

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

Thursday  
September 2, 2021  
6:30 p.m.

Zoom

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Knezevic at 6:31 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Vanja Knezevic (Chair), Negin Khanloo (Vice Chair), Neal Hines, Diann Strom

**COUNCIL LIAISON:** Conrad Lee

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Anne Howe, Ken Wan

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Lucy Liu, Interim Deputy Director, Utilities; Nav Otal, Director, Utilities; Linda De Boldt, Engineering Assistant Director, Utilities; Cherish Jackson, Senior Administrative Assistant, Utilities; Joe Harbour, Operations & Maintenance Assistant Director, Utilities; Jay Hummel, Engineering Senior Project Manager, Utilities; Dwight Smith, Engineering Senior Project Manager, Utilities; Birol Shaha, Senior Project Manager, Utilities; and Laurie Hugdahl, Minutes Taker

**2. TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF BYLAWS**

Chair Knezevic and Interim Deputy Director Liu read introductory statements regarding online meetings and procedures.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Motion made by Commissioner Strom, seconded by Vice Chair Khanloo, to approve the agenda. The agenda was approved unanimously (4-0).**

**4. WRITTEN COMMUNICATION**

None.

**5. COMMUNICATION FROM CITY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY COUNCIL, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Council Liaison Conrad Lee expressed appreciation to outgoing commissioner Ling Zhuang for her diligence and commitment to the Environmental Services Commission over the past several years.

**6. STAFF REPORTS**

Director Otal also recognized Ling Zhuang for her valuable participation and service to the Environmental Services Commission over the past three years. She expressed appreciation to all the commissioners for the hard work they do. Recruitment is underway for a replacement for the vacant position.

**7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A) 6/3/21 MINUTES**

**Motion made by Commissioner Strom, seconded by Vice Chair Khanloo, to approve the 6/3/21 minutes as presented. Upon a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously (4-0).**

**8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

**a) Capital Investment Plan (CIP) Project Highlights**

*Linda De Boldt, Engineering Assistant Director  
Jay Hummel, Engineering Senior Project Manager  
Dwight Smith, Engineering Senior Project Manager  
Biorol Shaha, Engineering Senior Project Manager*

Assistant Director De Boldt introduced this informational presentation of CIP projects. She gave an overview of the importance of the CIP for addressing aging infrastructure, supporting community growth and development, and continuing to support excellent services for customers. The adopted CIP consists of three funds: Wastewater, Storm/Surface Water and Water Fund with separate programs, projects within the programs, distinct program scopes and budgets, and separate revenue sources for a total CIP budget of \$236M for 2021-2027. There are 63 projects that are being worked on in the three utilities in various phases of initiation and delivery. Senior Project Managers Jay Hummel, Dwight

Smith, and Birol Shaha presented overviews of seven projects they are working on.

## **Water Projects**

Pikes Peak Reservoir Replacement (Jay Hummel) – This project involves replacement of an aging 1-million-gallon steel reservoir. The old reservoir has been demolished and construction of a new 1.25-million-gallon concrete reservoir is underway. This project will work in conjunction with the Cherry Crest Pump station. It is expected to be completed in 2022 for a total cost of \$9.5 million. Senior Project Manager Hummel reviewed the in-depth community outreach and engagement that was done as part of this project including formation of a Community Advisory Group, CIP projects link on website, project website, mailers and communication with adjacent neighbors. Design, construction and operations and maintenance (O&M) aspects were also reviewed including conducting an alternatives evaluation, working with multiple permitting agencies including Washington State Parks, King County and City of Bellevue, working near Seattle City Light overhead transmission lines, coordinating with the Cherry Crest Pump Station replacement project, addressing volatile prices during bidding process, working within the State Park, acquiring temporary construction easements, improving water quality and fire flow storage, and improving safety for O&M staff.

Cherry Crest Pump Station Replacement (Jay Hummel) – This project consists of replacement of an older pump station building. Drivers included replacement of aging pump station building and pumps and combining Pikes Peak pump station into the same facility. Features of this project include the main building and pumps, on-site emergency generator, main replacements and upsizing, PRV (Pressure Reducing Valve) station, and street pavement overlay/restoration. It was completed in May of 2021 for a total cost of \$8.7 million. Highlights of this project included: an alternatives evaluation with multiple pumping configurations, an accelerated schedule (complete before Pikes Peak Reservoir), consolidation of Pikes Peak pump station facility, onsite emergency generator, increased capacity and pumping options/flexibility, preservation of Cherry Crest reservoir storage, improved security, and a construction schedule which was impacted by COVID-19. Community outreach and engagement also included a Community Advisory Group, CIP Project links on website, mailers, and door to door communication about water shutoffs.

136<sup>th</sup> Inlet Station/NE 8<sup>th</sup> Transmission Main (Jay Hummel) – This is a new connection point to the water source. The driver for this is the growth in downtown, Bel-Red and Wilburton and the need for redundancy and

reliability in supplying water for domestic and fire protection uses. The inlet station is a buried concrete vault with connection to TESSL (the Tolt Pipeline). Features include a Seattle Public Utilities meter vault, hydro turbine to help generate electricity, and pavement restoration. It is expected to be completed in about a month at a cost of \$8.6 million. An extensive alternatives evaluation was done. The project construction was done within city right-of-way and City Park property. This project improves capacity and redundancy and includes a hydro turbine generator resulting in cost savings and earthquake resistant pipe for seismic reliability. Community outreach and engagement included CIP projects link on website, project website, mailers, an open house, variable message sign prior to construction, and onsite meetings with apartment manager and nearby residents.

### **Wastewater Projects**

Lake Heights Wastewater Pump Station (Dwight Smith) – This new pump station will serve a small part of the Lake Heights neighborhood. The existing station was at the end of its useful life and severely out of compliance with electrical and safety codes because of its size. The project scope included a new control building, retaining wall, electrical service, pumps, piping, rehab of the wet well, flow meter and programming. It was completed in May of 2021 for a total cost of \$2.1 million. Project notice was sent to the surrounding neighborhood. The contractor and city staff worked closely with homeowners for temporary construction access and maintained community driveway access. The resident across the street selected control building block and roof colors. Coordination with Puget Sound Energy was necessary for new electrical service. The finished facility is safer to maintain for city staff and more reliable which minimizes service interruptions.

Newport Sewer Capacity Improvements Project (Birol Shaha) – The purpose of this project is to address sewer capacity constraints in the Newport neighborhood. During large storm events rain induced infiltration and inflow overwhelms the capacity of the aging sewer system and increases risks of wastewater backups into low-lying homes. Phase 1 will involve construction of a new sewer force main to divert wastewater with the aid of portable pumps and will also alleviate capacity constraints. Phase 2 will involve rehabilitation and rebuilding of pump stations and upsizing of associated sewer pipes to increase capacity and reliability of the system. The project was divided into phases to allow the city to manage risks, maintain the level of service, and balance the financial risks associated with the project. The cost is expected to be \$2.1 million for Phase 1 (current project) and \$10 million for Phase 2 (future project). A Business Case Alternatives Analysis to identify a cost effective solution

was completed last year. A range of design alternatives from operational solutions to capital improvements were considered using Triple Bottom Line evaluation – environmental, social, and financial. Other aspects of this project include complex operation of pump stations, utilizing city-owned portable pumping system for interim solution, and creative design solutions for crossing Coal Creek, a sensitive waterway. Community outreach involved early engagement mailers, information on the website and a virtual open house. This project has partnered with Newport Yacht Club and neighbors directly adjacent to the project site for communication and dissemination of information. This is expected to be completed in 2022.

### **Stormwater Projects**

Factoria Boulevard Stormwater Improvements (Birol Shaha) – These improvements were necessary to reduce the risk of street flooding during high intensity storm events. The project involves storm conveyance improvements, utilities relocation, downstream open channel improvements for a total project cost of \$12.8 million. Aspects of this project involved complex construction, traffic impact management, maintaining access to businesses, and coordination with franchise utilities. Public outreach involved a comprehensive community and public outreach engagement plan with ongoing communication through planning, design and construction, one-on-one meetings with businesses, an online open house, an online survey, project websites, emails, a postcard mailer and social media. This project also involved coordination with many other agencies such as US Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Muckleshoot Indian Tribes, WSDOT (Washington State Department of Transportation), King County Flood Control District, King County Metro, and many city of Bellevue departments. The project is currently in the design phase. Construction is expected to begin in summer of 2022 and expected to be complete in the fall of 2023.

Vasa Creek Culvert at SE Newport Way (Dwight Smith) – In November 2020 an engineering study revealed a public health and safety hazard at this location. Transportation noticed sinkholes in SE Newport Way directly above the stream and this culvert. An emergency was declared on December 4 and immediate repair of the culvert began while maintaining the road and utility stability. The project was substantially complete on April 14. The estimated project total cost is \$1.7 million after finishing planned permitting adjustments to the site. Community outreach was very fast. An initial emergency notice was handed out by December 17 to homeowners and businesses in the area. Emergency construction notice postcard was sent in early February and an emergency repair completion postcard was sent in June. This project involved O&M immediate

response, investigation and design, fish passage mitigation, construction, and coordination with Cascade Water Alliance.

Commissioner Hines asked if this would stop any of the flooding at Eastgate Elementary. Assistant Director Joe Harbour replied that the flooding at the school was not related to this project. Instead, it involves issues with the school district infrastructure. Commissioner Hines asked who did the design of this project. Mr. Smith replied that the design was contracted out to Jacobs Engineering.

Assistant Director De Boldt reviewed key points of the CIP projects. She hopes next year they can get back to in-person field tours of the projects.

#### **10. REVIEW OF COMMISSION & COUNCIL CALENDARS**

Interim Deputy Director Liu reviewed the Commission and Council calendars.

ESC Calendar: Next month staff will give an update on the Lake Washington Lake Lines Plan and the Quarterly Republic Action Plan to address missed collections. In November staff will present the Watershed Management Plan and the Solid Waste Annual Performance Report.

Council Calendar: In the next few months, there will be a number of construction contracts going before Council for CIP work. In September there will also be a set of agreements between Bellevue, Kirkland and Redmond related to joint use facilities for water and sewer. There will also be an agreement to accept grant funds from the Department of Ecology related to recycling and zero waste education in the community. In September Cascade Water Alliance will be briefing Council on its proposal to set up a Water Supply Development Fund for Cascade to accumulate funds for development of Lake Tapps as a water source when needed in the future. In November, staff will be providing Council with an update on the AMI project.

#### **11. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion made by Chair Knezevic, seconded by Commissioner Hines, to adjourn the meeting. Upon a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously (4-0).**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.