

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

July 11, 2022  
6:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting  
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Robinson, Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis and Councilmembers Barksdale, Lee, Robertson<sup>1</sup>, Stokes and Zahn

ABSENT: None.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m., with Mayor Robinson presiding. She noted that Councilmember Robertson would be participating remotely for the meeting.

Ms. Robinson said Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis informed her that the Bellevue Police Department lost one of its K9 units over the weekend. K9 Officer Ghost served for seven years, and he and Officer Ryan Lange were one of the most successful K9 teams in the City's history.

- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to allow Councilmember Robertson's remote participation for the meeting, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

2. Roll Call; Flag Salute

City Clerk Charmaine Arredondo called the roll and all Councilmembers were present. Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis led the flag salute.

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.

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<sup>1</sup> Councilmember Robertson participated remotely.

4. Oral Communications

- (a) Karina O'Malley said she has been involved with safe parking programs for the past 10 years. She said they provide a quick, inexpensive intervention for an underserved segment of the population and they have significant positive impacts. Safe parking programs provide support and connect individuals with the resources that can help them to regain housing. She asked the Council to consider this commonsense solution to help an underserved population.
- (b) Alex Zimmerman expressed concern regarding Amazon, Microsoft, Google and other corporations. He said Bellevue was once a nice city with reasonable apartment rental costs.
- (c) Victor Bishop, Legislative Committee Chair of the Eastside Transportation Association (ETA), recalled that he served two terms on the Transportation Commission, including as the chair for one year. He said the Transportation Facilities Plan (TFP) is an important planning document for the development of the transportation system. He noted his letter to the Council the previous Friday with comments regarding the proposed TFP. He recalled that the Council adopted the new Transportation Element policy to "Aggressively expand transportation investments to reduce congestion and improve the quality of the travel experience for all users." Mr. Bishop said the TFP does not meet that policy statement and reflects a reduction in 12-year funding of at least \$70 million. He said the ETA estimates that new development will add more than 27,000 new parking stalls in the downtown and 5,000 new stalls in the BelRed area. He said that number of parking spaces translates into more than 15,000 evening peak period vehicle trips, which cannot be accommodated by the TFP. Mr. Bishop encouraged the Council to delay approval of the 2022-2033 TFP and to send it back to the Transportation Commission to evaluate the road capacity projects included in the TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) that should be in the TFP. He said an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) review should be completed. He noted that his letter identifies a number of capacity projects for the Council's consideration, some of which are in the TFP. He said the ETA urges the City to complete the extension of NE 6<sup>th</sup> Street to 120<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE as soon as possible.
- (d) Mariya Frost, Director of Transportation, Kemper Development Company, said she is also a Board Member of the ETA. However, she is speaking on behalf of her employer. She said the TFP provides an opportunity to advance the transportation policy mentioned above by Mr. Bishop by spending capital budget funds proportionate to the current and forecasted mode splits. She encouraged the Council to accelerate the projects necessary to support development and future growth. She said policies that reduce congestion should be a top priority. She said the TFP allocates approximately 65 percent of the funds to roadway projects, which is a decrease from the 2019-2030 TFP. Ms. Frost encouraged the Council to increase funding for roadway projects to accommodate anticipated demand.

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

6. Report of the City Manager: None.

7. Council Business and New Initiatives

(a) Excused Absence Request for July 18 Meeting

Mayor Robinson said Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis has requested an excused absence from the July 18 Council meeting.

→ Councilmember Lee moved to excuse Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis from the July 18, 2022 City Council meeting, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

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

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 June 27, 2022 Regular Meeting

(b) Resolution No. 10110 adopting the Bellevue Parks & Open Space System Plan, which replaces and supersedes the 2016 Bellevue Parks & Open Space System Plan.

(c) Resolution No. 10111 authorizing execution of a five-year Professional Services Contract with Hargis Engineers for mechanical plan review services in an amount not to exceed a contract total of \$300,000, plus all applicable taxes, for all services performed and expenses incurred under this Contract.

9. Public Hearing: None.

10. Study Session

(a) Parks Long-Range Financial Planning

City Manager Brad Miyake introduced discussion regarding the proposed Parks ballot measure to be presented for a vote in the November General Election. He said the Council previously identified a ballot initiative as a key priority. The Council has discussed the topic a number of

times, including most recently on June 6. Mr. Miyake said staff is seeking Council direction to advance the voter initiative for inclusion on the November ballot.

Michael Shiosaki, Director, Parks and Community Services Department, said staff is seeking direction on three items:

- Approval of the proposed \$85 million Parks voter initiative package.
- Approval of a nine-year regular levy lid lift funding mechanism with a levy rate of \$0.15 per \$1,000 assessed valuation (AV) for capital needs and a levy rate of \$0.05 per \$1,000 AV for maintenance and operations (M&O) expenditures.
- Draft a single ordinance and ballot language for Council feedback on July 18.

Mr. Shiosaki said that priority 9 of the Council's 2021-2023 priorities is to: "Advance a park funding strategy, including consideration of new funding sources for operations, maintenance and capital." He recalled that the Council and staff discussed parks funding during the March 7, 2022 budget workshop. Staff provided a presentation regarding the Parks and Open Space System Plan on March 28 and the Council discussed the role of the Parks and Community Services Board, options for voter-approved initiatives, and impact fees on April 18. On June 6, the Council provided direction regarding the proposed project categories for the ballot package.

Mr. Shiosaki said the Parks and Community Services Board discussed the proposed levy on March 8, April 20 and May 10 and provided recommendations based on the priorities and preferences communicated by the public. He said Council action is required by July 25 to place the levy on the November ballot.

Mr. Shiosaki recalled the project categories discussed on June 6: 1) open space, greenways, wildlife corridors and trails, 2) community parks, 3) neighborhood parks, 4) recreation and community facilities, 5) waterfront restoration and development, 6) BelRed/Wilburton park acquisitions and development, 7) emerging sports (e.g., pickleball, cricket) and off-leash dog areas, and 8) retire the 2008 Parks Levy. He said staff is no longer recommending using the funds to retire the 2008 levy.

Mr. Shiosaki highlighted the most recent community feedback regarding a levy, which produced results similar to previous surveys. He said the interest in development versus acquisition was relatively balanced. Community input reflected a preference for future investments in greenways and trails, open space and natural areas, waterfront access, neighborhood and community parks, and outdoor recreation.

Toni Call, Director, Finance and Asset Management Department, described three options for voter initiatives. A regular levy lift nine-year bond requires voter approval of 50 percent plus one and provides the option for one ballot measure for both capital and maintenance/operations costs or separate ballots for the two uses. The regular levy lift 20-year pay as you go option (no bonding) requires the same level of voter approval and has the same ballot options. The third option is an excess voter-approved bond that requires 60 percent voter approval and separate ballots for capital funds versus maintenance and operations.

Ms. Call commented on the factors considered by staff, the first being the affordability threshold given the current inflation and interest rates as well as the proposed King County property tax levy (6 cents per \$1,000 assessed valuation). The second issue is the retirement of the 2008 Parks and Natural Areas Levy. Ms. Call said that due to legal complexities and limitations related to drafting the ballot language, staff recommends not including the retirement of the levy in the next levy package. Ms. Call said staff recommends the nine-year levy option, with both a bondable amount and a pay as you go amount, for the greatest flexibility related to the timing of projects.

Mr. Shiosaki described the recommended nine-year levy package. Of the \$85 million recommended for capital needs, \$20 million is to be used for open space, greenways, wildlife corridors and trails, \$20 million is allocated to neighborhood parks, \$5 million is proposed for community parks, and \$10 million each is proposed for four categories: 1) recreation/community facilities, 2) waterfront restoration and development, 3) BelRed/Wilburton acquisition and development, and 4) emerging sports and off-leash dog areas. A total of \$4 million is proposed for maintenance and operations.

Mr. Shiosaki said staff recommends approval of the \$85 million package of approved project categories and the nine-year regular levy lift at \$0.15 per \$1,000 assessed valuation (AV) for capital improvements and \$0.05 per \$1,000 AV for maintenance and operations expenditures. He requested Council direction to draft an ordinance and ballot language for Council feedback on July 18.

Councilmember Robertson expressed support for the recommendation. However, she suggested additional funding for the recreation and community facilities (e.g., aquatics center, cross-cultural center) category. Mr. Shiosaki said he thought it would be possible to move \$2 million to \$3 million from other categories. Ms. Robertson said she would like to move an additional \$5 million to recreation and community facilities from other project categories.

Councilmember Stokes expressed support for the recommendation and commented on the need for parks amenities and facilities to keep pace with the demands of a growing population. He believes there will be community support for the levy.

Councilmember Lee expressed support for the proposed levy and thanked staff for their thoughtful process. He said he was concerned about moving money from other categories to the recreation and community facilities category. However, he encouraged flexibility and said he is interested in hearing staff's recommended adjustments.

Councilmember Zahn expressed support for staff's recommendation to balance affordability and the community's needs. She said the funding level for the recreation and community facilities category was decreased from the previous presentation. She suggested that staff explore which categories might be more likely than others to secure funding partners, grants and other financial assistance as they consider how to adjust the funding levels for each category. Responding to Councilmember Zahn, Ms. Call said flexibility can be provided to some extent in the ballot language to accommodate opportunities for acquisitions, partnerships and other funding sources.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis expressed support for the proposed voter package. He said the City frequently hears from residents about the importance of parks and they will make the decision regarding the levy. Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Mr. Shiosaki said the It's Your City article reported that the Council was considering a parks voter initiative and provided the opportunity for public comment. Mr. Nieuwenhuis concurred with Councilmember Zahn's interest in maintaining flexibility in the use of funds by project category as opportunities arise for acquisitions, partnerships and grants. He expressed support for Councilmember Robertson's suggestion to increase funding for recreation and community facilities.

Councilmember Barksdale expressed support for staff's recommendations. Responding to Mr. Barksdale, Mr. Shiosaki said he believes there are opportunities to consider urban farming initiatives and projects. Mr. Barksdale said he would like to see grant funding in that area.

Referring to the issue of flexibility between the use of funds in the project categories, Mr. Barksdale asked about potentially combining the community parks and neighborhood parks categories. Mr. Shiosaki said neighborhood parks tend to be small and are typically accessed by walking. Community parks are larger (e.g., Mercer Slough, Wilburton Hill) and the City hears requests from residents for more neighborhood parks.

Mayor Robinson concurred with the need for flexibility and the ability to leverage funds. If there is an opportunity to leverage levy funds to secure more funding for recreation and community facilities without decreasing funding in other project categories, she would support Councilmember Robertson's suggestion. Ms. Robinson said parks provide free facilities that benefit the public and are a good investment in the community.

Responding to Councilmember Robertson, Mr. Shiosaki suggested moving \$1 million from community parks, \$2 million from waterfront restoration and development, \$1 million from BelRed and Wilburton park acquisition and development, and \$1 million from emerging sports for a total of \$5 million to the recreation and community facilities category.

Councilmember Robertson suggested moving \$2 million from BelRed and Wilburton projects because there is already a high level of investment in that part of Bellevue. She anticipates developer-constructed public amenities in those areas in the future.

Mayor Robinson asked about the impact of increasing the levy package from \$85 million to \$90 million. Ms. Call said staff would want to review the impact on the proposed \$0.15 levy rate before making a recommendation. She speculated the rate would be \$0.16 or \$0.17 per \$1,000 AV.

Councilmember Stokes said he supports funding for community facilities, including the aquatics center. He noted the challenge of balancing certainty with flexibility in the overall voter package. Mr. Stokes said he believes that funding for the aquatics center will come from a number of entities.

Councilmember Lee expressed support for Councilmember Robertson's suggestion and concurred with her comments about the significant investments underway and anticipated for the BelRed and Wilburton areas.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis expressed support for the suggested adjustments to the project categories, except for the decrease in funding for community parks.

Councilmember Zahn suggested that staff return with a recommendation regarding proposed adjustments to dollar amounts and with language to address flexibility in the use of the levy funds.

→ Councilmember Robertson moved to add \$5 million to the recreation and community facilities project category by subtracting dollars from other categories. The motion was seconded.

Councilmember Stokes said he supports the aquatic center. However, he noted the importance of voter approval for the levy package and expressed concern that many in the community do not support the addition of an aquatic center. He expressed an interest in the impact of increasing the overall package from \$85 million to designate a portion for the aquatic center. He said he is reluctant to reduce the dollar amounts for the community and neighborhood parks categories.

Councilmember Robertson opined that Mr. Stokes, following a vote on this motion, could make a motion to increase the overall dollar amount of the levy package if desired.

Councilmember Zahn noted that the proposed funding for the recreation and community facilities category decreased from \$20 million in the previous staff proposal to \$10 million in the current proposal. She cautioned against increasing the overall dollar amount of the levy.

Mr. Shiosaki said staff is trying to be sensitive to the affordability of the levy package given other voter initiatives. He acknowledged that the recreation and community facilities category took the largest reduction from the previous proposal. However, he said staff sees this as seed money for both the aquatic center and cross-cultural center projects. He opined that those projects have less certainty than other projects in the package.

→ The motion failed by a vote of 3-4, with Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis, Councilmember Lee and Councilmember Robertson in favor.

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to approve the \$85 million proposed parks ballot proposition to be funded by a nine-year regular levy lift at the rate of \$0.15 per \$1,000 assessed valuation (AV) for park capital improvements and \$0.05 per \$1,000 AV for maintenance and operations expenditures, and to direct staff to draft the ordinance and ballot language to bring back to the Council on July 18. Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.

Councilmember Zahn said she wants sufficient flexibility to avoid missing opportunities for matching funds from other sources for City projects (e.g., aquatic center).

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

(b) State Legislative Interim Update

City Manager Miyake recalled that the state legislature concluded its session in March and staff provided an update to the Council in May.

Genesee Adkins, Chief of External Affairs, introduced staff's mid-year update regarding the state legislature, development of the 2023-2025 state budget and the November elections.

Briahna Murray, Gordon Thomas Honeywell, said the Washington State Tax Structure Workgroup was established in 2017 to identify changes to the state tax code to make it more fair, adequate, stable and transparent. The bipartisan group of legislators also includes representatives from the Governor's Office, Department of Revenue, Association of Counties and the Association of Washington Cities (AWC). The group is tasked with recommending legislation to the 2023 state legislature that reflects a consensus agreement regarding tax code changes.

Ms. Murray said the workgroup has conducted extensive public outreach and developed a list of potential changes to be discussed in September: 1) replace the state business and occupation (B&O) tax with a margins tax, 2) establish a working families tax credit, 3) create a primary residence property tax exemption, 4) impose a wealth tax, and 5) adjust the property tax limit factor. Ms. Murray said intergovernmental relations staff are working with staff in the Finance and Asset Management Department to analyze the five ideas and their impacts.

Ms. Murray recalled that in the 2021 Blake Decision, the Washington State Supreme Court ruled that the state's simple drug possession law was unconstitutional. Under the decision, possession of a controlled substance became legal and any convictions for the possession of a controlled substance between 1971 and 2021 were to be vacated. The 2022 supplemental budget provided \$21.5 million to cities to address resentencing, vacation and refunds of legal and financial obligations. The state legislature enacted a temporary policy, which expires in 2023, to make possession of a controlled substance a misdemeanor with a requirement for diversion. They also created a Substance Abuse Recovery Services Advisory Committee to develop recommendations regarding outreach, treatment and support services for individuals experiencing substance use.

Lacey Jane Wolfe, Assistant Director, Intergovernmental Relations, said a number of police reform bills were approved in 2021 and three clarifying bills were passed during the 2022 legislative session: 1) House Bill 1719, law enforcement and .50 caliber shotguns, 2) HB 1735, use of physical force and deadly force, and 3) HB 2037, physical force and temporary investigative detentions. A bill that was considered but not approved was Senate Bill 5919 regarding when and how the police may engage in vehicle pursuits. Ms. Wolfe said police reform is anticipated to be a topic again during the 2023 legislative session.

Ms. Wolfe said a number of land use and zoning bills were introduced during the 2022 session to address housing affordability. However, none of the bills were adopted. A survey of AWC



members reflected that housing is a top priority and the AWC is hiring a neutral facilitator to lead conversations to develop missing middle housing approaches.

Ms. Murray said there have been a number of changes to the Growth Management Act in recent years through HB 1220, HB 1241 and SB 5042, and several of the reforms have created an additional cost burden for cities. Two bills received considerable attention but did not pass: HB 1099 regarding climate change mitigation and HB 1117 regarding salmon recovery efforts.

Ms. Adkins said Governor Inslee will release his 2023-2025 operating, capital and transportation budget proposals in December. The Washington State Economic and Revenue Forecast Council indicates that revenue collections have exceeded the forecast by 6.4 percent.

Ms. Adkins said the development of the transportation budget will focus on implementing the Move Ahead Washington transportation package enacted during the 2022 session. The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is currently working on project phasing, and the 2023 state legislature will focus on developing a timeline.

Ms. Adkins said that all State House positions and half of the State Senate positions are up for election this fall. The House currently has 57 Democrats and 41 Republicans, and the Senate has 28 Democrats and 20 Republicans. The only statewide position on the ballot is Secretary of State.

Ms. Adkins said staff will continue to work with the AWC, state legislators and other stakeholders through formal and informal channels to identify areas of interest. Staff will coordinate with City department directors in late summer/early fall to develop a holistic overview for the legislative session. Ms. Adkins said staff has targeted October for adopting the Council's 2023 state legislative agenda.

Mayor Robinson thanked staff for the update.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis thanked staff for their early work on the legislative agenda. He said he was disappointed that SB 5919 did not come up for a vote. He said it appeared to have bipartisan support. He noted that the Washington State Patrol has had more than 1,000 incidents in which individuals have refused to pull over when pursued by officers, and the state is anticipated to have more than 50,000 vehicle thefts this year.

Mr. Nieuwenhuis referenced the tax revenue collections and asked whether any tax relief proposals for residents are under consideration. Ms. Adkins said the objective of the workgroup is to bring forward revenue neutral proposals and consensus bipartisan proposals. Ms. Murray said she does not anticipate any recommendations from the workgroup that are not revenue neutral. She said there was recently a call for the governor to declare a gas tax holiday. However, Governor Inslee announced that he is not in favor of that option.

Councilmember Zahn thanked staff for the mid-year update and for the plan to finalize the state legislative agenda earlier than usual this fall. She would like the City to advocate for any tax relief support, whether through grants or other funding.

Responding to Councilmember Zahn, Ms. Murray said the tax structure workgroup is evaluating the five ideas described earlier to determine which ones should move forward. Ms. Murray opined that there could likely be a consensus of the workgroup in support of replacing the B&O tax with a margins tax. In further response to Ms. Zahn, Ms. Adkins said the City is coordinating with other stakeholders to secure the funding needed to complete the full Eastrail light rail corridor.

Councilmember Robertson said she anticipates a number of housing-related bills during the 2023 legislative session. She suggested that the Council develop a list of the principles it could support. She is in favor of local control and would like to see an incentive-based approach. She suggested working with additional stakeholders and other cities to develop priorities and principles related to housing.

Ms. Robertson said she believes the next legislative session will need to address the Dobbs Decision. She said RCW 9.02.120 indicates that the state cannot take any adverse action against a woman who has had an abortion or anyone who assisted. However, the extradition clause of the U.S. Constitution states that individuals must be extradited to face charges. Ms. Robertson said Governor Inslee has directed the Washington State Patrol to not cooperate with out-of-state attempts to prosecute individuals who have an abortion or who assist with an abortion in Washington state. Ms. Robertson would like the state legislature and the State Attorney General to address and clarify the issue.

Responding to Councilmember Robertson, Ms. Murray said there is still a state of emergency related to the pandemic due to the use of federal dollars and to provide the authority for masking requirements in sensitive environments such as healthcare settings, long-term care facilities, and others.

Mayor Robinson said that when she was thinking about the state taking a preemptive strike on missing middle housing by potentially requiring every neighborhood to accept accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and detached ADUs (DADUs), she wondered how that works with neighborhood covenants. Ms. Murray said that language referring to covenants was included in both HB 1782 related to missing middle housing and HB 1660 related to ADU regulations. HB 1660 progressed further through the legislative process than HB 1782, and the language pertaining to homeowners associations and covenants evolved further in that proposal. Ms. Murray said the state legislature was inclined to exempt homeowners associations from any preemptive language, which caused concerns among a number of legislators and stakeholders. She said supporters felt they need to provide the exemption in order to comply with legal concerns raised by homeowners associations.

Mayor Robinson asked how a City ordinance would interact with neighborhood covenants. Ms. Murray said she would defer to the City's legal counsel without making a recommendation. However, based on policy discussions with legislators last session, Ms. Murray said her

impression is that they believe covenants supersede local regulations. Mayor Robinson said she would like to address the topic in future discussions about missing middle housing.

Responding to Councilmember Lee, Ms. Murray said the AWC is a member of the tax structure workgroup. She said she is working with City staff to evaluate the impacts of policy options. She said there is not currently sufficient information to evaluate those impacts, however. When the workgroup reconvenes in September, more information will be provided to staff and the Council.

Responding to Councilmember Lee, Mayor Robinson said Councilmembers will have the opportunity this fall to provide input to staff regarding legislative priorities. Mr. Lee said he looks forward to ongoing discussions.

Councilmember Stokes commended the City's regional leadership and its collaboration with other jurisdictions. He questioned the goal of revenue neutral changes to the tax code and opined that major transportation projects could be completed with more funding. He thanked everyone for the discussion.

Councilmember Barksdale expressed support for ADU legislation and said he shares Mayor Robinson's interest regarding housing laws and neighborhood covenants. Referring to the tax workgroup, Mr. Barksdale asked about opportunities for incentives to provide affordable commercial space for small family-owned businesses. Referring to police vehicle pursuits, he asked whether there might be other strategies to consider (e.g., technology, investigative techniques) to address the issues.

Responding to Mr. Barksdale, Ms. Adkins said staff plans to return in September with the draft state legislative agenda. Staff will then meet individually with Councilmembers to refine the agenda and return for Council action in October. Ms. Adkins said the next state revenue forecast will be released during the third week of September.

At 8:15 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared a short break. The meeting resumed at 8:25 p.m.

(c) Safe Parking Program for Homelessness Response

City Manager Miyake said staff is seeking Council direction to move forward with a pilot safe parking program.

Bianca Siegl, Assistant Director, City Manager's Office, said safe parking programs provide individuals living in vehicles with a safe place to sleep as well as access to resources and social services. It is not intended as a solution to homelessness but is an important tool to provide stability for individuals and families while they address other needs. She said approximately half of the unsheltered individuals in King County live in vehicles. An informal count in Bellevue in December 2021 identified 83 vehicle residences. Ms. Siegl said vehicle residents are more likely to be employed than other unhoused residents and there are four safe parking sites on the Eastside with a total capacity of 70 vehicles. She said the entire community benefits from providing a safe location for vehicles residences.

Ms. Siegl said there are typically three forms of safe parking: 1) centralized operational model in which a jurisdiction contracts for site services, 2) a privatized operational model in which each site is operated separately by a supporting organization, and 3) municipal-staffed model.

Ms. Siegl said staff recommends a centralized operational model and a contract with a nonprofit service provider for a pilot program. The program would provide 24-hour staffing and case management services to support individuals in addressing barriers to accessing housing.

Ms. Siegl said religious organizations are allowed to host safe parking programs on property they own and control, and there are approximately 75 religious organizations in Bellevue. She said staff recommends creating a guide for sharing information between those organizations and offering access to City-contracted site and case management services.

Ms. Siegl said staff recommends a one-year safe parking pilot program on City-owned property with a careful evaluation of successes and impacts. Ms. Siegl said staff recommends 24-hour on-site program management staffing, case management services, and allowing a variety of vehicle and occupant types.

The consideration of safe parking programs on private property is not recommended at this time. Ms. Siegl noted that future Land Use Code Amendments (LUCAs) could address regulations for location, size, on-site facilities and other best practices. Staff also recommends against using on-street zones for safe parking programs due to challenges related to street maintenance, sanitation and site management.

Ms. Siegl said the recommended pilot program would include a contract with an operator to provide site management and case management services on City-owned property. If directed by the Council to move forward, staff will develop a program implementation framework to include a legal review and the development of the program goals and performance measures. Staff will explore contracting needs, program costs, and potential partnerships and will reach out to religious organizations and other stakeholders.

Ms. Siegl said staff is seeking Council direction to develop a detailed implementation plan, legal analysis, cost estimate and budget proposal to support a safe parking pilot program or an alternate program as defined by the Council.

Mayor Robinson thanked staff for the presentation and noted that Councilmember Zahn originally raised the idea of a safe parking program.

Councilmember Zahn thanked staff for the proposal. She said safe parking programs are an important aspect of supporting the pathway out of homelessness, connecting people with resources and social services, and enhancing the safety of vehicle residents and the surrounding community. She concurred with staff's recommendation to not consider on-street zones, noting that would not create the type of community and support needed by the vehicle residents. Ms. Zahn said she visited the City of Vancouver's safe parking program, which is across the street from a high school and a middle school. She said 75 percent of the vehicle residents were

employed and the rest were typically senior and/or disabled adults. She expressed strong support for a pilot program to start as soon as possible.

Responding to Councilmember Zahn, Ms. Siegl confirmed that the program recommendation will come to the Council as a budget proposal. After Council approval, staff will move forward to work on the request for proposals (RFP). In further response, Ms. Siegl said access to water and electricity will be considered for the pilot program.

Councilmember Robertson expressed support for moving forward with further analysis of a safe parking program and for working with religious organizations. She said many churches and organizations have shelter programs and are likely to be interested in a safe parking program. She suggested creating a process for identifying potential locations and conducting public outreach. Ms. Robertson said a safe parking program is an effective interim measure to address homelessness.

Ms. Siegl said the primary purpose of the pilot program is to provide an alternative to parking on the street. She acknowledged that enforcement is complex due to a number of issues, and she will coordinate with the City Attorney's Office to conduct an analysis. In further response to Councilmember Robertson regarding zoning implications, Ms. Siegl said using City-owned property could likely be pursued as a temporary public safety facility. City staff are working to identify potential locations for a safe parking program.

Councilmember Barksdale expressed support for moving forward with the safe parking pilot program.

Councilmember Lee expressed his support and concurred with Councilmember Robertson's comment that this should not be a permanent solution to helping individuals experiencing homelessness.

Councilmember Stokes said he is pleased to see this initiative moving forward. While not a permanent solution, a safe parking program would benefit the overall community as an interim measure. He noted the Council's goal of providing permanent housing over the long term.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis expressed support for moving forward. He said safe parking programs provide a safe place for sleeping and for protecting individuals' property in their vehicles, while helping to put them on a path to independence. While he knows that many safe parking programs have been successful, Mr. Nieuwenhuis stated his understanding that the City of Seattle had five or six lots at one time but they ultimately closed. He expressed an interest in understanding Seattle's experience with safe parking programs.

Ms. Siegl said a number of factors, including funding, were involved in the situation in Seattle. She said the City of Seattle is moving forward with the King County Regional Homelessness Authority to operate new safe parking locations. She noted that the number of vehicles and demand for services is much higher in Seattle due to the larger population.

Mayor Robinson thanked Ms. Siegl for the presentation and expressed support for the safe parking pilot program. Ms. Robinson said she wants to ensure that the City is following best practices for moving individuals into stable housing.

Councilmember Zahn said it is important to meet people where they are to best serve them and the community. She encouraged a focus on the safe parking programs that are working well to learn more about best practices.

- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to direct staff to develop a detailed implementation plan, legal analysis, cost estimate and budget proposal to support a safe parking pilot program. Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

11. Land Use: None.

12. Other Ordinances, Resolutions, and Motions

- (a) Resolution No. 10112 adopting the 2022-2033 Transportation Facilities Plan (TFP)

City Manager Miyake introduced discussion regarding the adoption of the 2022-2033 Transportation Facilities Plan (TFP).

Transportation Director Andrew Singelakis noted that the Council last discussed the TFP in January.

Christina Beason, Vice Chair of the Transportation Commission, said the commission reviewed the TFP over a series of 11 meetings, which included identifying candidate projects, soliciting public input, scoring and prioritizing projects, and evaluating timing. On January 3, 2022, staff briefed the Council regarding the TFP process. Following that meeting staff prepared a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) checklist and submitted it for review. Public notice regarding the TFP was released on March 24. The SEPA determination of non-significance (DNS) was published on April 28 and no comments were received from the public. On May 12, the Transportation Commission voted unanimously to recommend the 2022-2033 TFP for adoption.

Mike Ingram, Senior Transportation Planner, said the TFP is a 12-year financially constrained plan. It provides the first level of citywide project prioritization, and vehicular capacity projects in the TFP form the basis of the Transportation Impact Fee Program. The adopted impact fee rate is supported by the proposed 2022-2033 TFP. Mr. Ingram requested Council adoption of the proposed TFP as recommended by the Transportation Commission.

Councilmember Robertson said this is the culmination of an approximately three-year process. She commented on the need to update the plan because the old model only considered private vehicle mobility. The multimodal approach incorporates transit, pedestrians, bikes and other forms of transportation. Ms. Robertson expressed support for the TFP. She acknowledged

concerns from some members of the public regarding traffic congestion and noted that the 2016 neighborhood transportation levy includes significant funding for congestion projects. Councilmember Robertson thanked the Transportation Commission and staff for their hard work.

Councilmember Zahn thanked everyone for their efforts related to the TFP. Responding to Ms. Zahn, Mr. Ingram clarified the role of the Mobility Implementation Plan (MIP).

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis expressed support for the TFP and thanked everyone, including residents, for their involvement and input.

Councilmember Barksdale concurred.

Councilmember Lee thanked the Transportation Commission for their extensive work to reflect the multimodal transportation system in the TFP.

Councilmember Stokes expressed support for the TFP.

Mayor Robinson thanked staff and Vice Chair Beason for the presentation. Ms. Robinson said she was pleased to see the pedestrian and bike improvements for the new Main Street bridge and that SE 8<sup>th</sup> Street from 114<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the Lake Hills Connector is funded.

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to approve Resolution No. 10112, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

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

13. Unfinished Business: None.

14. New Business: None.

15. Executive Session: None.

16. Adjournment

At 9:15 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared the meeting adjourned.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC  
City Clerk

/kaw