

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

September 27, 2021  
6:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting  
Bellevue, Washington

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

ABSENT: None.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m., with Mayor Robinson presiding.

2. Roll Call; Flag Salute

City Clerk Charmaine Arredondo called the roll. All Councilmembers were present and participating remotely. Somerset Pack 629 Webelo 1 cub scouts led the flag salute.

(a) National Hispanic Heritage Month Proclamation

Councilmember Zahn read the proclamation recognizing September 15 through October 15, 2021, as National Hispanic Heritage Month in Bellevue and called on everyone to observe the month by celebrating the contributions of our Hispanic neighbors with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.

Selen Soto read the proclamation in Spanish.

3. Approval of Agenda

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to approve the agenda, and Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.

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

4. Oral Communications

- (a) Court Olson commented on the importance of preserving and expanding the tree canopy. He expressed concern regarding the City's tree codes and encouraged the Council to enhance the retention of significant trees and to make it harder for developers to remove trees.
  - 5. Reports of Community Councils, Boards, and Commissions: None.
  - 6. Report of the City Manager: None.
  - 7. Council Business and New Initiatives: None.
  - 8. Consent Calendar
- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to approve the Consent Calendar, and Councilmember Stokes 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 7, 2021 Regular Meeting  
Minutes of September 13, 2021 Regular Meeting
  - (b) Ordinance No. 6606: (1) authorizing execution of a grant agreement (and supplements if necessary) with the Department of Ecology to accept reimbursement grant funds in the amount of \$183,467, with a required City of Bellevue 25% match in local contribution (\$61,156), for a total grant agreement of \$244,623; and (2) amending the 2021-2022 Operating Grants, Donations, and Special Reserves Fund to increase the appropriation by \$189,623 to cover the anticipated expenditures in this biennium.
  - (c) Motion to award Bid No. 21046 for 2442 West Lake Sammamish Parkway Sinkhole Lake Restoration to Waterfront Construction, Inc., as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, in an amount not to exceed \$326,667.90 plus all applicable taxes (CIP Plan No. D-64).
  - (d) Ordinance No. 6607 approving the vacation of a dead-end portion of SE 1st Street between Bellevue Way SE and 105th Avenue SE.
  - (e) Resolution No. 9999 authorizing execution of two permanent sewer easements and two temporary special use agreements with King County across City of Bellevue properties at Enatai Beach Park and Mercer Slough Nature Park Swayolocken Boat Launch, as well as an amendment to an existing airspace lease with Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), all as part of King County's North Mercer Island & Enatai Interceptors Upgrade Project.

- (f) Resolution No. 10000 authorizing an amendment to a Professional Services Contract with Lani O'Connor for plan review services increasing the not-to-exceed contract value from \$165,000 to \$225,000, plus all applicable taxes, for all services performed and expenses incurred.
- (g) Resolution No. 10001 authorizing an amendment to a Professional Services Contract with Haley & Aldrich for geotechnical plan review services increasing the not-to-exceed contract value from \$110,000 to \$185,000, plus all applicable taxes, for all services performed and expenses incurred.
- (h) Resolution No. 10002 authorizing execution of an Interlocal Agreement with Bellevue College renewing the Television Facilities Management Committee (TFMC) for the management and joint use of television production equipment, facilities, and staff.
- (i) Resolution No. 10003 authorizing execution of the Interlocal Agreement for provision of District Court Services between King County and the City of Bellevue.
- (j) Resolution No. 10004 authorizing execution of the First Amendment to Office Space Use Agreement with King County related to their operation of district court services in Bellevue.

9. Public Hearings: None.

10. Study Session

- (a) Update from King County Councilmember Reagan Dunn

City Manager Brad Miyake introduced an update from King County Councilmember Reagan Dunn.

Reagan Dunn, King County Council Vice Chair, said that nearly 80 percent of individuals age 12 and older in King County have been vaccinated for COVID-19. However, he encouraged everyone to consider getting the vaccination if they have not already done so. In Bellevue, Mercer Island and Issaquah, 93.6 percent of residents age 12 and older have received at least one dose. King County is administering a two-week moving average of 25,608 vaccine doses weekly.

Mr. Dunn said the King County Council approved on July 27 its eighth emergency COVID-19 budget totaling \$389 million. The money will be directed toward eviction prevention, community development grants, immigrant community support, civil legal aid, public health response, vaccination efforts and economic recovery. In August, The Seattle Times reported that King County had only distributed \$6.5 million of \$145 million available in federal funding for rental assistance to tenants and landlords. Councilmember Dunn said he introduced legislation to make recommendations to expedite the process. As of September 20, \$34.3 million in rental assistance has been distributed and King County hopes to process \$6 million in assistance weekly.

Councilmember Dunn recalled that the King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA) was established in 2019 to unify and coordinate the homelessness response system in Seattle and King County. He commented on the challenging situation at City Hall Park and said that King County is exploring a land swap with the City of Seattle to acquire the park property. He said the County is also creating homeless outreach teams to connect people to services and shelters. Mr. Dunn acknowledged that a large number of people who are experiencing homelessness are suffering from drug addiction and/or mental health issues.

Councilmember Dunn said that violent crime is on the rise nationwide and King County is experiencing record levels of gun violence and homicide. The King County Council is working to appoint a new King County Sheriff. The King County Executive's Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) will release its recommendation on September 30. The King County Executive will appoint the final candidate and the King County Council will confirm the appointment. Mr. Dunn highlighted public safety legislation including for an officer wellness program, King County Sheriff's Office recruiting, and a hate crime hotline.

Mr. Dunn highlighted investments in Bellevue including through the King County Housing Authority, Bellevue School Foundation, Eastside Heritage Center, Newport Youth Soccer, Bellevue Chamber of Commerce, Bellevue Lifespring, and others. He encouraged the City to reach out to him if there is a critical need that is not being met.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis thanked Councilmember Dunn for the update and for his leadership in the areas of addiction recovery and mental health programs. Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Mr. Dunn noted an estimate that 40,000 people in King County are at risk of eviction. Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis regarding crime, Mr. Dunn said a small number of individuals are committing multiple shootings. Mr. Dunn noted that the Seattle Police Department and King County have lost officers, and the King County Prosecutor's Office currently has limited staffing. He said the decrease in the number of law enforcement officers makes it difficult to find time for community policing.

Responding to Councilmember Barksdale, Mr. Dunn said he will continue to propose various solutions and ideas for addressing homelessness. Mr. Barksdale asked about the County's work in the areas of substance use disorders and mental illness, including efforts to destigmatize both. Councilmember Dunn said he was able to move \$500,000 into King County's Anti-Stigmatization Campaign related to substance use disorders and behavioral health issues. Mr. Dunn noted his personal history with addiction and said he still feels the stigma. He said that quitting drinking alcohol was the hardest thing he has ever done, and it is even harder for people without housing stability and support.

Councilmember Zahn thanked Councilmember Dunn for the investments in Bellevue and for accelerating the distribution of rental assistance to landlords and tenants. Ms. Zahn expressed an interest in the number of people who are being served in Bellevue. She stated her understanding that rental assistance is targeted toward households earning 0-50 percent of the area median income (AMI). She wondered if households with higher incomes will receive rental assistance. She asked about public education regarding mental health. She expressed support for the hate

crime hotline and asked whether the data focuses solely on assaults or also on other incidents involving hate speech. Councilmember Dunn said he would follow up regarding rental assistance. He said addiction and recovery treatment services are dramatically underfunded, and the mental health system statewide is essentially broken. He said the Coalition Against Hate and Bias will be taking over the hate crime hotline, and he welcomed suggestions regarding data collection.

Councilmember Lee thanked Councilmember Dunn for his support of the cross-cultural center project in Bellevue. Mr. Lee asked what the City and King County can do to more effectively address mental health and addiction. Mr. Dunn said there are high-quality treatment programs in Bellevue. He said he will do what he can to direct the County's COVID-related funding to those services. Councilmember Dunn thanked Councilmember Lee for working with him on a number of issues, including the cross-cultural center.

Councilmember Stokes said he appreciated Councilmember Dunn's interest in crime reduction, police reform and properly funding social and human services. Mr. Stokes thanked Mr. Dunn for his support of COVID vaccinations. He said the City and King County need to continue to work together.

Mayor Robinson thanked Councilmember Dunn for the update. She said the pandemic has exacerbated many issues including homelessness, mental health and economic challenges. She noted that she serves on the Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD) Oversight Committee. Mayor Robinson said the data indicates that people suffering from mental illness and drug dependency cannot improve their lives and move toward recovery without first receiving housing. Ms. Robinson said the availability of same-day services on the Eastside is critical to successful interventions and support for individuals.

(b) Update on King County Regional Homelessness Authority

City Manager Brad Miyake introduced the update regarding the King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA), which was established in 2019.

Lacey Jane Wolfe, Assistant Director of Intergovernmental Relations, noted that King County's Health Through Housing program is rapidly creating 1,600 units of affordable housing. The program recently purchased the Silver Cloud Inn bordering Redmond and Bellevue. She said the KCRHA is a separate effort created through an interlocal agreement (ILA) with the goal to unify and coordinate policy, funding and services for people experiencing homelessness in King County. She said Bellevue and KCRHA staff are coordinating their efforts related to East King County sub-regional planning with the cities of Issaquah, Kirkland, Mercer Island, Redmond, Sammamish and Woodinville.

Marc Dones, CEO of KCRHA, introduced Alexis Mercedes Rinck, Sub-regional Planning Manager for KCRHA. Ms. Mercedes Rinck noted her previous position with the Sound Cities Association (SCA) and said she looks forward to continuing to work with cities in the region.

CEO Dones said the KCRHA effectively merged the homelessness response work of the City of Seattle and King County to manage the unified planning and coordination of funding and services for people experiencing homelessness countywide. The KCRHA has a 12-member Governing Committee composed of the King County Executive, two King County Councilmembers, Seattle Mayor, two Seattle City Councilmembers, three SCA members and three lived experience leaders. There is also a 13-member Implementation Board appointed by the Governing Committee of individuals with demonstrated expertise in behavioral health, substance use disorder treatment, affordable housing development or other relevant areas. An advisory committee serves as a continuum of care board as required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

CEO Dones led a National Innovation Service team in 2018 to evaluate the King County homelessness response system and to make recommendations for improvements. In December 2018, the group released a report outlining 10 action items to improve services in the region. The KCRHA was subsequently formed with strong support from multiple cities and agencies. The original plan was to hire a CEO in early 2020. However, that plan was delayed due to the pandemic. CEO Dones joined the KCRHA in April 2021 and focused on hiring the executive team. Sub-regional planning began in late June and an update will be provided in September. CEO Dones said there are currently 18 staff members and they anticipate a staff of 55 employees by the end of the year. The KCRHA 2022 annualized budget is approximately \$140 million, the vast majority of which will be distributed as program funding.

CEO Dones said the KCRHA will not re-bid any contracts in 2022 but will conduct a request for proposals (RFP) process for a full system re-bid for 2023. Contracts between nonprofit providers and multiple cities will be consolidated so that each nonprofit or contracted agency will have one contract with the KCRHA. East King County service providers that will participate in the full system re-bid include Friends of Youth, The Sophia Way, Congregations for the Homeless, and Hopelink.

In addition to the work and responsibilities of the KCRHA, CEO Dones said the agency is actively seeking additional funding from philanthropic partners to support its catalytic portfolio, or three transformative changes to the current homelessness response system: 1) peer navigation as outreach, 2) by-name list and high-quality data, and 3) bridge housing. They said the KCRHA wants to go beyond compiling a list of names of individuals experiencing homelessness to understanding where they are, what they need, and the care plan attached to those needs. They emphasized the importance of right-sizing the infrastructure response across the region for specific communities.

Ms. Mercedes Rinck highlighted the six key components of sub-regional planning, noting that they are rooted in equity and social justice principles: 1) range of services, 2) investment and funding, 3) lived experiences with homelessness response system, 4) needs and gaps in services, 5) action steps, and 6) timeline. She thanked City staff who meet biweekly with her and noted the list of providers and East King County coalitions involved in sub-regional planning.

Ms. Mercedes Rinck said the KCRHA September 2021 snapshot report will be released this week to provide an update on sub-regional planning, the timeline, defined sub-regions and

community engagement. She said the KCRHA is recruiting to fill a Sub-regional Planning Specialist position.

Mayor Robinson thanked staff for the presentation.

Councilmember Zahn thanked staff for the information and noted her support for the catalytic portfolio to identify and work with philanthropic partners. Ms. Zahn said she hopes that expectations will be clear when the RFP is issued in 2022 for 2023 contracts. Referring to the by-name list, she said it is important to be able to provide on-site services for individuals experiencing homelessness and to provide transportation when that is not possible. She expressed support for the peer navigator program element. She noted the Council's interest in learning more about safe parking programs.

CEO Dones said the KCRHA process will be as transparent and inclusive as possible, and agencies will be able to see how they fit into the overall system. Regarding safe parking programs, they and Ms. Mercedes Rinck conducted a week of concentrated outreach to people living in vehicles across the county. CEO Dones offered to have KCRHA staff return to provide more information regarding safe parking programs.

Councilmember Robertson said the Council and staff have been focusing for the past several years on the City's homelessness response. She noted the City's support of the Congregations for the Homeless shelter and Plymouth supportive housing project as well as for The Sophia Way and others. Ms. Robertson said the City has a strong track record of partnership with many regional agencies. Noting that the City of Bellevue does not have a seat on the KCRHA Governing Committee, Councilmember Robertson expressed an interest in how the KCRHA will collaborate with Bellevue.

CEO Dones commented on the importance of relationship building and active conversation with entities in the region. They would like to see more cities sign on to the ILA underlying the KCRHA. Ms. Mercedes Rinck said that in addition to regular conversations with staff, she sends a weekly email update to all regional partners and seeks feedback through that channel. CEO Dones noted the need for state and federal funding. While adding cities to the ILA would be helpful, equally important is developing the political will within the region to implement solutions.

Mayor Robinson said she would like Bellevue, as the second largest city in the state, to have a seat on the Governing Committee. She noted that many agencies are working effectively within the community and their efforts can be expanded with more funding. She acknowledged the importance of having shared goals between cities and the KCRHA.

Ms. Robinson described the Angeleno card in Los Angeles that tracks the services and treatment a person is receiving while protecting privacy. She noted that many individuals are in crisis and she suggested looking at homelessness through a health care lens. She expressed concern that sometimes individuals will not accept medical assistance. CEO Dones offered to talk further with Mayor Robinson to discuss ways for Bellevue to be actively engaged with the KCRHA. CEO Dones said the KCRHA is interested in exploring options for helping people manage their

personal health information and other data across the homelessness response system. They noted their past experience with mental health challenges and suggested that assistance must actually be therapeutic. They said the KCRHA is focused on developing a high acuity response system that is narrowly tailored to individuals requiring more support and guidance.

Councilmember Stokes noted that he serves on the Regional Policy Committee and was involved in early discussions regarding the KCRHA. He said Bellevue and other cities are represented by the Sound Cities Association on the KCRHA Governing Committee. Mr. Stokes thanked CEO Dones for their approach and leadership. Mr. Stokes said the KCRHA structure makes sense and will help King County and the cities to succeed.

Councilmember Lee thanked KCRHA staff for their work and observed that CEO Dones is pragmatic and innovative. Mr. Lee said he likes the catalytic portfolio concept, noting that Bellevue has strong, longtime relationships with community partners and nonprofit organizations. Mr. Lee said he liked the comments about building relationships and finding ways to manage data that will improve the delivery of services to individuals. He described talking to individuals experiencing homelessness at a community dinner. He noted the affordable housing programs managed by A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH), the City's support of The Sophia Way and others, and the City's wrap-around services program. Councilmember Lee thanked CEO Dones for their work.

Councilmember Barksdale thanked the KCRHA staff for their outreach to vehicle residents. He asked whether the agency planned to centralize data from cities and agencies across the region. He stated his understanding that the KCRHA is similar to the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) in terms of each city having its own strategy that fits within a broader regional framework.

Responding to Councilmember Barksdale, CEO Dones said cities and providers understand the limitations of the annual count of individuals experiencing homelessness. CEO Dones said the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in King County far exceeds the one-night count. However, they suggested that the one-night count provides an opportunity to collect qualitative data on unsheltered individuals and their needs. CEO Dones concurred with Mr. Barksdale about the importance of centralizing data, noting that the region cannot operate effectively with the current level of data fragmentation.

Responding to Mr. Barksdale regarding the role of the KCRHA, CEO Dones said they do not see it as a hierarchical or power dynamic. They said that conflicts with the KCRHA approach of walking alongside its regional partners.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis said it has been good to learn more about the KCRHA and to get to know CEO Dones and Ms. Mercedes Rinck. Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis regarding funding needs, CEO Dones said the ideal KCRHA operating budget would be two to three times the \$140 million mentioned earlier. As an example, CEO Dones said the cost of generating 5,000 beds in bridge housing facilities across the county would be approximately \$800 million. In the absence of that level of funding, it becomes important to focus one-time bridge housing acquisitions on serving the most critical needs (e.g., high acuity individuals).



In further response to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Mr. Dones said the KCRHA has an explicit mandate to conduct its work with a focus on racial justice and social equity, acknowledging the disproportionate impact of homelessness on people of color and the LGBTQ+ community. They said the KCRHA Director of Equity and Justice is focused on weaving effective strategies into everything done in the region.

Councilmember Zahn acknowledged that the one-night count is not effective or accurate in addressing homelessness. She suggested developing common definitions for cities and agencies to use in the effort to centralize and integrate data. Referring to the LGBTQ+ community, Ms. Zahn encouraged thinking about the trans community and how they might be better served in shelters and communal housing. She suggested options for keeping couples and families together, and for allowing individuals to keep their pets. She expressed an interest in more information regarding the sub-regional planning process over the next six months.

CEO Dones said the KCRHA's effort to centralize data will include developing a common nomenclature and standards regarding how data is produced and collected. Performance measures will be established over the next year and will be folded into the contracting mechanisms and overall system. In further response to Ms. Zahn, they confirmed that the KCRHA will be exploring options for designing a shelter system that serves everyone, including non-binary individuals. CEO Dones said it is possible to design gender-neutral spaces. However, it requires a level of investment that has not historically been made in housing and shelters. They said that moving toward providing a room with a door for individuals creates new possibilities and has been transformative at a number of locations.

Responding to Councilmember Zahn regarding sub-regional planning, Ms. Mercedes Rinck said the September snapshot report to be released later in the week will provide more details regarding the process and timeline.

Responding to Councilmember Lee, CEO Dones said the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a federally mandated system that touches every program that is publicly funded and provides a window into the number of people who access services. CEO Dones said the information can be cross-checked with other data sources to create a comprehensive look at people and their needs.

Mayor Robinson thanked CEO Dones and Ms. Mercedes Rinck and said the Council looks forward to continuing to work with them.

At 8:20 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared a break. The meeting resumed at 8:32 p.m.

(c) Cascade Water Alliance Update

City Manager Miyake introduced the Cascade Water Alliance update. He noted that Councilmember Stokes has served on the Cascade Water Alliance Board of Directors since 2014 and is currently the chair.

Ray Hoffman, CEO, Cascade Water Alliance, said Cascade has seven member agencies (Bellevue, Issaquah, Kirkland, Redmond, Sammamish Plateau Water District, Skyway Water and Sewer District, and Tukwila) and is one of four major water suppliers in the region. Issaquah, Redmond, Sammamish Plateau Water District and Skyway Water and Sewer District have their own water supplies that are considered part of the Cascade system. Cascade was formed in 1999 and serves 380,000 people and 20,000 businesses. Mr. Hoffman said there is a dual voting system for members with a second weighted vote based on the share of water used by a city or water district. Bellevue has the largest weighted vote based on its demand share of the water.

Mr. Hoffman said Cascade's current water supply from Seattle starts to decrease beginning in 2039. Cascade has a water right for the municipal use of Lake Tapps Reservoir and anticipates that the Lake Tapps water supply will become operational in 2042. In 2013, Cascade and Seattle negotiated a contract extension through 2039. Mr. Hoffman said regional water supply and demand estimates indicate that there is ample regional water supply through 2060. If so, the development of the water supply at Lake Tapps can potentially be deferred.

Ed Cebron, Chief Economist/Treasurer, recalled that following an increase in the demand for water through the 1990s, the demand has decreased since 2000. He said the Cascade Water Alliance Board held a retreat in June to discuss future water supply scenarios and costs. The Board discussed the concept of a Water Supply Development Fund (WSDF) to fund the future development of the Lake Tapps water supply. Mr. Cebron said the Board provided direction to pursue a contract extension with Seattle, explore a new contract with Tacoma, and to present resolutions in October to implement the WSDF. The Board also provided direction to remove from further consideration the option of obtaining water from Everett and the option of a purveyor contract with Seattle for a permanent water supply.

Mr. Cebron said the proposed WSDF makes a major contribution toward the Lake Tapps water supply project over time. It moderates the amount of debt needed and the impact on ratepayers. The WSDF reduces Cascade's debt-to-equity ratio and maintains the agency's high bond ratings. Bellevue's contribution to the WSDF through Cascade member charges totals \$6.7 million over nine years. Bellevue's total member charges in 2021 are \$21.5 million.

Mr. Cebron said the Cascade Board: 1) approves the amount of rate increases and the transfers used to fund the WSDF, 2) authorizes the use of WSDF funds, 3) approves the project capital funding plan prior to initiating work on the supply strategy, and 4) redirects the use of WSDF monies if they are not needed as planned to reduce members' demand share charges and to distribute funds to members.

Mayor Robinson thanked Mr. Hoffman and Mr. Cebron for the presentation.

Councilmember Stokes commented on the 20-year history of the Cascade Water Alliance. He said that owning the Lake Tapps Reservoir is a valuable negotiating tool with other water suppliers. He said the creation of the WSDF is in the best long-term interest of Bellevue and other Cascade members.

Councilmember Lee said that, as Councilmember Stokes' alternate on the Cascade Board, he has learned a great deal about the regional water supply. Mr. Lee noted the original goal to not be dependent on Seattle or others for water over the long term. He commented on the importance of sustainability, stability, predictability, and transparency in the water supply and in utilities rates. He encouraged communicating the plan and its impacts to the public.

Responding to Councilmember Barksdale, Mr. Cebron said Seattle's water supply comes from the Cedar River watershed and the Tolt River watershed. The supply lines in the Cedar River watershed are some of the oldest pipes in the system and there has not been a significant investment in replacing or upgrading that system. Mr. Cebron said Seattle's rates have been stable over the past 10-15 years but there are risks associated with aging infrastructure. He noted that the Lake Tapps power system was developed around 1910 and Cascade has been working to rehabilitate the system since it purchased Lake Tapps approximately 10 years ago.

Councilmember Robertson asked why a permanent purveyor contract with Seattle is no longer an option that the Board would like to retain. She expressed an interest in reviewing Bellevue's contract with Cascade. She would like City staff to analyze the scenarios considered by the Cascade Board and to provide a recommendation to the Council. Ms. Robertson encouraged a focus on the best deal for ratepayers. She said the City receives complaints that Bellevue's water is more expensive than neighboring jurisdictions.

Councilmember Zahn said she did not understand the rationale for establishing the WSDF now given the stable and relatively low demand for water through 2060. Mr. Cebron said that under the current contract with Seattle, the water available to Cascade begins decreasing significantly in 2039 and an additional water supply will be needed.

Responding to Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis, Mr. Hoffman said that discussions with Seattle have been placed on hold while Seattle concludes a separate set of contract discussions with the rest of its wholesale customers. Mr. Hoffman said that adequate water capacity is available and Seattle is aware that Cascade is interested in a contract extension if the terms are favorable to both parties.

Mayor Robinson said she would be interested in hearing how Cascade is addressing climate change. She indicated that Councilmembers will be interested in learning the pros and cons of each approach considered by Cascade. Mayor Robinson thanked Councilmember Stokes and Councilmember Lee for their involvement with Cascade.

(d) Regional Issues [*Written materials in meeting packet.*]

Lacey Jane Wolfe, Assistant Director of Intergovernmental Relations, highlighted a number of items in addition to the written materials. She said the governor extended the statewide eviction moratorium through October 31. In July, City staff estimated that 2,000 households in Bellevue are likely to be evicted within the next month, and approximately 5,600 households were considered somewhat likely to be evicted within the next two months. Ms. Wolfe recalled that the Council subsequently allocated approximately \$7 million in rental assistance for Bellevue

residents. The extension of the eviction moratorium is intended to provide more time for agencies to distribute the federal rental assistance funds.

Ms. Wolfe said the redistricting process occurs every 10 years with the use of new census data. The redistricting commission recently released draft maps as part of an ongoing conversation about how to rebalance districts. Staff will email those maps to the Council and they are available to the public at [Redistricting.wa.gov](http://Redistricting.wa.gov).

Ms. Wolfe said it is time to start planning for the 2022 state legislative session. She said staff will contact individual Councilmembers over the next month to discuss their priorities in preparation for a future Council discussion of the 2022 State Legislative Agenda.

Ms. Wolfe said the Sound Cities Association (SCA) is beginning its process for 2022 appointments to regional boards and committees. She said staff will work with the Mayor and the Council to compile and submit Bellevue's applications for appointments.

Mayor Robinson thanked Ms. Wolfe for the update.

#### 11. Land Use

- (a) Consideration of the NE 8th Street Partners Rezone application submitted by Harold Moniz of Collins Woerman for a rezone of two parcels totaling 0.93-acres located at 13635 and 13655 NE 8th Street from Office (O) to Residential High Density (R-30). Permit File No. 21-104902-LQ.

City Manager Miyake introduced the Council's consideration of the NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street Partners rezone application.

City Attorney Kathy Gerla said the rezone application proposes a change from Office (O) to Residential High Density (R-30) zoning for two parcels on NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street. She said staff will request formal Council action at a future meeting. She said this is a Process III quasi-judicial proceeding in which the Hearing Examiner held an evidentiary hearing and made a recommendation for the City Council, which makes the final decision based on information in the record. Ms. Gerla said the Hearing Examiner recommended approval of the rezone application and no appeals were filed.

Ms. Gerla suggested that the Mayor provide the opportunity for Councilmembers to disclose any ex parte communications with the applicant or anyone else supporting or opposing the rezone request.

Responding to Mayor Robinson, all Councilmembers indicated that they had no ex parte contacts to disclose.

Liz Stead, Land Use Director, said staff would provide the same presentation that was made for the Hearing Examiner's hearing.

Carol Orr, Land Use Planner, said the rezone request is a Process III quasi-judicial land use decision as defined in Land Use Code section 20.35.030. The City Council makes a decision based on the record established by the Hearing Examiner. Following that decision, the matter will be forwarded to the East Bellevue Community Council (EBCC) for additional discussion and a final decision.

Ms. Orr said the applicant proposes a site-specific rezone of two parcels located at 13635 and 13655 NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street from Office (O) to Multifamily Residential R-30 (30 units per acre). The rezone is consistent with the adopted Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) that updated the map designation for the parcels from Office (O) to Multifamily-High (MF-H). The parcels are surrounded by, and across the street from, multifamily housing developments.

Ms. Orr described the land use public notice and meeting process. The notice of application was published in the City's weekly permit bulletin on May 20, 2021, and signage was installed on both parcels. Notice of application was mailed to property owners within 500 feet of the properties. The EBCC held a courtesy hearing on June 1. No comments were received from the public during the meeting, and no concerns were raised by EBCC members. The Hearing Examiner held a public hearing and recommended approval of the application.

Ms. Orr highlighted the rezone decision criteria from LUC 20.30A.140 as follows: 1) the rezone is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, and 2) the rezone bears a substantial relation to the public health, safety or welfare, and 3) the rezone is warranted in order to achieve consistency with the Comprehensive Plan or due to a need for additional property in the proposed land use district classification or because the proposed zoning classification is appropriate for the reasonable development of the subject property, and 4) the rezone will not be materially detrimental to uses or property in the immediate vicinity of the subject property, and 5) the rezone has merit and value for the community as a whole.

Ms. Orr said the Hearing Examiner determined that the rezone request met the decision criteria and recommended approval of the application. The property rezone will allow for the construction of additional transit-oriented housing units at a density greater than what can be achieved under the current office designation. Development of the subject parcels under the proposed R-30 zoning will be consistent and compatible with the surrounding development. The Hearing Examiner recommended one condition of approval: "Approval of this rezone does not constitute an approval of any Land Use Entitlement review, or any other ancillary permits that may be required for the design and construction of any proposed development or improvements on the rezone site."

Ms. Orr said staff will return on October 11 with a request for formal Council action.

Mayor Robinson thanked staff for the information.

12. Other Ordinances, Resolution, and Motions: None.

13. Unfinished Business: None.

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

At 9:30 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared the meeting adjourned.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC  
City Clerk

/kaw