (CIP) Fund to increase the appropriation by \$500,000; and, 3) amending the 2017-2023 CIP Plan to increase the project budget for the Downtown Transportation Plan/NE 6th Street Station Access project (CIP Plan No. PW-R-182) by \$500,000.
- (h) Resolution No. 9248 authorizing execution of a Professional Services On-Call Agreement with Gimmel, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$160,000, plus all applicable taxes, for on-call professional and technical services for GimmelSoft Governance Suite installation and configuration, and SharePoint records center consultation and enhancement projects.
- (i) Ordinance No. 6348 amending the 2017-2023 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan to authorize a budget transfer of \$100,000 from the Interlocal Council Contingency project (CIP Plan No. G-106) to the East Link Analysis and Development project (CIP Plan No. PW-R-159).
- (j) Motion to approve payment of claims and payroll for the period February 1, 2017 through February 28, 2017.

7. Council Business and New Initiatives

- (a) Update on Council Selection Process

Mayor Stokes introduced discussion of the Council selection process, noting that the Council did not have all members present during the previous two meetings. He announced that John deVadoss withdrew from consideration and expressed his preference to continue serving on the Planning Commission.

Mr. Stokes said 43 individuals originally applied for the Council vacancy, which the Council narrowed to eight finalists. It was an impressive pool of candidates, including current Board and Commission members, and has been a difficult decision process for the Council.

Mayor Stokes spoke in support of Transportation Commission Chair Janice Zahn, who has an extensive background in transportation issues and represents the cultural diversity in the community. Mr. Stokes also expressed support for Ernie Simas, a former Transportation Commission Chair who is active in the community, an immigrant from Mexico, and thoughtful and deliberate in his public service roles.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak provided an analysis of the candidates. With regard to Aaron Laing and Janice Zahn, he does not see getting beyond three Council votes. He noted his ongoing support for Grant Degginger, a former Councilmember and Mayor who was supported by public votes. Mr. Chelminiak said it is important to reach a consensus, preferably beyond four votes of support, and he therefore supports Ernie Simas. Mr. Chelminiak said it is time to have a full Council working on behalf of citizens. He noted Mr. Simas' involvement on the Transportation Commission, work with the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce, community involvement, and experience as a small business owner.

Councilmember Robertson recalled that she voted for Aaron Laing and John deVadoss in the earlier voting session. She presented a map of Bellevue indicating where current Councilmembers reside and commented on the importance of geographic diversity on the Council. She has a similar interest when the Council appoints residents to Boards and Commissions.

Ms. Robertson said Aaron Laing is a former Planning Commission Chair and former Co-Chair of the Downtown Livability Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), married to an immigrant, and lives in an area of the city where there is not a Councilmember. She believes he is an excellent candidate. However, she does not anticipate a Council majority vote in his favor. She said she strongly supported John deVadoss, who is an immigrant and very smart with a technology background. However, he decided to continue on the Planning Commission. Ms. Robertson said Jared Nieuwenhuis lives in Lake Hills, serves on the Parks and Community Services Board, has a technology background, and is active in business and community organizations. She noted he was born in Canada and immigrated to the United States.

Ms. Robertson said Ernie Simas has a long history of commitment to Bellevue. He was Co-Chair of the Downtown Livability CAC, served on the Transportation Commission for eight years, and now serves on the Civil Service Commission. He is an immigrant and has been very involved with the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Robertson said Mr. Simas is knowledgeable about issues affecting the community and would make an excellent Councilmember.

Councilmember Robertson said Stephanie Walter is currently Vice Chair of the Planning Commission, a neighborhood activist, and the only woman of the six candidates who live outside of the areas that currently have Councilmembers. Ms. Robertson said Ms. Walter has a strong attention to detail and would make a good Councilmember as well.

Ms. Robertson said Scott Lampe serves on the Transportation Commission, lives in the Surrey Downs neighborhood, and serves on the Sound Transit oversight panel. He has served the community well in a number of roles.

Councilmember Robinson said all of the candidates are excellent and this is a difficult decision for the Council. She commented on her interest in selecting a person who is the most knowledgeable of the City organization and the community. She expressed a preference for Janice Zahn due to her overall experience and expertise and her service on the Transportation Commission. Noting that Ms. Zahn is not likely to receive four votes by the Council, Ms. Robinson expressed support for Ernie Simas, who is very smart, pleasant to work with, and who has proven to be a strong representative for the community.

Councilmember Wallace said he is happy to see the Council moving toward a consensus.

Councilmember Lee concurred with his colleagues that all eight candidates are well qualified. He noted his criteria of experience and representation. He said he originally supported Aaron Laing and John deVadoss. However, if a majority of the Council agrees, his preference is Jared Nieuwenhuis. Mr. Lee noted that Mr. Simas has done a good job on the Transportation Commission, including as Commission Chair and as Co-Chair of the Downtown Livability CAC.

City Clerk Kyle Stannert reminded the Council of the voting process. The ballot lists all of the finalists, and the Mayor will publicly read the votes.

Mayor Stokes announced five votes for Ernie Simas and one vote by Councilmember Lee for Jared Nieuwenhuis.

Councilmember Lee expressed, despite his vote, his support for Mr. Simas.

Mayor Stokes acknowledged the differences in opinions on the Council. He said the Council looks forward to working with Mr. Simas. Mr. Stokes noted that the Councilmembers worked well together and respected each other through this process.

Mr. Stokes said he is pleased that Mr. deVadoss will continue to serve on the Planning Commission, which has a demanding work program.

City Clerk Stannert said he will check on the availability of King County Superior Court Judge Brian Gain to conduct the swearing in, as he has in the past.

9. Public Hearings: None.

10. Land Use: None.

11. Other Ordinances, Resolutions and Motions: None.

12. Unfinished Business: None.

13. Continued Oral Communications

- (a) Pamela Johnston suggested developing a citywide plan for maintaining the tree canopy, and later developing more tailored neighborhood plans as time allows.

Mayor Stokes said the Council has discussed the tree canopy topic, and Councilmember Robinson continues to express a particular interest in addressing the issue. Mr. Stokes said there are approximately 1.4 million trees in Bellevue. However, he acknowledged that the tree canopy has fallen below the 40-percent threshold. He concurred with the idea for neighborhood plans, noting that different areas have different interests with regard to trees and views.

- (b) Jonathan Lee said he appreciates the interest in diversity on the Council with regard to age, race, gender, and geographic representation. He said he lives in the immediate vicinity of the proposed Eastgate homeless shelter and is not opposed to a shelter in the area. However, he suggested that shelters should not be exclusively targeted for less wealthy neighborhoods. He would like the adjacent community to come together to help the residents of the homeless shelter. He suggested it would lessen the potential for crime by shelter residents if they feel some connection to the neighborhood. He cited a program in Detroit that helped to reduce the number of young people in gangs by rewarding them every time they did something positive, such as paying fines or obtaining a license.

14. New Business: None.

15. Executive Session: None.

16. Adjournment

At 9:26 p.m., Mayor Stokes declared the meeting adjourned.

Kyle Stannert, CMC
City Clerk

/kaw