

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

May 2, 2022
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 6:03 p.m., with Mayor Robinson presiding.

2. Roll Call; Flag Salute

City Clerk Charmaine Arredondo called the roll and all Councilmembers were present. Councilmember Robertson led the flag salute.

- (a) Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Proclamation

Councilmember Lee read the proclamation recognizing the month of May 2022 as Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. He encouraged all residents to celebrate the rich diversity in the community, reflect on the challenges they have faced through history and to join in looking forward to a future of hope, safety and optimism.

- (b) Public Service Recognition Week Proclamation

Councilmember Barksdale read the proclamation declaring May 1-7, 2022 as Public Service Recognition Week and urged everyone to reflect on the contributions of public employees within various branches of government.

- (c) International Firefighters' Day Proclamation

Councilmember Stokes read the proclamation recognizing May 4, 2022 as International Firefighters' Day in Bellevue and encouraged all residents to show support and appreciation for the Bellevue Fire Department and its firefighters who dedicate their lives to preserve our safety.

3. Approval of Agenda

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

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

4. Oral Communications

- (a) Cutzi Jobses said her husband is a firefighter-engineer who has been denied a reasonable accommodation for a religious exemption from receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. She recalled that she spoke to the Council a couple of weeks earlier and noticed a plaque indicating the City's core values of exceptional public service, stewardship, commitment to employees, integrity and innovation. She said integrity means the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles, and the state of being whole and undivided. She asked the Council to do all it can to bring firefighters back to work. She said that the rate of transmission of the virus within Bellevue fire stations increased significantly after the introduction of the vaccine and after the unvaccinated firefighters were not permitted to work. She said her husband was infected by the Delta variant in November 2020 but he did not spread it to co-workers, patients or to three of their five children. She said he had a mild case of the virus in January 2022. She said his physician provided a letter indicating that due to her husband's natural immunity, he posed no threat to his co-workers or to the public. She said the majority of fire departments in the state retained their unvaccinated firefighters with no adverse effects, and Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue recently decided to bring their firefighters back.
- (b) Marguerite Richard said the City of Seattle is not open to allow public comment. She said she has reached out to Debora Juarez (Seattle City Council) and Claudia Balducci (King County Council) in recent months. Ms. Richard said she did not like that a City employee contacted her after hours at her home. She expressed concern about the challenges of forming a more perfect union and about mental health impacts on society.
- (c) Alex Zimmerman expressed concern that the Seattle City Council and King County Council will not listen to people and that they make full-time salaries. He encouraged more funding to help low-income and homeless individuals.
- (d) David Petersen, an employee of Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue, said he was speaking on behalf of firefighters. He said his fire chief recently brought 13 unvaccinated firefighters back to work after the agency worked with the union to find a solution within the governor's proclamation that would allow unvaccinated firefighters to continue to serve the community. He encouraged the Bellevue Fire Department to be a leader in King County in bringing firefighters back to work. He referenced the Council's proclamation encouraging the public to support firefighters.
- (e) Laura Lawler commented regarding the ongoing development of NE 6th Place near the intersection of NE 8th Street and 140th Avenue NE. She said the street was previously a

thickly wooded natural preserve adjacent to wetlands, with homes respectfully situated within that setting. She said four new large homes have been developed on the street. She said it does not appear that 30 percent of the trees were retained, and a new homeowner removed a few more 150-foot trees this past week. She noted plans to replace one home behind her property with four new homes. She said the full development of the street involves removing nearly 200 trees. Ms. Lawler encouraged the City to strengthen its tree codes and protections for significant trees.

- (f) Josh Frye, a lieutenant with neighboring fire department, recalled being notified on February 28, 2020 that their employees had confirmed exposures to COVID-19 after performing airway procedures at a Kirkland nursing home. He said they relied on their policies, best practices and training to continue to provide services throughout the pandemic. He said fire department personnel were able to innovate and adapt their daily routines to reduce the risk of spreading highly transmissible infectious diseases. He said the availability of vaccines did not change the fire department's ability to continue providing world class service to the community. He asked what changed to make daily symptom checks, pre-shift testing, decontamination and social distancing no longer effective. He said fire departments were able to maintain full staffing for 20 months. He expressed concern that after a vaccine mandate went into effect, the previously effective infectious disease prevention measures were considered ineffective to accommodate the religious beliefs of a group of employees. He said federal law provides an accommodation for vaccine requirements for religious reasons.
5. Reports of Community Councils, Boards, and Commissions: None.
6. Report of the City Manager
- (a) Adapting City Services while Reopening Facilities

City Manager Brad Miyake introduced staff's update regarding the reopening of City facilities.

Toni Call, Director, Finance and Asset Management Department, recalled that on March 3, 2020, Mayor Robinson signed a proclamation of emergency allowing the City to act quickly to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The March 23, 2020 "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order from the governor called for residents to stay home unless they needed to pursue an essential activity, banned gatherings and allowed only essential businesses to remain open. By April 15, 2021, all Washingtonians over age 16 were eligible to receive the vaccine. On March 30, 2022, the City announced that its facilities would reopen fully on April 4.

Ms. Call said the Service First counter in City Hall is open for in-person service from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. She acknowledged that the pandemic shifted access to City services online. Prior to the pandemic, the Development Services Department had implemented online permitting, which continued and was enhanced throughout the pandemic. Also prior to the pandemic, the City received approximately 40 percent of its business and occupation (B&O) tax payments online, and that increased to 60 percent as of March 2022. She said the public may continue to find information and report concerns via the MyBellevue app and the City's web site.

Ms. Call said the first floor meeting rooms have reopened to the public. Plexiglass shields are in place in major customer areas, HVAC filters and air quality monitoring have been upgraded, and custodial and cleaning practices comply with federal guidelines.

Shelley Brittingham, Assistant Director, Parks and Community Services, said that as parks facilities began to reopen, staff followed the appropriate state and county guidelines to ensure the safety of participants and staff. The City continues to provide masks for participants and visitors if requested, but they are not required. Some facilities were able to reopen in 2020, the majority of the indoor facilities began reopening in 2021.

Ms. Brittingham noted the focus on equitable access and inclusion, bridging virtual and in-person access, support for vulnerable populations and access to the outdoors. She said that at the beginning of the pandemic, community center and recreation facilities staff reached out to participants via phone, email and other ways to ensure well-being and continued engagement. The Highland Community Center began group meetings with adaptive recreation participants via Zoom on a regular basis to strengthen and foster connections and to help reduce feelings of isolation. Information in multiple languages regarding scholarships was distributed to families and individuals through schools and nonprofit organizations.

Ms. Brittingham said that virtual programming increased access for some populations. She said staff continues to maintain and develop new virtual programming options. She said Bellevue Youth Theatre began live-streaming their performances in the summer of 2021 and continued to do so when in-person performances resumed in the fall. She said the Parks and Community Services Department provides a number of programs that support vulnerable populations including Bellevue Youth Link, which provides food pantries and help with homework. The wraparound services coordinators in schools support the most vulnerable families that are still being impacted by the pandemic. Ms. Brittingham noted that the Probation Division continues to provide sustained supervision and support for probation clients.

Mike McCormick Huentelman, Assistant Director, Community Development Department, said the pandemic caused staff to apply an equity lens and to think about non-digital communication. He said the City issued a direct mailing to all residents to connect them to COVID-19 resources and used kiosks in parks to provide information. Staff worked with a number of community partners including the Bellevue Network on Aging and Meals on Wheels and contacted residents via phone and text.

Mr. McCormick Huentelman recalled closing the Mini City Hall in 2020, knowing that it would have a direct impact on the most vulnerable individuals in need of human services. He said the Mini City Hall at Crossroads Shopping Center is now fully reopened Monday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. He said in-person direct services are crucial for serving populations with a language barrier and/or those without access to online services. Despite the pandemic, the Mini City Hall served 60,000 requests over the past two years, and 73 percent of those requests involved human services needs.

Mr. McCormick Huentelman said attendance at virtual events (e.g., webinars, open houses, public meetings) increased over pre-pandemic levels for in-person meetings and events. He said staff learned valuable new tools such as adding closed captioning and videotaping events for people to watch when convenient for them. He said the use of the Engaging Bellevue platform increased significantly and staff learned that short videos are in high demand. He said staff will continue to explore the opportunities and benefits related to hybrid meetings.

Mr. McCormick Huentelman commented on the importance of connecting with the public in person, including through the neighborhood walks. He noted the upcoming neighborhoods conference, Experience Bellevue, scheduled for May 14. That event will host 20 workshops at City Hall and other locations with all City departments participating in the conference. Mr. McCormick Huentelman said the City is currently accepting applications for this fall's Bellevue Essentials class. He said the pandemic has resulted in the use of more ways to engage the community.

City Clerk Charmaine Arredondo described how public meetings have been adapted to meet the needs of the City Council, Boards and Commissions. She noted that the technology to accommodate hybrid meetings in the Council Chambers has been replaced through the efforts of numerous staff in multiple departments. She thanked the Information Technology Department, City Clerk's Office staff and communications staff in the City Manager's Office for their efforts. Ms. Arredondo recalled that the Council approved the replacement of equipment in April 2020. Supply chain issues and other factors have caused delays throughout the technology replacement project. However, staff has been able to produce successful hybrid meetings while waiting for the completion of the equipment replacement in the Chambers and in Conference Room 1E-113 where the Boards and Commissions meet.

Ms. Arredondo thanked Chanvatha Sea in the IT Department for leading this project with a positive attitude through many challenges. She thanked Jason Hale, Sam Miller, and Jeff Chandler from the IT Department; Michelle DeGrand, Robin Steel, Ben Shahabi and David Richardson from the City Manager's Office communications team; and Michelle Luce, Karin Roberts and Karen Hohu from the City Clerk's Office. She said the project enabled the City to convert from fully remote meetings to a hybrid environment. The public now has the choice to attend meetings either in person or remotely via Zoom, and individuals may sign up online if they want to speak during a Council meeting. Ms. Arredondo said the Boards and Commissions continue to hold virtual meetings. However, they will begin hybrid meetings soon.

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 April 18, 2022 Regular Meeting
- (b) Resolution No. 10087 authorizing the execution of Amendment 1 of the Dataman professional services agreement to increase spending authority from a not to exceed amount of \$90,000 plus all applicable taxes to a not to exceed amount of \$750,000 plus all applicable taxes. The executed Amendment shall be substantially in the form of the Amendment in the Council Library.

At 6:57 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared a short break. The meeting resumed at 7:09 p.m.

9. Public Hearing: None.

10. Study Session

- (a) Briefing on King County's Proposed Sewer Rates and Capacity Charge

City Manager Miyake introduced staff's briefing regarding King County's proposed sewer rates and capacity charge.

Nav Otal, Director, Utilities Department, noted that the City contracts with King County for wastewater treatment services, and the King County Council is responsible for setting the regional sewer rates. She said the County is also currently developing its clean water plan as a roadmap to guide wastewater operations, policies and budgets for the next 40 years. She said the plan will have a significant impact on future sewer rates.

Ms. Otal said the King County Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) has oversight over the development of the clean water plan. She noted that Councilmember Lee is the Sound Cities Association's (SCA) representative on the committee. She said RWQC members have voiced concerns about the proposed sewer rates and the County has paused its development of the clean water plan to consider that feedback.

Kamuron Gurol, Director of the King County Wastewater Treatment Division, thanked Councilmember Lee for his involvement and leadership with the RWQC.

Mr. Gurol said the City of Bellevue is one of 34 contract agencies and the sewer rate is the largest share of revenue for the wastewater treatment division. He said the agency works with the Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC), and Bellevue staff regularly attend their meetings and subcommittee meetings. King County staff met with MWPAAC representatives six times earlier this year to share information about rate cost drivers and applicable financial policies. Mr. Gurol said MWPAAC sent a letter to the King County Executive expressing concerns about the long-term affordability of rates and maintaining adequate reserves.

Mr. Gurol said the King County Executive has proposed a 5.75 percent increase in sewer rates for 2023 and higher rates over the 10-year forecast. He said the King County Council will make

a decision about the 2023 rates only. Key drivers for the sewer rate include the addition of capacity to meet growth needs in the region, repair and replacement of aging equipment, compliance with permit requirements to reduce combined sewer overflows, initial investments to comply with the nutrients general permit, an increase in system reliability at the West Point facility and other locations, and planning for climate change consistent with the Strategic Climate Action Plan.

Mr. Gurol said King County has five wastewater treatment plants, including three large regional plants, approximately 50 pump and regulator stations, and 400 miles of conveyance pipeline. He said it is one of the largest wastewater management systems in the country.

The Puget Sound nutrient general permit was issued late last year and went into effect on January 1, 2022. The permit applies across all of the 58 wastewater agencies that discharge into Puget Sound. Mr. Gurol said King County is committed to managing nutrients, including nitrogen. However, King County and others have appealed the permit due to concerns regarding the high costs of complying with the permit relative to the anticipated benefit. The 10-year rate plan includes approximately \$50 million in initial compliance costs for evaluation, monitoring and optimization.

Mr. Gurol noted the need for improvements at the West Point plant to improve system reliability, enhance worker and public safety, protect the environment and to increase efficiency. The plant is part of the Seattle system that handles combined sewer overflows, while sanitary and storm sewers are separated on the Eastside. Projects planned for the West Point plant include a power quality improvement project, raw sewage pump replacement, biogas pipe replacement, power monitoring upgrades and seismic upgrades.

Projects planned for the Bellevue area include the north Mercer Island/Enatai sewer upgrade, Coal Creek sewer upgrade, Lake Hills and northwest Lake Sammamish sewer upgrade, and the Lake Hills sewer relining.

Mr. Gurol summarized the King County Executive's 2023 sewer rate proposal and 2023-2032 rate plan. The plan proposes increasing the 2023 rate by 5.75 percent instead of by 4 percent as originally projected. The rates continue to increase by 5.75 percent annually through 2027 and increase by 9 percent annually from 2028 through 2032. Drivers for the proposed rates including combined sewer overflow projects, West Point treatment plant investments, initial investments related to the nutrient general permit, new capital program requests and the addition of 96 full-time positions over the next 10 years. Mr. Gurol said the King County Council will consider the requested addition of staff during its regular budget process later this year.

Mr. Gurol said the King County Council will also make a decision about the capacity charge for new construction. The King County Executive proposes a 3 percent annual increase through 2032. Mr. Gurol noted that the capacity charge may be tailored to household size and income levels.

Mayor Robinson thanked staff for the presentation. She asked Councilmembers to comment on whether they would like to send a comment letter to the King County Council regarding the rate and capacity charge proposal.

Councilmember Lee thanked Mr. Gurol for the presentation. Mr. Lee noted the RWQC's work with MWPAAC and others to develop the proposed sewer rate plan. He said it is important for the public to understand the reasons for the proposed rate increase. He suggested that King County should identify other ways to pay for programs that are not directly related to wastewater services. Mr. Lee said that Mr. Gurol is relatively new to his position and has added transparency to the overall process. Mr. Lee expressed support for sending a letter to the King County Council regarding the proposed rates. He thanked the City and the SCA for the opportunity to represent them on the RWQC.

Councilmember Stokes thanked Councilmember Lee for his comments. Responding to Mr. Stokes, Mr. Gurol confirmed that he is seeking input regarding the proposed 2023 rate increase of 5.75 percent. He said the King County Executive shares concerns regarding the long-term affordability of the proposed 10-year plan. He said King County and its partners are pursuing a better, more cost-effective regulation of nutrients in wastewater while working to evaluate whether the increase in sewer rates will provide a meaningful benefit. Mr. Gurol said King County is under a federal consent decree regarding combined sewer overflows in Seattle and is currently renegotiating the requirements under the decree. King County hopes to extend the time period allowed for compliance, which will help to moderate costs. Councilmember Stokes said he appreciated Mr. Gurol's openness and transparency.

Councilmember Robertson expressed support for sending a letter to the King County Council. She expressed concern regarding the rate proposal and noted that she frequently hears complaints about utilities costs from the community. She said the City passes the County's rates on to Bellevue customers and does not add to those costs. She cautioned that the increased rates and capacity charge present additional challenges related to affordable housing.

Ms. Robertson expressed support for King County's efforts to appeal the nutrient general permit and expressed concern regarding the impacts of the permit conditions on the region's ability to grow and affordability. Responding to Councilmember Robertson, Mr. Gurol said King County is one of approximately a dozen appeals that have been consolidated before the state Pollution Control Hearings Board. Mr. Gurol said King County has asked the Board to consider a number of legal questions about whether the state Department of Ecology had the proper authority to issue a general permit when it already issues individual permits to each plant. He said he hopes the Board will rule on some of the issues in the nearer term, perhaps as early as this summer. Mr. Gurol said that before the permit was issued, the City of Tacoma filed an appeal in Thurston County court regarding the DOE's authority and the documents they used before the permit was finalized. He said staff is currently reviewing a January decision in that case that was released in recent weeks.

Councilmember Robertson said she has two main concerns regarding the nutrient permit requirements. One is the impact on utilities rates and the capacity charge, and the other is whether, if the permit stands, King County will already be over-subscribed for connections. If so,

would the County be able to issue any sewer availability letters for new development? Councilmember Robertson stated her understanding that Pierce County might need to suspend its permitting due to capacity issues.

Mr. Gurol said he is less concerned about the latter issue. He said King County provides conveyance and treatment as the wholesale component of the system, and the availability letters are issued from local sewer agencies. However, he acknowledged that the letters depend on whether there is adequate treatment capacity.

The nutrient general permit is structured in five-year increments and the requirements appear to be very expensive. Mr. Gurol said King County believes it is in relatively good shape for the first five years. However, increased restrictions over the longer term are a significant concern. The permit would require significant upgrades to existing plants and, since the system requires the operation of the West Point plant, it might be necessary to build a fourth treatment plant to handle the loads while improvements are made to the West Point facility. Mr. Gurol noted King County's concern about whether the costs for complying with the permit are justified based on the anticipated benefit. He would like a better understanding of the availability of more cost-effective mechanisms to understand the science and to identify the most rapid cost-effective response strategies.

Councilmember Barksdale expressed support for sending a letter to the King County Council. He requested additional information regarding an itemization for each cost driver. He said one of the cost drivers referenced in the meeting materials was limiting the accumulation of long-term debt. Mr. Gurol said King County uses a number of financial policies and strategies to develop rates. He noted the current policy of 40 percent cash and 60 percent debt. He acknowledged that lesser cash than debt provides lower short-term rates but higher long-term rates. He said MWPAAC and the RWQC plan to address those issues this year. Mr. Barksdale expressed an interest in considering alternatives based on different percentages of cash versus debt.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis expressed support for sending a letter to the King County Council. He suggested specific comments about the cost-benefit analysis related to the cost drivers for rates. Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Mr. Gurol said the King County Executive's 10-year rate forecast includes \$50 million in initial compliance costs related to the nutrient general permit. Mr. Nieuwenhuis asked how the full long-term cost of permit compliance and the County's clean water plan will affect the 10-year rate forecast. Mr. Gurol said he would follow up with more information. He noted that full compliance could cost up to \$200 million or higher. King County is monitoring the nutrient permit negotiations and hopes the resolution will not require a fourth treatment plant.

Councilmember Zahn expressed support for sending a letter to the King County Council. She concurred with concerns regarding the proposed rate increases, especially the 9 percent annual increases in the later years of the 10-year forecast. She expressed support for Councilmember Barksdale's suggestion to analyze different cash-debt scenarios, especially given that the assets will last for many years.

Councilmember Zahn asked whether any grant programs are available to fund this type of aging infrastructure. She asked whether King County has considered a design-build delivery method, which might reduce needed staff levels. She asked about changes related to the Sustainable Climate Action Plans. She asked whether there are innovations in wastewater treatment that the County might want to pursue.

Mr. Gurol said they are always looking for grant opportunities and he was hoping that the federal infrastructure bill would have more funding for wastewater operations. He noted that the bill focuses more on drinking water quality. He confirmed that staff is evaluating its capital program to determine which delivery method might be most effective for the different projects. He said they are gathering information from peer agencies to learn from them. He noted the new term collaborative delivery, which requires a partnership between the public agency and the design-build firm for the effective delivery of projects.

Mr. Gurol said they have a small group of staff to address technology and innovation opportunities, including projects and approaches around the world. He said a plant in Denmark is working to develop a biogas operation. He said King County is a leader in creating biogas as a renewable energy source generated through wastewater treatment. He said that more than 90 percent of the biogas produced by King County is at its south plant and they want to increase biogas generation at other plants as well. He said the energy source can be used to operate the plants (as in Denmark) or can be sold back into the system and used for climate change and sustainability work.

In further response to Councilmember Zahn, Mr. Gurol said there are electric vehicle charging stations at all three regional plants and they plan to convert to a green fleet over time.

Mayor Robinson thanked Councilmember Zahn for raising the issue of sustainability. Ms. Robinson acknowledged that Denmark is a leader in sustainable wastewater management.

Responding to Ms. Robinson, Mr. Gurol said that all of the wastewater and storm water in Seattle is treated at the West Point facility. However, a combined sewer overflow system can be overtaxed by heavy rainfall and produce overflows that are largely storm water but can also contain wastewater. He said improvements to the system will reduce those incidents and will allow the water to be treated before it leaves the system.

Referring to additional information about Denmark, Ms. Robinson noted that some of the improvement costs are made up within three years to six years. She asked whether King County is exploring the potential for a system that pays for itself. Mr. Gurol said they are trying to find a path for improving the combined sewer overflow system. He said biogas is a focus. However, the County also deals with bio-solids, reclaimed water and sewer heat generation. Mayor Robinson suggested including language in the letter referring to exploring sustainable infrastructure that would pay for itself.

Councilmember Robertson suggested that King County should set different rates for Seattle versus the remaining communities that do not have combined sewer overflow systems. She said the law allows agencies to create different customer classifications if there is a reason to do so

(e.g., different types of facilities). Ms. Robertson said she would like to include language in the letter to propose that other contract agencies should not be required to pay for improvements to Seattle's system.

Councilmember Robertson suggested that the letter encourage King County to review its core services while looking for ways to provide future services in the most efficient, cost-effective manner. She expressed concern that if the nutrient general permit stands as issued, the entire region will be significantly impacted by the rate increases.

Councilmember Stokes concurred with Councilmember Robertson's comments and suggestions. He thanked Mr. Gurol for the information and discussion and reiterated his support for sending a letter to the King County Council.

Councilmember Zahn suggested adding a reference to innovation to the letter, especially related to efforts for generating renewable energy from wastewater. In addition to considering rate impacts, she suggested focusing on the best value for the overall system in terms of costs and benefits. She suggested adding language about working together to pursue federal grants and to advocate for projects. She likes the idea of adding language to address sustainability.

Referring to project delivery methods, Ms. Zahn suggested exploring the design-build-operate-maintain approach, especially if plants produce biogas to be sold. Mr. Gurol said King County issued a request for information (RFI) within the past couple of years related to the Brightwater treatment plant based on that concept. He said a request for proposals (RFP) might be issued later this year to determine the potential for a public-private partnership, which could be a way of expediting the generation of biogas at the Brightwater plant.

At 8:22 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared a short break. The meeting resumed at 8:29 p.m.

(b) Regional Issues

Mayor Robinson noted written materials in the meeting packet with updates regarding regional and legislative issues.

Councilmember Zahn thanked staff for the thorough information provided in the meeting packet. As a follow up to the previous item, Ms. Zahn suggested adding language about wastewater funding to the federal legislative agenda. She suggested not waiting until the end of the year to update the Council's legislative agenda and priorities. She asked about the City's involvement in various working groups, including the Washington state tax structure group and the House Bill 1220 Growth Management Act (GMA) housing elements group.

Lacey Jane Wolfe, Assistant Director, Intergovernmental Relations, said Bellevue is not a member of those groups. However, staff monitors their work. The HB 1220 group is working to address how to incorporate the provisions into the City and County regional planning process. Ms. Wolfe said the City is participating in an Association of Washington Cities (AWC) group that is gathering input from cities to provide to the HB 1220 working group.

Councilmember Zahn said she would like to understand how housing needs for different income levels are determined and how equity is taken into account.

Genesee Adkins, Chief of External Affairs, said she and Ms. Wolfe would meet later that week with the City's lobbyist to the state legislature to follow up on a number of issues, particularly housing. Ms. Adkins said they will provide updates on an ongoing basis.

Councilmember Robertson said the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Transportation Policy Board recommended the regional transportation plan to the Executive Committee. She said the City of Bellevue submitted a number of amendments that were incorporated into the plan.

Councilmember Stokes thanked staff for their work and expressed an interest in ongoing updates. Ms. Adkins said the legislative sessions move fast and it is important to be prepared for those discussions. She said staff will keep the Council apprised of new developments.

Councilmember Lee recalled his question in the past to the federal lobbyist about the City's priorities. He said the lobbyist indicated that it was more effective to wait until federal elected officials identify their priorities before making specific requests. Mr. Lee said he did not agree with that reasoning. He believes it is important to advocate for priorities throughout the year. He commended the City's transportation staff submittal to PSRC regarding the regional transportation plan.

11. Land Use: None.
12. Other Ordinances, Resolutions, and Motions: None.
13. Unfinished Business: None.
14. New Business: None.
15. Executive Session: None.
16. Adjournment

At 8:39 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared the meeting adjourned.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC
City Clerk

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