

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Session

January 21, 2020  
8:00 p.m.

Council Chamber  
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Robinson, Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis, and Councilmembers Barksdale, Lee, Robertson, Stokes, and Zahn

ABSENT: None.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Robinson called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call, Flag Salute

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

3. Approval of Agenda

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

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

4. Oral Communications

Mayor Robinson said the Council cannot hear comments regarding the Park Pointe planned unit development (PUD) because the application is currently under review by the City's Development Services Department (DSD). If the matter comes before the Council at a later time, it will be as an appeal of the Hearing Examiner's decision. At that point, the Council would only be able to consider the Hearing Examiner's record and would not be allowed to hear comments outside of that process. Mayor Robinson suggested that the public submit comments to DSD staff for consideration during the permit review process.

- (a) Krista Hammer, Advocacy Chair for the International School PTSA, expressed concern about the emotional toll on youth related to gun violence. She said the Washington State PTA recognizes gun violence as a threat to the mental and physical well-being of children and youth. She said preventing school violence is a top priority for school districts. Ms.

Hammer thanked the Council for the proclamation presented during the earlier Study Session. She expressed support for Councilmember Barksdale's interest in data and Councilmember Lee's comment about having effective tools available for cities.

- (b) Peggy Albin said that a group of residents met with individual Councilmembers over the past few months to discuss firearm safety. Residents created a firearm safety priority list of 10 actions requested of the Council. She noted a petition with 231 signatures in support of the suggested actions. She thanked Councilmembers for listening to residents and Deputy City Manager Nathan McCommon for his work with the group. Ms. Albin said the presentation during the earlier Study Session reflected a number of items on the list of actions related to educating youth, families and vulnerable populations about firearm violence and suicide. She asked the Council to consider the additional suggestions about creating a citizen advisory group to address gun safety, supporting state legislation regarding gun safety, including social justice topics in the Council vision, and presenting in-depth statistics to the public.
- (c) April Schentrup said she and her husband moved to Bellevue after their daughter Carmen was murdered in the Parkland, Florida school shooting on February 14, 2018. She said Parkland was considered one of the safest communities in the country prior to the shooting. She thanked the Council for the earlier proclamation regarding firearm safety. She noted that School Resource Officers are not in the schools every day, and many schools do not have SROs. She encouraged the Council to support Washington House Bill 1374, which would allow cities to create and enact their own firearm safety laws. She acknowledged that many of the City's firearm safety practices are helping to prevent gun violence in Bellevue. However, she encouraged the Council to continue to ask whether the City can do more.

5. Reports of Community Council, Boards and Commissions: None.

6. Report of the City Manager

- (a) Technology Partnership Awards

*[Item moved to earlier Study Session.]*

7. Council Business and New Initiatives

Mayor Robinson invited Councilmembers to share their activities on the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

Councilmember Lee noted Dr. King's values of equality, inclusion, education, and service. Mr. Lee attended the tree planting event at Wilburton Hill Park and the health fair and celebration at Factoria Mall. He said it is important to remember Dr. King's legacy and to work together.

Councilmember Stokes said he went to the Factoria Mall health fair and celebration, which provided the opportunity to reflect on the values exemplified by Dr. King. Mr. Stokes said the

holiday also provides the opportunity to think about what more can be done to address serious issues related to equity and equality. Councilmember Stokes said he attended Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech in 1963 while he was attending law school in Washington, D.C. Mr. Stokes noted Dr. King's important lesson of working together to overcome prejudice and division.

Councilmember Barksdale said he attended the speech at City Hall and the Factoria Mall event. He said it is important to celebrate progress while continuing to make progress and to learn from each other.

Councilmember Zahn said she visited the Martin Luther King memorial while she was in Washington, D.C. the previous week. She attended the Wilburton Hill Park tree planting and enjoyed discussing the values of Dr. King with a group of boy scouts. Ms. Zahn said she attended the Factoria Mall health fair. She noted Dr. King's advocacy related to environmental issues.

Councilmember Robertson noted that she was out of town visiting her parents and therefore did not attend any local events. She thanked her colleagues for their participation in all of the activities.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis thanked City staff for their hard work related to the holiday's events. He attended the celebration and health fair at Factoria Mall. He noted Dr. King's concerns about the inequality in access to health care. Mr. Nieuwenhuis said that, according to research on the state of health and equality in the United States, racial and ethnic disparities in health care are some of the most persistent disparities over time.

Mayor Robinson said she attended the City Hall event, where the speaker emphasized that those who are feeling underrepresented and/or marginalized are not alone. She encouraged individuals to discuss their feelings and concerns with family members, teachers, coaches, or others in their lives who can help.

#### 8. Consent Calendar

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis 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 January 6, 2020 Study Session

Minutes of January 6, 2020 Regular Session

(b) Resolution No. 9712 authorizing execution of all documents necessary to implement settlement of a claim in the amount of \$81,053.26 brought by Eugenia Salvo.

- (c) Resolution No. 9713 ratifying the December 4, 2019 Emergency Declaration of the City Manager for the emergency 2442 West Lake Sammamish Pkwy SE Sinkhole Repair to address the open sink hole and uncontrolled flow of water and sediment resulting from a failed stormwater pipe which poses a hazard and safety risk to the public, and ratifying the first elements of emergency work to be performed by Road Construction Northwest, Inc.
  - (d) Resolution No. 9714 ratifying a proposed amendment to the King County Countywide Planning Policies that outlines best practice guidelines that jurisdictions may take to facilitate the development and renovation of public schools by establishing these guidelines for city/county/school district collaboration in school siting within the Urban Growth Area.
  - (e) Resolution No. 9715 authorizing execution of a professional service agreement with Carollo, in the not to exceed amount of \$762,457, plus all applicable taxes, for Lake Washington Sewer Lake Line Management Plan (CIP Plan S-58 & S-71).
9. Public Hearings: None.
10. Land Use: None.
11. Other Ordinances, Resolutions and Motions
- (a) Consideration of Resolution No. 9716 expressing support for:
    - Bellevue School District No. 405
    - Proposition No. 1
    - General Obligation Bonds - \$675,000,000
    - The Board of Directors of Bellevue School District No. 405 approved a proposition for bonds. This authorizes the District to rebuild Big Picture, International, and Jing Mei Schools; expand Newport and Interlake High Schools; undertake district-wide safety and security improvements; expand transportation facilities; rebuild education service centers; and other capital improvements; to issue \$675,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within 20 years of issuance; and to levy excess property taxes annually to repay the bonds, as described in Resolution No. 2019-17. Should this proposition be:
      - Approved
      - Rejected

Mayor Robinson introduced discussion regarding Resolution No. 9716 expressing support for Bellevue School District's Proposition No. 1 approving general obligation bonds.

City Clerk Charmaine Arredondo said that state law prevents the use of public resources for the promotion of or opposition to a ballot measure. However, the Council is allowed to take an

official position if a number of requirements are met. The meeting agenda must include the title and number of the ballot proposition, and members of the public and the Council must be given equal opportunity to comment. Ms. Arredondo noted that members of the pro campaign would speak tonight. However, the City was unable to identify a group advocating against the proposed bond measure. She recalled that representatives of the Bellevue School District presented information to the Council the previous week. Ms. Arredondo said the Council may approve the resolution or not take any action.

Mayor Robinson invited the representatives of the pro campaign to provide their comments.

Renuka Getchell said she is a real estate agent with children attending schools in the Bellevue School District. She noted the importance to home buyers of a strong education system. She served on the planning committee that reviewed the district's needs over an 18-month period.

Michael Chen said he has three children who attend BSD schools, and he served on the planning committee with Ms. Getchell. He said the bond package rebuilds three schools, remodels two high schools, and implements safety and security measures. He noted that dynamic schools make a dynamic community. He said that Bellevue's schools contribute to high property values. He asked the Council to endorse the ballot measure.

No one else came forward to comment.

Councilmember Stokes said he has worked on school district bonds and levies since 1992, and he has seen the significant change in the BSD school facilities. He commented on how buildings influence and shape outcomes. He said Bellevue has one of the best City Halls, which reflects the City's commitment to delivering high-quality services. Mr. Stokes said the bond measure includes a comprehensive plan for facilities that support excellence. He expressed his support for the ballot measure.

Councilmember Lee said he moved here 52 years ago, largely for the schools. He said that school levies have historically been strongly supported by the community. He noted the need for spaces that contribute to effective learning, allow students to work together, and address social and emotional needs. He said the bond package is well structured to support BSD's continued excellence in education, which has a role in economic development as well. Mr. Lee expressed his support for the ballot measure.

Councilmember Barksdale concurred that education plays a critical role in our community and society. He said the ability to teach and learn is influenced by school facilities. He noted that the bond package includes safety and security enhancements and addresses overcrowding.

Councilmember Zahn said the rebuilding of three schools and modifications to two high schools will expand the capacity of the school district. She said her two daughters went to the International School, which was overcrowded to the point that there was not enough space in the lunchroom for students to sit. Ms. Zahn expressed support for the security enhancements to schools provided in the bond package. She said the bond includes money for the future purchase of land to accommodate growth. She said she participated in a session last summer with the

school district, which included representatives of the construction community to discuss the plan and how to best leverage the bond funds. Councilmember Zahn noted that the cost of the levy is approximately \$26 per year for an average home in Bellevue.

Councilmember Robertson said she has had children in Bellevue schools for the past 17 years. She expressed support for increased capacity and school security enhancements. She noted the importance of having the appropriate facilities for the district's broad range of programs. She said the bond measure is good for the school district, residents, and workers.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis concurred with his colleagues and noted that his daughter will enter Bellevue schools next year. He said Bellevue is known for its high-quality school district.

Mayor Robinson expressed her support as well. She said there is no better investment than in our youth, which is an investment in the future.

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to approve Resolution No. 9716, and Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.

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

12. Unfinished Business: None.

13. Continued Oral Communications: None.

14. New Business: None.

15. Executive Session: None.

16. Adjournment

At 8:47 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared the meeting adjourned.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC  
City Clerk

/kaw