

**CITY OF BELLEVUE
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday
April 4, 2019
6:30 p.m.

Conference Room 1E-113
Bellevue City Hall
Bellevue, Washington

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Diann Strom (Chair), Vanja Knezevic (Vice Chair), Negin Khanloo, Aaron Morin¹, Ling Zhuang

COUNCIL LIAISON: Jared Nieuwenhuis

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Anne Howe, Lisa Schreiner

OTHERS PRESENT: Lucy Liu, Assistant Director – Resource Management & Customer Service; Douglas Lane, Water & Sewer Systems Sr. Engineer – Utilities; Jo Lee, Fiscal Manager; Laurie Hugdahl, Minutes Taker;

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Strom at 6:30 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Commissioner Zhuang, seconded by Commissioner Knezevic, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously (4-0).

3. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Oral and written communications were solicited. There were none.

4. COMMUNICATION FROM CITY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY COUNCIL, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis congratulated commission members for being reappointed. He gave an update on the Amazon move to Bellevue. He explained that staff has been doing a great job preparing Bellevue for this growth. This is a win-win for Bellevue and Amazon. The City is about to embark on its annual Human Services Need Survey. This provides very important information about

¹ Aaron Morin arrived at 6:54 p.m.

the services needed in the city. The City is working on making the temporary homeless shelter on 116th a year-round shelter. Councilmember Nieuwenhuis commented on the purpose of the Environmental Services Commission. He noted that the Commission is the eyes and ears of the community. He clarified that the Commission's purpose is to review and make recommendations on issues to the Council, but not to get too deeply involved in operations matters.

5. STAFF REPORTS

Asst. Director Liu reported on the status of investigations related to the AMI portal contract. It is unlikely that the City will come into an agreement with the current vendor. It is likely that the City will do another competitive bid process to find another provider, but it should not delay the implementation of the AMI process. A new Deputy Director, Brian Bartle, has been hired and will be starting April 16. Councilmember Nieuwenhuis asked about other vendor options for the portal. Asst. Director Liu was confident that the City would be able to find another vendor for that portion of the project.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3/7/19 Regular Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Zhuang referred to page 6 of the minutes and had the following corrections in the paragraph that begins, "Commissioner Zhuang also asked about the following . . .":

- Correct the spelling of "Sweyolocken" in the first sentence.
- The last sentence in that paragraph should be replaced with the following: "She thinks there can be an action taken."

Motion made by Commissioner Khanloo, seconded by Commissioner Knezevic, to approve the minutes as amended. Motion passed unanimously (4-0).

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

8. NEW BUSINESS

2018 Financial Performance Report

Jo Lee, the new Fiscal Manager, introduced a report on the City's financial performance in 2018 for Water, Sewer, Stormwater, and Solid Waste. Asst. Director Liu reviewed foundational financial policies affecting the utilities. Highlights of the report were that all utilities ended 2018 in positive financial

condition. Per city policy, fund balances that are greater than budget at the end of the budget cycle for the piped utilities are transferred to capital infrastructure renewal & replacement (R&R) account until projected R&R account funds are adequate to meet long-term needs. Transfers of operating reserves were made to capital R&R accounts in water, Sewer and Stormwater. She discussed the impacts of exceptional weather in 2018 including the second hottest and driest summer on record. The performance of each utility was reviewed as detailed in the PowerPoint presentation.

For Water the beginning fund balance was above budget from exceptional 2017 performance. 2018 revenues were also above budget due to the exceptional weather conditions. Expenditures were above budget due to the R&R transfer and higher taxes. The ending fund balance is \$7.4M above budgeted levels. Out of this Council approved \$5.3M funding for the acquisition of land for future development of a north end maintenance facility. Asst. Director Liu highlighted the importance of the north end maintenance facility.

Sewer Utility highlights were also reviewed. The 2018 revenues were above budget also due to the exceptionally warm and dry summer weather. 2018 expenses were above budget due to R&R and CIP transfers. The ending fund balance was close to target levels.

Stormwater revenues and expenditures were close to budget. The 2018 ending fund balance was also close to target levels. The Solid Waste Utility began the year with a high fund balance from the prior year. The 2018 revenues were above budget, driven by payments from Republic for not meeting performance expectations. Expenses were below budget due to operational savings. The ending fund balance were above target levels.

Asst. Director Liu summarized that the City is in compliance with financial policies. 2019 began in a strong financial condition. Staff will continue to closely monitor 2019 financial performance and exercise continued fiscal prudence and long-term financial planning.

Water Distribution System Seismic Vulnerability Assessment

Doug Lane reviewed guiding principles of level of service, post-earthquake level of service and water quality level of service. He asked for feedback related to critical customers.

Commissioner Morin asked about limitations for businesses that are required to have certain level of services before opening. Without water a company that otherwise might be able to open might not be in compliance with regulations.

Commissioner Knezevic encouraged the City to remember public health facilities in addition to hospitals. Mr. Lane reviewed ideas related to prioritization of critical customers.

Chair Strom asked for more information about community recovery. Mr. Lane explained that it provides services so that people can get back to relatively normal work.

Commissioner Zhuang encouraged evaluation of prioritization criteria in order to impact the most customers in an area. Mr. Lane confirmed that the evaluation process looks at this.

Commissioner Khanloo expressed concern about vulnerable populations who might need regular medical care, but not necessarily emergency care. Doug Lane thought those groups would be included in the public health category.²

Commissioner Morin asked if the City had considered having a central space where people could come for water in the event of a really bad situation with extended service outages. Mr. Lane replied that there are a number of ways the City is look at for accomplishing this including emergency wells, a mobile truck, large bladders that can be fixed to hydrants, etc. These are strategies that will be considered; however these require having a vehicle and the means to travel which is why the City is focusing on critical customers.

Commissioner Khanloo asked about the priority list for Los Angeles for informational purposes. Mr. Lane replied that Los Angeles and San Francisco have different ways of looking at this due to their past experiences. There is a lot of built-in preparedness on the part of the customers.

Commissioner Morin referred to Guiding Principles and suggested that communication should be included in this. He commented on how important good communication is during a time of emergency. Chair Strom concurred. She added that communicating how prioritization of customers is done would be very important in the context of communication. She suggested that communicating the City is working on this plan is also important. Commissioner Khanloo suggested studying public expectations in the event of an earthquake.

9. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Court Olson (?) expressed concern about lateral displacement along the Seattle fault line in the event of a severe quake and wondered if the City is preparing for this potential situation which could result in sheered water lines and lack of

² Commissioner Knezevic left the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

accessibility to I-90. Doug Lane explained they are anticipating a lot of potential impacts. He offered to meet to discuss this more in depth.

Mr. Olson asked the following questions:

- If lines are fractured how will the City find out where breaks are and fix them?
- How will the City get around if there are blockages to accessibility, and mobility is an issue?
- How would power outages impact the pumps?
- Is the City considering both wastewater and sewer?

10. REVIEW OF ESC CALENDAR/COUNCIL CALENDAR;

- ESC Calendar/Council Calendar

Asst. Director Liu reviewed ESC and Council calendar items.

Commissioner Zhuang asked why the Storm Cost Report agenda item had been moved from June to September. Asst. Director Liu explained that the studies have taken longer than anticipated. Commissioner Zhuang asked for more details about items included on the Council Calendar, and staff responded. There was discussion about how the general public can stay informed about agenda items.

Asst. Director Liu responded to the Commission's previous question about how Utilities handles cleanup after a snow event. Sand is removed from roadways, but ice melt products generally just wash away. This approach takes into account natural dilution of the products. Commissioner Morin expressed disappointment about the City's approach and the potential impact on fish and the waterways. Asst. Director Liu explained that the City is using the most effective approach they are aware of right now and also using the products that have the least possible impact on streams.

Commissioner Zhuang commented that the water quality in the streams is decreasing. She commented that even though the City has done some major improvements to culverts there still were no salmon back in Kelsey Creek. She noted that there are many factors contributing to this and suggested exploring other approaches to improve the situation. Staff explained that there is information coming back to the Commission later this year to discuss this further. Commissioner Khanloo suggested public outreach about this (especially salt) prior to next winter.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.