

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Session

October 16, 2017
8:00 p.m.

Council Chamber
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Stokes, Deputy Mayor Chelminiak, and Councilmembers Lee, Robertson, Robinson, Simas, and Wallace¹

ABSENT: None.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:08 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 moved to approve the agenda, and Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.

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

4. Communications: Written and Oral

(a) Pamela Johnston questioned whether the planning for the homeless shelter is focused on the site or on the program. She asked the City to clarify the focus and purpose of upcoming discussions about the homeless shelter project. She would prefer to see a primary focus on the program before choosing the site that best fits the program.

(b) Mark Oppfelt recalled that one year ago, he presented the Council with a list of 139 signatures encouraging the City to study and improve pedestrian safety along 100th Avenue NE. Since that time he has been working with City employees Chris Long, John

¹ Councilmember Wallace left the meeting at 9:03 p.m.

Murphy, Rick Drozdowski, Rebecca Rodni, and Karen Gonzalez. Mr. Oppfelt thanked the Council for hearing his concerns and for allocating the resources to study the area. He thanked City staff and said he looks forward to developing a pedestrian safety plan for 100th Avenue NE.

- (c) Melissa Harp thanked Councilmember Wallace for his proposal to consider siting the homeless shelter and supportive housing project at Sound Transit's Operations and Maintenance Facility East (OMFE) in the BelRed corridor. She said the proposal includes all of the elements identified by City staff and Congregations for the Homeless including proximity to transit and medical services, City-owned property, and easily patrolled. She opined that Deputy Mayor Chelminiak and Councilmember Robinson have determined that the Eastgate site is the selected location. Ms. Harp said the shelter, along with modern office and residential uses on the site, could be developed with prudent mitigation and landscaping. She said placing the shelter at the OMFE site is consistent with the transit-oriented development (TOD) vision for the BelRed corridor. She encouraged the City to develop the proposal with a full public process.

5. Reports of Community Council, Boards and Commissions

(a) Report from East Bellevue Community Council

East Bellevue Community Council (EBCC) Chair Bill Capron commented on the homeless shelter project. He said the EBCC has heard concerns regarding public safety and the proximity of the shelter to Bellevue College and the Park and Ride facility. He said that homeless individuals are not bad people, but rather down on their luck. He suggested that many have addiction problems that have contributed to their becoming homeless. He said it is important to locate shelters near access to transportation, social services, and education. Mr. Capron said government has an appropriate role to help people.

Mr. Capron commented on safe injection sites. He noted the EBCC discussion earlier in the month regarding the prospect of a permanent ban on safe injection sites. He said the EBCC supported the interim official control. However, the EBCC would not like to see a permanent ban. He said elected officials must serve the most vulnerable populations. He noted that his daughter worked for Starbucks and regularly found needles in the restrooms.

Mr. Capron said he does not support separate safe injection facilities, but he suggested they could be located at Fire Stations with paramedics, hospitals, urgent care clinics, pharmacies, and other sites. He supports the development of treatment programs as well. He asked Councilmembers to think about the people they were elected to serve.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak noted the memo from Mr. Capron regarding safe injection sites. Mr. Chelminiak said there was some confusion about whether it reflects Mr. Capron's perspective or the position of the entire EBCC. Mr. Chelminiak questioned whether the EBCC supports preserving the potential for future safe injection sites.

Mr. Capron said the EBCC voted to support the interim prohibition on safe injection sites, which was followed by a discussion regarding a permanent ban. He said that East Bellevue Community Councilmembers agreed to less than a permanent ban. Mr. Capron noted that the memo referred to by Mr. Chelminiak was written by EBCC member Gerry Hughes.

Responding to Councilmember Wallace, Mr. Capron acknowledged that the EBCC has control only within its jurisdiction. Mr. Capron said that, if the City Council approves a permanent ban and the EBCC disagrees, he would want to consult with the City Attorney's Office to determine the potential implications of deciding to not adopt a permanent ban. In further response, Mr. Capron said the EBCC would prefer to not see a permanent ban citywide. The EBCC did not vote on the issue of a permanent ban, however.

Betsi Hummer, EBCC member, said she encouraged Chair Capron to provide an oral report to the City Council regarding the EBCC's October meeting. Ms. Hummer said the EBCC voted to approve the Eastgate Land Use Code Amendment (LUCA), the interim official control related to safe injection sites, and the interim official control regarding homeless shelters. She disagreed with Mr. Capron's implication that there was a consensus of the EBCC opposed to a permanent ban on safe injection sites. She said there was discussion about individual opinions regarding a permanent ban, but there was no vote or consensus of the EBCC. Ms. Hummer opined that Mr. Capron and Mr. Hughes spoke against a permanent ban, and Councilmembers Gooding and Kasner did not express their positions.

Ms. Hummer said she personally opposes safe injection sites. She believes that the homeless shelter project should be based on criteria previously communicated by the public to the City Council, including during its September 25 meeting. She suggested that discussions and public outreach regarding the shelter project should have begun in 2015. Ms. Hummer said she understands that Councilmember Hughes submitted the letter promoting a view that she does not share. She said there was no consensus among the EBCC opposed to a permanent ban on safe injection sites.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak clarified that there is not currently a ban on homeless shelters. Councilmember Robertson said the interim official control regarding homeless shelters makes them subject to the conditional use permit (CUP) process citywide, until permanent regulations can be developed.

Ms. Hummer reiterated that Mr. Capron's comments do not represent her views.

Councilmember Wallace suggested consulting with the City Attorney's Office regarding the EBCC's authority to oppose a permanent ban on safe injection sites. EBCC Chair Capron acknowledged that the EBCC does not have authority beyond its borders. Mr. Wallace suggested that personal opinions should be presented during oral communications.

Councilmember Robertson said tonight's agenda includes an item enacting a permanent ban on safe injection sites citywide. However, a future City Council could change the regulations. She said the EBCC's role under the law is that, after the City Council approves an ordinance, the

EBCC has 60 days to take action. If the EBCC denies the ordinance, the permanent ban would not be in effect within the East Bellevue jurisdiction.

6. Report of the City Manager

- (a) Bellevue Police Department Tomorrows Program

[Presented during the earlier Study Session]

- (b) 100th Avenue NE and Vicinity Complete Streets Project

[Presented during the earlier Study Session]

7. Council Business and New Initiatives

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak said 1,800 people, including several Councilmembers, attended the HopeLink luncheon earlier in the day at the Meydenbauer Convention Center. He expressed support for HopeLink's work in the community.

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 7-0, and the following items were approved:

(a) Council Minutes

Minutes of September 25, 2017 Extended Study Session

Minutes of October 2, 2017 Study Session

Minutes of October 2, 2017 Regular Session

- (b) Motion to award Bid No. 17083, 2810 West Lake Sammamish Parkway SE Mid-block Crossing (CIP Plan No. NEP-2) to Kamins Construction, Inc. as the lowest responsible and responsive bidder, in the amount of \$90,038.81, plus all applicable taxes.

- (c) Resolution No. 9316 granting authority to the Finance Director or his/her designee to approve annual purchase orders for various vendors for small items not stocked by City departments, for an amount not to exceed the estimated values for the specified vendors set forth in Attachment A to this Resolution.

- (d) Resolution No. 9317 authorizing execution of an Interlocal Agreement with King County Road Services Division for on-call bridge inspection, materials testing, and road maintenance services, for a maximum five-year term with an option to renew for an additional five-year period.

- (e) Resolution No. 9318 authorizing execution of Amendment No. 1 to the Professional Services Agreement with MIG|SvR, in the amount of \$83,100, for a total contract amount of \$232,899, plus all applicable taxes, to develop construction Plans, Specifications, and Estimate (PS&E) for a missing section of sidewalk on the west side of 119th Avenue SE, between SE 56th Street and Newport Heights Elementary School (CIP Plan Nos. PW-R-199 and PW-M-7).
 - (f) Resolution No. 9319 authorizing execution of a professional services agreement with Toole Design Group, in the amount of \$100,037.28, plus all applicable taxes, to support a public involvement process with the Northtowne Community to develop a preferred design alternative for 100th Avenue NE, between NE 12th and NE 24th Streets and other priority streets in the vicinity to create a “complete streets” network that is safe and accessible for people of all ages, no matter their mode of travel.
 - (g) Resolution No. 9320 authorizing execution of a professional service agreement with R. Lee Springer, in an amount not to exceed \$195,000 plus applicable taxes, to perform audits of selected businesses to determine compliance with the tax chapters of the Bellevue City Code for a one-year term with two one-year renewal options.
 - (h) Resolution No. 9321 authorizing execution of a professional service agreement with Tony Kopczynski, in an amount not to exceed \$195,000 plus applicable taxes, to perform audits of selected businesses to determine compliance with the tax chapters of the Bellevue City Code for a one-year term with two one-year renewal options.
 - (i) Motion to approve payment of claims and payroll for the period September 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017.
 - (j) Resolution No. 9322 granting authority to approve the on-going annual purchase orders or contracts with Mythics, Inc. (and future successor(s), if any), for JD Edwards EnterpriseOne (JDE) maintenance and support services for amounts anticipated and budgeted in the applicable biennial budget.
9. Public Hearing: None.
10. Land Use: None.
11. Other Ordinances, Resolutions and Motions
- (a) Ordinance No. 6376 amending the Bellevue Land Use Code, Title 20 of the Bellevue City Code, to impose a prohibition on community health engagement locations, safe injection sites, and other uses or activities designed to provide a location for individuals to consume illicit drugs intravenously; adding Section

20.10.410 LUC to prohibit safe injection sites citywide; providing for severability; and establishing an effective date.

City Manager Brad Miyake said Ordinance No. 6376 would make the interim Land Use Code prohibition against safe injection sites a permanent regulation. He said a copy of the interim official control ordinance was provided in the meeting packet.

Carol Helland, Code and Policy Director, recalled the public hearing held in late September regarding the interim official control applicable to safe injection sites and other locations for individuals to consume illicit drugs. She said staff presented the ordinance to the East Bellevue Community Council during its October 3 meeting, and the EBCC voted to approve the interim official control.

Councilmember Robertson said the ordinance refers to using drugs intravenously. She stated her understanding that there is a potential proposal to also allow the consumption of other types of drugs. She wants to ensure that the ordinance presented tonight does not contain a loophole for the consumption of illicit drugs, through any means, in Bellevue.

Ms. Helland confirmed that other jurisdictions have broadened the scope of the language to be less prescriptive about intravenous drug use. She acknowledged that Ordinance No. 6376 relates specifically to the use of intravenous drugs.

Ms. Robertson suggested amending the ordinance language as follows: "...to consume illicit drugs intravenously or by other means." Ms. Helland concurred it would be more comprehensive to either strike "intravenously" or to use the language proposed by Ms. Robertson.

Responding to Deputy Mayor Chelminiak, Ms. Helland said she did not know whether King County limits its definition of safe injection sites to intravenous drug usage. Ordinances in other jurisdictions have been written both ways.

Mr. Chelminiak concurred with Ms. Robertson's proposed language.

Councilmember Robertson suggested changing "medically supervised injection centers" to "medically supervised consumption centers." Ms. Helland said staff attempted to use language commonly used for this type of facility. Responding to Ms. Robertson, Ms. Helland opined that the current language is sufficient with the proposed amendment regarding other consumption methods.

- Councilmember Robertson moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6376, and Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.
- Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to approve a Title Amendment to Ordinance No. 6376 to add the words "or by other means" after the word "intravenously" and before "adding Land Use Code Section 20.10.410." Councilmember Wallace seconded the motion.
- The motion to amend the Ordinance Title carried by a vote of 7-0.

- Councilmember Robertson moved to amend, under Section 1 of the ordinance, LUC 20.10.410 to read as follows: “Medically supervised consumption centers (MSCC) designed to provide a hygienic environment where individuals are able to consume illicit drugs intravenously or by other means are prohibited in all Land Use Districts in the city. MSCC facilities include all uses established or activities undertaken for the above-defined purposes, irrespective of how the use or activity is described. A MSCC may also be referred to as a community health engagement location, supervised injection site or facility, safe injection site, fix room, or drug consumption facility.” Deputy Mayor Chelminiak seconded the motion.

Councilmember Simas said he hoped the ordinance would not prevent the use of medications to reverse an overdose or to save a life. Ms. Helland said it would not. She said hospitals do not typically provide medically supervised drug injection centers. However, they do generally provide the opportunity for needle disposals and are in the business of saving lives. Ms. Helland clarified that Ordinance No. 6376 is intended to ban separate facilities outside the scope of a hospital, but it does not prevent lifesaving methods by hospitals, fire fighters/paramedics, and others.

- The motion to amend Section 1 of the ordinance carried by a vote of 7-0.

Responding to Councilmember Wallace, Ms. Helland said the ordinance prevents King County from allowing supervised safe injections in a County facility that has already been permitted in Bellevue for another use. She said the ordinance regulates and prohibits the activity of any sites allowing the consumption of illicit drugs, intravenously or otherwise, regardless of the facility. In further response to Mr. Wallace, Ms. Helland confirmed that the ordinance applies to the King County public health office in the Eastgate area.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak expressed support for the ordinance. He noted the judge’s ruling earlier in the day that Initiative 27 regarding safe injection sites cannot be presented as a ballot measure. However, the County Council approved a two-step ballot process which would first ask if the voter agrees with safe injection sites. Whether the answer is yes or no, the person would then vote to indicate whether or not there should be any safe injection sites.

Mr. Chelminiak said this highlights the issue of whether the decision falls within the County Council’s policy and political role or whether the decision should be an administrative one by the Board of Public Health.

Mr. Chelminiak said the City Council heard from a number of Bellevue residents who are opposed to safe injection sites. Referring to earlier comments by the East Bellevue Community Council, Mr. Chelminiak said that, if a permanent ban were to be reversed by a future City Council, he would not want to see safe injection sites at urgent care clinics or any type of medical facility. Mr. Chelminiak said the proposed amendment to the Land Use Code sends a strong message to the County that Bellevue does not want safe injection or drug consumption sites.

Councilmember Robertson said safe injection sites are not the right approach for individuals suffering from addiction. She said using heroin in any setting cannot be considered “safe,” and the facilities are not compatible with any Land Use District in Bellevue.

Ms. Robertson said the City receives federal grants and loans, under which the City is contractually obligated to comply with federal law. She concurred with Mr. Chelminiak’s support of a permanent ban on safe injection and other drug consumption sites.

Councilmember Wallace spoke in support of the ordinance. He said safe injection sites are not the right solution for people addicted to heroin or for the greater community that the Council represents. He hopes the ban remains permanent into the future. However, he suggested adding an item to the Council’s State Legislative Agenda to lobby for legislative protection from similar future proposals from the County.

Mayor Stokes expressed support for the ordinance, noting that there has been extensive consideration of the issue by the Council. He said it is clear that the public does not support safe injection sites in Bellevue. He acknowledged that the opioid crisis is growing and affecting every community. He said this is one of the recommendations of the King County Opioid Task Force, and the Council is considering the other recommendations included in its report.

Councilmember Lee said he supports the motion. While opioid addiction is a significant problem, he does not believe that safe injection sites are the solution.

→ The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 6376, as amended, carried by a vote of 7-0.

Mayor Stokes thanked Councilmembers, City staff, and members of the public who have worked on this issue.

Councilmember Wallace expressed his appreciation for the ordinance.

- (b) Ordinance No. 6377 amending the Bellevue Land Use Code, Title 20 of the Bellevue City Code, to advance the Downtown Livability Initiative; repealing Part 20.25A LUC; and adding a new Part 20.25A LUC to add new Downtown definitions, departures, and tower requirements; and amending Downtown provisions regarding nonconformities, dimensions, the amenity incentive system, development standards, and design guidelines.

Councilmember Wallace reminded the public that he previously made a personal decision to not participate in the discussions regarding the Downtown Livability Initiative Land Use Code amendments. He is proud of the City’s efforts and looks forward to Council action on the proposed amendments. He thanked the community for their involvement and input. Mr. Wallace thanked the Council and staff, and left the meeting.

City Manager Miyake recalled that the proposed Downtown Land Use Code amendments were last discussed with the Council on October 2. One unresolved issue relates to the allowed floor plate size, and the Council previously directed staff to return with three options for consideration

and action. He said those options are outlined in Attachment B in the meeting packet. Mr. Miyake said staff is seeking Council direction regarding the floor plate issue, to be followed by Council action on Ordinance Nos. 6377 and 6378.

Kyle Stannert, Assistant City Manager, said the Council previously directed staff to bring forward a version of proposed Ordinance No. 6377 that omits language regarding the floor plate reduction. The Council requested three options, which are provided for Council consideration to incorporate into the ordinance.

Mr. Stannert said Option 1 adopts the lower range recommended by the Planning Commission for a floor plate reduction of 10 percent above the trigger height in residential towers in all districts and in nonresidential towers located in the DT-MU, DT-MU Civic Center, DT-OLB Central, and DT-OLB South districts. Option 2 dictates that the minimum floor plate size is 20,000 square feet, regardless of the percentage of the reduction. Option 3 provides a departure from floor plate reduction for exemplary building design.

With regard to the process, Mr. Stannert referred the Council to the memo in the desk packet, which suggests a motion first on the desired floor plate option, followed by a motion regarding the overall ordinance.

Ms. Helland said Option 3 allows a floor plate reduction below 20,000 square feet, but allows individuals to proactively request a departure that would waive the required reduction in exchange for a building with exemplary design.

Responding to Deputy Mayor Chelminiak, Councilmember Simas said he prefers Option 2. Mr. Chelminiak prefers Option 3. Mayor Stokes, Councilmember Lee, and Councilmember Robertson said they prefer Option 2. Councilmember Robinson said she favors option 3.

→ Councilmember Robertson moved to include the language from Option 2 in Section 20.25A.075.A, Downtown Tower Requirements and Upper Level Setbacks, in Ordinance No. 6377. Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.

Councilmember Robertson said there has not been a nonresidential tower built in Bellevue with floor plates smaller than 20,000 square feet since 1990. She said Option 2 is consistent with past experience and with the current interest among technology companies in larger floor plates.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak said he was comfortable with Option 1, the Planning Commission's recommendation. However, he knew it was not favored by other Councilmembers. He believes Option 3 is a good one. He said it is important to remember that Bellevue companies extend beyond technology companies. He wants to continue to provide options for finance, insurance, real estate, and other businesses interested in smaller floor plates. Mr. Chelminiak said the Downtown Livability Initiative process has been underway for a number of years, and one of his goals has been to reach a unanimous Council decision. Mr. Chelminiak said he would support the Council majority.

Councilmember Robinson observed that Bellevue currently has examples of incredible building design. She hopes that developers will continue to produce attractive designs, especially for those who live in the Downtown.

Councilmember Lee thanked Deputy Mayor Chelminiak for his comments. Mr. Lee said Bellevue has good, successful developers who are interested in long-term investments and impacts. He said he trusts their judgement and the ability of the market to guide development.

Mayor Stokes noted the variety of attractive building designs in the Downtown now. While he agrees with the intent of Option 3, he noted the difficulty of determining “exemplary design.” He believes there are other ways to accomplish that goal, including the influence of market conditions.

Mayor Stokes expressed support for Option 2, noting that the City will be able to work with developers to encourage attractive and interesting building designs. He recalled the work of the Downtown Livability Initiative Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) a few years ago. He said that moving forward with related Land Use Code amendments was a high priority for him when he joined the City Council. Mr. Stokes noted that Councilmember Simas, formerly the Chair of the Transportation Commission, and Aaron Laing, who currently serves on the Planning Commission, were Co-Chairs of the CAC.

Mayor Stokes thanked residents and businesses for their involvement and input through this process. He said the Land Use Code amendments are an important milestone that everyone will be proud of into the future.

- The motion to approve floor plate Option 2 for incorporation into Ordinance No. 6377 carried by a vote of 6-0.
- Councilmember Robertson moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6377, with Option 2 incorporated into Section 20.25A.075.A of the Land Use Code. Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.

Councilmember Robertson said this has been a long process that began in May 2013 and involved the Downtown Livability Initiative CAC, Planning Commission, City staff, developers, property owners, residents, and other interested parties. She said individuals were thoughtful and engaged and wanted what is best for Bellevue, which is a high quality of life, development and economic activity. She thanked everyone for their involvement and input. Ms. Robertson said the Land Use Code amendments meet the Council’s original goals to ensure a livable and successful Downtown. She thanked her colleagues for working cooperatively toward a positive outcome for the Downtown and the community.

Councilmember Lee said Downtown Bellevue is an amazing place with a strong economy. He noted that the neighborhoods have been protected and preserved due to the success of the Downtown. He looks forward to continued development and a dynamic Downtown environment. Mr. Lee thanked everyone for their involvement and commended the Planning Commission for its extensive review of the Downtown Land Use Code and its work with the community.

Councilmember Simas said the 189-page ordinance represents significant work by many individuals and groups. He believes the regulations reflect the City's philosophy and what it is trying to achieve in terms of representing the personality of Bellevue. He expressed support for the ordinance and said he looks forward to future development under the new Land Use Code provisions.

Councilmember Robinson said that while the Downtown Livability Initiative has been a long process, it reflects the high level of community engagement desired in Bellevue. She thanked Councilmember Simas and Mr. Laing for their leadership on the CAC. She thanked the Planning Commission for the time it spent on this effort, as well as the other Boards and Commissions that were involved in reviewing the code recommendations. Ms. Robinson said she looks forward to continued development over the next 10 years.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak concurred that many individuals worked hard throughout this process. However, he opined that a process should not take this long. He believes that the Land Use Code amendments will result in a better public realm in the Downtown. He is pleased that the fee in lieu will be used in both the Downtown and in areas outside of the Downtown. He believes that the amendments protect the neighborhoods along the perimeter of the Downtown.

Mr. Chelminiak said he finds it ironic that the number one incentive is for the temporary storage of automobiles. He suggested that the City will need to revisit that concept in the future. However, he is pleased with the updated incentives provided in the overall Land Use Code amendment. He expressed concern regarding the intensity of development allowed along the freeway. However, he is willing to support that outcome of the process.

Mayor Stokes concurred with Mr. Chelminiak that changes in auto technology and travel modes will require a review of parking requirements and related issues in the future. Mr. Stokes thanked the City Manager and staff from all departments who participated in this tremendous team effort.

→ The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 6377, as amended, carried by a vote of 6-0.

- (c) Ordinance No. 6378 amending the Bellevue Downtown Subarea and Ordinance Nos. 3013, 3014B, 3015B, 3016A, 3017, 3018, 3019 and 3020 for consistency with revisions to the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, renaming certain districts in Downtown Bellevue, and revising the boundaries of certain districts in Downtown Bellevue for consistency with the revised Downtown Boundary; adding perimeter overlays; and establishing an effective date.

Ms. Helland said Ordinance No. 6378 adopts the zoning maps that apply the Downtown Land Use Code to the specific districts.

→ Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6378, and Councilmember Robinson seconded the motion.

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

12. Unfinished Business: None.

13. Continued Oral Communications

- (a) Steve Kasner thanked everyone who participated in the work of the Downtown Livability Initiative. He asked the Council to establish a process this year, before potential changes on the City Council, for reviewing and updating the subarea plans for the rest of Bellevue. On a different topic, Mr. Kasner said he was watching the meeting at home and wanted to comment on the confusion regarding the East Bellevue Community Council's October meeting. He said a majority of the EBCC was uncomfortable with a permanent ban on safe injection sites. Certain EBCC members felt a permanent ban was premature given the information provided to the EBCC and the extent of the opioid crisis. Referring to an earlier comment by Councilmember Wallace, Mr. Kasner said the EBCC can advise on any issue throughout the city. However, it has authority on certain land use issues within its boundaries. He thanked Councilmembers for their work.
- (b) Gerry Hughes apologized for the earlier behavior of East Bellevue Community Councilmember Hummer in interrupting Chair Capron's report to the City Council. He opined that she had the opportunity to speak as an individual during oral communications. Mr. Hughes said the EBCC voted to support the interim ban on safe injection sites and discussed the potential for a permanent ban. He said Ms. Hummer did not disagree with the EBCC's interest in taking more time before making a decision on a permanent ban. Mr. Hughes said that Chair Capron asked him the next day to draft a summary of the EBCC's discussion as well as Mr. Hughes' personal thoughts. Mr. Hughes said he found out later that his comments had been sent to the City Council by someone. Mr. Hughes said the purpose of his written comments was to provide his input for Chair Capron's report to the City Council. He said no one wants safe injection sites. However, Mr. Hughes said he would have liked to see an ordinance with a 2-3 year versus permanent prohibition.
- (c) Heidi Dean said there was a rather heated discussion during the recent Neighborhood Leadership gathering regarding safe injection sites. Ms. Dean said Mr. Hughes told her he felt there was a need for the sites and that Starbucks was installing needle disposal containers in response to the problem. Ms. Dean recalled that Mr. Hughes reported to her that the EBCC voted to not ban the sites. She said she was disappointed to hear a different position expressed by Mr. Hughes tonight. She felt it was inappropriate for Mr. Hughes to comment on Ms. Hummer's behavior tonight.
- (d) Pamela Johnston thanked the Council for passing the permanent ban on safe injection sites. She has researched the use of similar sites in other areas and countries, and the results of studies are inconclusive about whether the health benefits of safe injection sites outweigh the negative impacts to the surrounding neighborhood. If safe injection sites are considered a health issue, Ms. Johnston said it is important to determine whether the health benefits outweigh the impacts to the community.

- (e) Patrick Bannon, representing the Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA), thanked the Council, City Manager, City staff, Planning Commission, CAC Co-Chairs Simas and Laing, and his colleagues on the CAC for their work on the Downtown Livability Initiative Land Use Code amendments.

14. New Business: None.

15. Executive Session: None.

16. Adjournment

At 9:50 p.m., Mayor Stokes declared the meeting adjourned.

Kyle Stannert, CMC
City Clerk

/kaw