

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

July 18, 2022
6:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting
Bellevue, Washington

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

ABSENT: Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis

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 and all Councilmembers except Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis were present. Councilmember Robertson led the flag salute.

3. Approval of Agenda

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

→ The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

4. Oral Communications

- (a) Court Olson, representing People for Climate Action Bellevue Chapter, thanked City staff for forwarding the most recent update regarding the Environmental Stewardship Plan to them. He referred the Council to an email sent earlier in the day with the group's feedback on a number of issues. He encouraged additional City resources to expedite the implementation of the plan.
- (b) Jivana Aras said she recently graduated from Sammamish High School and plans to take a gap year to focus exclusively on cricket. She described her experience playing in competitive cricket and noted the upcoming USA Women's World Cup in South Africa. She recalled her comments to the Council last fall and reiterated her goals to play

professional cricket and to participate in the Olympics. Ms. Aras said young women are increasingly interested in playing cricket. She requested the Council's support of cricket facilities.

- (c) Yatin Aras encouraged the Council to provide funding for cricket facilities in the proposed parks levy package. He said that in the 1990s, he was involved with the first cricket club in the area in Seattle. He described his experience playing in cricket fields around the region, including in Marymoor Park, and coaching cricket. He said there are four youth academies with teams at multiple levels, as well as a women's team. He requested the Council's help to establish cricket facilities in Bellevue.
- (d) Betsi Hummer said that with the sunsetting of the East Bellevue Community Council, she urged the Council, Boards, Commissions and staff to pay close attention to the pragmatic requests of residents when they first arise. She urged staff and Councilmembers to listen to residents during the neighborhood walks to learn about concerns and priorities. She said residents in the Wilburton area are concerned about increasing and speeding cut-through traffic, crime, out-of-scale new homes and proposed increased densities. Ms. Hummer said the area now called Wilburton was founded in 1904 as Midlakes. She said the name Wilburton was previously used for the area from SE 8th Street and I-405 to Kelsey Creek Farm. Ms. Hummer asked the Council to rename the Wilburton Vision initiative to reflect the historical Midlakes name and to reassure residents that office towers are not coming to their residential neighborhood.
- (e) Sally Lawrence expressed support for placing the proposed Parks levy on the November ballot. She said that with unprecedented growth in Bellevue, the City needs to secure additional parks and open space to serve the increasing population. She noted that the usage of parks and trails increased significantly during the first year of the pandemic and they continue to be popular. She noted the need for parks facilities in the Eastgate, Factoria and South Bellevue areas. She said the Coal Creek watershed is in need of buffer protection.
- (f) Alex Zimmerman expressed concern that the King County Council and the Sound Transit Board do not allow him to speak during their meetings. He indicated he does not like Democrats.

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

6. Report of the City Manager

- (a) Crime Activity and Police Response

City Manager Brad Miyake introduced staff's update regarding crime and the Bellevue Police Department's response.

Wendell Shirley, Chief of Police, said property crimes (i.e., shoplifting, motor vehicle theft, car prowls and mail thefts) during the first six months of the year reflect an increase of 15.2 percent

compared to 2021. Crimes against persons (i.e., homicide, aggravated assault, robbery and rape) during the first six months of the year reflect an increase of 12.9 percent compared to 2021.

Chief Shirley noted that the number of aggravated assaults has decreased while the number of robbery cases has increased. He said some of the charges for robbery are the result of shoplifting that escalates to a physical confrontation. He said there have been no homicides this year.

Chief Shirley said Bellevue experienced a 10.5 percent overall increase in crime so far this year. He described the Police Department's PIE model: prevention, intervention and enforcement. He said there has been an increase in crime both locally and nationally as the pandemic continues. He described the Police Department's Anti-Crime Initiative involving high visibility patrols to reduce crime and the fear of crime. Chief Shirley said catalytic converter thefts have become a significant problem in Bellevue and across the country. He highlighted Bellevue's involvement with the Catalytic Converter Task Force and the Organized Retail Theft Task Force.

Chief Shirley reported that over the past two months of the Anti-Crime Initiative, certain crimes have decreased in the North Sector including shoplifting/theft, car theft, car prowls, burglaries and robberies. He referred everyone to the online crime data dashboard and noted that it continues to be improved.

Meeghan Black, Public Information Officer, said the Police Department continues to provide information regarding crime on the City's web site and on social media. She said patrol officers have received feedback from businesses and community members who have noticed the increased police presence in key areas of criminal activity. She said it is important for the public to be safe and to feel safe.

Pat Arpin, Assistant Police Chief, said the Police Department uses crime data to help focus its efforts. He said the Sector Captains are enhancing their approach, including through the use of overtime for officers.

Chief Shirley reiterated that the entire region is experiencing an increase in crime and some cities are more challenged than others. He commended the men and women of the Bellevue Police Department for their dedication and hard work.

7. Council Business and New Initiatives: None.

8. Consent Calendar

→ Councilmember Zahn moved to approve the Consent Calendar, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

→ The motion to approve the Consent Calendar carried by a vote of 6-0, and the following items were approved:

(a) Council Minutes
Minutes of July 5, 2022 Regular Meeting

- (b) Motion to approve payment of claims and payroll for the period June 1, 2022 – June 30, 2022.
- (c) Motion to award Bid No. 29802031, 110th Avenue SE Sidewalk (CIP Plan No. CD-30) to NPM Construction Co. as the lowest responsible and responsive bidder, in the amount of \$178,002.00 plus all applicable taxes. This project is funded by Community Development Station Area Planning Implementation.
- (d) Ordinance No. 6669 amending Ordinance No. 6557, adopted December 14, 2020, and previously amended, to amend the 2021-2022 Budget to increase the Housing Fund appropriation by \$213,597 to allow the addition of three (3) full-time revenue-backed employee positions to implement and support the Housing Stability Program; providing for severability; and establishing an effective date.
- (e) Resolution No. 10113 authorizing the execution of a four-year Professional Services Agreement with Terracon Consultants, Inc. to provide quality assurance materials testing and inspection services for Transportation's City and levy funded projects, in the amount not to exceed \$500,000, plus all applicable taxes, with the option to extend the contract for an additional year for \$125,000, plus all applicable taxes, with the same terms and conditions.
- (f) Resolution No. 10114 authorizing the execution of a four-year Professional Services Agreement with HWA Geosciences, Inc. to provide quality assurance materials testing and inspection services for Transportation's City and levy funded projects, in the amount not to exceed \$500,000, plus all applicable taxes, with the option to extend the contract for an additional year for \$125,000, plus all applicable taxes, with the same terms and conditions.
- (g) Resolution No. 10115: 1) awarding Bid No. 22028, 2022 Overlay Program (CIP Plan Nos. PW-M-1, PW-R-199, PW-W/B-56, PW-R-156, W-16, D-94) to Lakeside Industries as the lowest responsible and responsive bidder, in the amount of \$8,626,876, plus all applicable taxes; and 2) authorizing the execution of an agreement with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for reimbursement to perform maintenance on three existing WSDOT owned bridges.
- (h) Resolution No. 10116 authorizing the execution of a contract for the purchase and installation of new direct vehicle exhaust systems at Fire Station 3, Fire Station 4, and Fire Station 9, from Benz Air Engineering Company, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$ 296,240.77, plus all applicable taxes.
- (i) Resolution No. 10117 authorizing execution of an amendment to the Agreement for Professional Services with Shannon and Wilson, Inc., geotechnical experts retained by the City Attorney's Office to investigate the events of the January 17, 2022 landslide, in an amount not to exceed \$130,000, exclusive of any applicable taxes.

- (j) Resolution No. 10118 authorizing execution of the Telecommunications Right of Way Use Agreement with Wholesail Networks, LLC.
- (k) Resolution No. 10119 authorizing execution of a five-year Software as a Service (SaaS) Agreement with N. Harris Computer Corporation in an amount not to exceed \$2,843,995, plus all applicable taxes, to replace the customer information and billing system of the City's Utilities Department.
- (l) Resolution No. 10120 authorizing execution of a Biller Agreement with Invoice Cloud, Inc., to include an initial term of three (3) years and a renewal term of two (2) additional years, in an amount not to exceed \$6,451,350, plus all applicable taxes, to provide payment processing services in support of the Utilities Department's future customer information and billing system.
- (m) Resolution No. 10121 authorizing execution of all documents necessary to implement settlement of the lawsuit brought by Ramu Ayyaluru in Ayyaluru v. City of Bellevue et al. (King County Superior Court Cause No. 21-2-00134-0 SEA) in the amount of \$250,000.00 (Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars).
- (n) Resolution No. 10122 authorizing execution of all documents necessary to implement settlement of the lawsuit brought in Mayer v. City of Bellevue et al. (King County Superior Court Cause No. 20-2-1462-1 SEA).

9. Public Hearings

- (a) Public Hearing and Action on Ordinance No. 6670 amending the City of Bellevue Land Use Code responding to the state termination of the East Bellevue Community Council, which will terminate as a matter of law on July 9, 2022; amending chapters 20.10, 20.20, 20.25, 20.30, 20.35, 20.40, 20.45A, 20.45B, and 20.50 of the Land Use Code to remove references to the East Bellevue Community Council and effectuate certain land use code provisions; providing for severability; and establishing an effective date.

City Manager Miyake introduced discussion regarding a change in state law under HB 1769, which sunsetted the East Bellevue Community Council and Kirkland's Houghton Community Council.

Nick Whipple, Planning Manager, Development Services Department, recalled that the EBCC was created by the voters in 1969 when the area was annexed by the City. Before the EBCC sunsetted on July 9, it had approval/disapproval authority over certain zoning ordinances, resolutions and land use controls. The proposed Land Use Code Amendment (LUCA) is intended to apply consistent regulations citywide.

Caleb Miller, Senior Planner, Development Services Department, said the LUCA contains procedural/housekeeping types of revisions as well as substantive changes regarding the uses and

dimensional and design standards allowed within the former EBCC boundary. Mr. Miller noted that the Homeless Services Uses process is now in effect for all of Bellevue. References to the EBCC related to conditional use permits (CUPs), plats, planned unit developments (PUDs) and home occupation permits have been removed, and the same review and appeal procedures now apply citywide.

Mr. Miller described the substantive revisions in the LUCA. Rezones to the R-7.5 district are now available in the former EBCC area. However, there is no immediate effect. Land use tables regarding city parks, senior housing, retail floor area limits and below-grade parking have been updated to apply the provisions citywide.

Mr. Miller said the threshold for applying minimum parking requirements for residential uses near frequent transit has been amended to include properties within one-half mile of transit, an increase from the one-quarter mile previously approved by the EBCC. Regulations regarding trailers, boats and large vehicles (e.g., RVs) will be consistent citywide and EBCC-specific definitions for camper shell, RV, utility trailer, watercraft and yard have been eliminated from the code.

Mr. Miller requested Council adoption of Ordinance No. 6670 to reflect the changes in state law.

- Councilmember Lee moved to open the public hearing, and Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

City Clerk Charmaine Arredondo said one written comment was received and it has been included in the Council's desk packet.

Betsi Hummer said she was honored to be elected by the voters to serve three terms on the EBCC, where she served as the EBCC Chair for four years. She thanked the previous EBCC members who volunteered their time on behalf of residents. She said neighborhood associations are charged with being the first source of feedback for the people in their jurisdiction. She urged the Council, Boards, Commissions and staff to listen to the concerns of residents.

Heidi Dean said the sponsor of the bill to sunset the community councils does not live in or represent an area with a community council. She believes it was a political favor for elected officials in Bellevue and Kirkland and noted residents' concerns regarding growth and development. She said the EBCC represented the interests of East Bellevue residents and she asked the Council to stand up for residents.

- Councilmember Lee moved to close the public hearing, and Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

Responding to Mayor Robinson, Mr. Whipple noted for the public that the R-7.5 district (7.5 units per acre) falls under the single-family high (SF-H) Comprehensive Plan designation. He said there are currently no R-7.5 districts in the former EBCC jurisdiction.

Councilmember Robertson said she appreciated the public comments and she acknowledged that the City Council is accountable to residents and the neighborhoods. However, the sunseting of the EBCC allows uniform rules citywide that are equitable, consistent, predictable and easier to administer.

Councilmember Stokes said the EBCC was created many years ago for a number of reasons. However, he believes the sunseting of the EBCC is a positive move for the community because it removes the inequity of having different regulations in different areas. He encouraged moving forward and working together citywide.

Councilmember Zahn thanked Ms. Hummer and Ms. Dean for their comments and for acknowledging past EBCC members.

Councilmember Lee expressed support for Ordinance No. 6670. He said the EBCC was formed for specific reasons when the area was annexed by Bellevue. However, the City has enhanced its communications and collaboration with neighborhood associations since that time. He said the Council is eager to hear from residents to address their concerns. He thanked staff for the proposed LUCA to ensure consistency citywide.

→ Councilmember Lee moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6670, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

- (b) Public Hearing and Action on Resolution No. 10123 authorizing the execution of documents necessary to release an existing water easement located at 1525 132nd Avenue NE, which has been declared surplus to the City's needs and is no longer required for providing continued public utility service; the granting and recording of such release being deemed in the best interest of public.

Mr. Miyake recalled that the Council previously declared the water easement at 1525 132nd Avenue NE as surplus and directed staff to hold the public hearing to consider the release of the easement.

Ira McDaniel, Assistant Director, Finance and Asset Management Department, introduced Loren Matlick, the City's new Real Property Manager.

Mr. McDaniel said the developer of the property referenced above requested the release of the water easement during the permitting process. The existing water line will be removed by the developer and new water service will be provided by facilities within the public right-of-way.

→ Councilmember Stokes moved to open the public hearing, and Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

No one came forward to comment.

→ Councilmember Stokes moved to close the public hearing, and Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

→ Councilmember Stokes moved to approve Resolution No. 10123, and Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

At 7:05 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared a short break. The meeting resumed at 7:15 p.m.

10. Study Session

- (a) Discussion and direction on Parks and Community Services Potential Ballot Measure for the November 2022 General Election

City Manager Miyake said the Council has discussed long-term parks funding a number of times, including most recently on July 11. At that time, the Council directed staff to draft an ordinance and ballot language for formal action on July 25.

Michael Shiosaki, Director, Parks and Community Services Department, said staff is seeking feedback regarding the draft ordinance and whether to place it on the November ballot. He noted 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 began discussing the potential for a parks levy during the March 2022 budget workshop and a number of study sessions have addressed the issue. On July 11, the Council approved the proposed \$85 million package of capital improvements, the use of the nine-year regular levy lid lift option and the levy rate. Staff is seeking final Council action on July 25.

Mr. Shiosaki highlighted the project categories contained in the parks voter initiative package, which were discussed and approved by the Council on July 11:

- Open space, greenways, wildlife corridors and trails, \$20 million.
- Community parks, \$5 million.
- Neighborhood parks (e.g., Eastgate, Factoria, Ashwood), \$20 million.
- Recreation/community facilities (e.g., aquatic center, cross-cultural center), \$10 million.
- Waterfront restoration/development (e.g., Meydenbauer Bay, Chism Beach), \$10 million.

- BelRed/Wilburton acquisition and development, \$10 million.
- Emerging sports and off-leash areas, \$10 million.
- Existing facilities maintenance and operations, \$2 million.

Toni Call, Director, Finance and Asset Management Department, highlighted the key provisions of the draft ordinance related to purpose and flexibility. She recalled discussion the previous week regarding flexibility and noted the following language in Section 1 of the ordinance: “The City Council shall determine, or provide for the determination of, the scope, timing, order and manner of funding the projects.” Ms. Call said those factors will be addressed through budget discussions. The second area of flexibility is reflected in the following language: “The City Council may alter, make substitutions to and amend the description of any of the projects and allocate levy proceeds among the various projects as it determines is in the best interests of the City and consistent with the general open space, neighborhood, community, recreation and park purposes provided herein.”

Ms. Call said state law provides an exemption for low-income senior adults, disabled veterans and other people with disabilities. The program is administered through the King County Assessor’s Office. In order to qualify for an exemption or deferral of taxes, the maximum income is \$58,423.

Ms. Call presented the draft ballot language, which allows for a nine-year regular levy of approximately \$0.15 per \$1,000 assessed valuation (AV) to finance the acquisition, improvement and development of parks and facilities and a levy of \$0.05 per \$1,000 AV for maintenance and operations expenditures. Ms. Call noted that 90 percent of the taxes paid by a Bellevue property owner goes to King County, Bellevue School District, State of Washington, emergency medical services (EMS), flood control, Sound Transit and other entities and purposes.

Mr. Shiosaki said that if the Council approves the ordinance, the City Clerk will bring forward legislation to appoint the Pro and Con committees to prepare statements for the local voters pamphlet.

Councilmember Stokes expressed support for placing the levy on the ballot. He noted that the proposed levy package addresses a wide range of needs. He said the levy will allow the City to continue to move forward with enhancements to the parks and open space system. He thanked the Parks and Community Services Board and staff for their work.

Councilmember Robertson expressed support for the levy and thanked staff for the language to address flexibility. She said it is important to acquire open space while it is still available in order to serve the growth in residents and workers in Bellevue.

Ms. Robertson suggested adding “(e.g., cricket, pickleball)” to the wording of the emerging sports category.

Councilmember Zahn expressed support for the proposed ordinance and ballot language. She said it is important to support parks and open space priorities in response to the community’s interests. She concurred with Councilmember Robertson’s suggestion regarding emerging sports.

Responding to Councilmember Zahn, Stacey Crawshaw-Lewis, bond counsel with Pacifica Law Group, said the levy lid lift statute requires the ballot proposition to include the maximum rate per \$1,000 AV.

Responding to Councilmember Lee, Ms. Call said the City's current levy rate is \$0.85 per \$1,000 AV. She said the Council could choose in December to use any portion of its banked capacity when the Council adopts its final property tax legislation for 2023. In further response, Ms. Call said the proposed levy does not use the City's banked capacity but preserves the Council's right to increase its banked capacity during budget discussions later this year.

Councilmember Lee expressed support for the ordinance and ballot language. He said it is important to educate the public about the proposed ballot measure.

Councilmember Barksdale said it is important for the public to understand what they are voting for and he expressed support for the ordinance.

Mayor Robinson said she was ready to move forward. She would like it to be easy for property owners to apply for the tax exemption if they are eligible. She suggested working with the Bellevue Network on Aging to provide information to senior adults and disabled individuals in the community.

- Councilmember Robertson moved to direct staff to prepare the ordinance as drafted for consideration and final Council action on July 25, 2022. Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.
- Councilmember Robertson moved to amend the ordinance to add "(e.g., cricket, pickleball)" next to the words "Emerging sports." Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.
- The motion to amend carried by a vote of 6-0.
- The main motion, as amended, carried by a vote of 6-0.

(b) Cascade Water Alliance Draft 2023-2024 Budget and Proposed Water Rate Increases

City Manager Miyake introduced the informational briefing regarding the Cascade Water Alliance's 2023-2024 proposed budget and utility rates. He noted that Councilmember Barksdale represents Bellevue on the Cascade Water Alliance Board.

Lucy Liu, Deputy Director, Utilities Department, said Bellevue has been part of the Cascade Water Alliance since 1989 to provide safe and reliable drinking water to residents and businesses. Bellevue purchases more than half of Cascade's water supply and the cost paid to Cascade is the largest bill for the Utilities Department. The Cascade Board is scheduled to adopt the proposed budget and utility rates in September.

Ray Hoffman, CEO, Cascade Water Alliance, thanked Councilmember Barksdale, Councilmember Stokes and City staff for their hard work and time spent to refine the budget proposal. Mr. Hoffman said that Cascade's Board and finance committee have been working on the budget since early spring, and Bellevue's input has been invaluable in the development of the budget and the rates. Cascade is a municipal corporation serving 380,000 people and 20,000 businesses and is governed by its board of member agencies' elected officials. Cascade purchases water from Seattle Public Utilities and the current contracted supply will begin to decline in 2039 before the contract ends in 2063. Mr. Hoffman noted that Lake Tapps was acquired as a future water source. He said the proposed budget and rates implement the goals of the Cascade strategic plan while maintaining financial stability.

Ed Cebron, Chief Economist/Treasurer, Cascade Water Alliance, said that revenue for the 2023 budget totals \$55.7 million from member charges, the Regional Capital Facility Charge and other sources. The 2023 budget totals \$54.5 million with \$44 million for operations and maintenance and \$10.5 million for capital improvements. The 2023 operations and maintenance budget includes \$24 million to purchase water from Seattle, \$9.2 million in debt service, and other expenses. Mr. Cebron noted that only 17 percent of the operations and maintenance budget reflects costs within Cascade's short-term control. The proposed 2024 operations and maintenance budget totals \$46.2 million. Mr. Cebron highlighted projects and expenditures in the capital budget from 2023 through 2028.

Mr. Cebron said that member charges increase by an average of 2.2 percent in 2023 and 2.2 percent in 2024. He said the significant projected increase in revenue in 2023 from the Regional Capital Facility Charge reflects continued economic recovery from the pandemic. Mr. Cebron presented information regarding current and proposed member charges and noted that adjustments to the charges differ for member cities based on relative growth and demand trends. The proposed member charge for Bellevue increases by 3.36 percent in 2023 and 2.33 percent in 2024.

Mr. Cebron said Cascade reduced the operations and maintenance budget by \$581,000 in 2023 and reduced the 2023-2026 capital risk budget by \$1.3 million. The agency maintains its AAA bond rating, funded major infrequent expenses (i.e., system plan, sediment removal) from reserve funds, and generated shared benefits funds for the Water Supply Development Fund.

Mr. Cebron said staff's recommendation to the Cascade Board reflects the revenue increase of 2.2 percent annually, adjustments to member charges, an increase in the current Regional Capital Facility Charge to \$7,201 in 2023 and \$7,454 in 2024, and continuing to adopt rates every two years.

Councilmember Barksdale thanked Cascade staff for the presentation and for their work with City staff. He encouraged the Cascade Board to continue to look for cost containment strategies.

Mayor Robinson thanked Councilmember Barksdale for representing Bellevue on the Cascade Board.

Councilmember Stokes expressed support for the proposed budget and rates.

Councilmember Lee acknowledged that Cascade has a challenging role in working with the different member cities. He thanked them for their work and expressed support for the proposed budget. He encouraged his fellow Councilmembers to tour the Lake Tapps facility.

Responding to Mr. Lee, Mr. Hoffman said Cascade first entered into an agreement with Tacoma in approximately 2005 with the intent of buying water from them and constructing a pipeline to supplement the Seattle water agreement. He said that scenario was ultimately unnecessary because water demand was not increasing. Approximately 12 years ago, Cascade extended the Seattle contract and renegotiated its contract with Tacoma. The Tacoma contract extends to 2042 for up to eight million gallons of water per day. Mr. Hoffman said Cascade is currently in negotiations with both Tacoma and Seattle to explore contract extensions or new supply contracts to meet future needs.

Responding to Councilmember Robertson, Mr. Cebron said the current contract with Seattle extends to 2039. Ms. Robertson suggested that water usage in Bellevue is lower this year due to the wet and cool spring and early summer. Mr. Cebron said Cascade uses a three-year history to determine member charges. In further response to Ms. Robertson, Mr. Cebron confirmed that the projected increase in rates represents an increase in revenues.

Councilmember Zahn expressed support for the proposed budget. She encouraged continued efforts related to water conservation.

Mayor Robinson noted a projected decrease in the budget for conservation and concurred with Ms. Zahn's comments regarding public education to increase water conservation.

Mr. Cebron said Cascade is working with a social media firm to develop a new outreach program. He said participation in Cascade workshops increased significantly during the pandemic with the option to attend remotely. He noted an upcoming focus on outdoor water usage. He said there has been an increase in requests for irrigation audits by commercial entities.

Ms. Robinson noted Redmond's use of wells and asked why wells in Bellevue are not being used. Mr. Cebron said that when Cascade was originally formed, four members (Issaquah, Redmond, Sammamish Plateau and Skyway) identified water sources that they owned and operated. At that time, no other jurisdictions had active wells. Mr. Hoffman said that, under the Cascade agreement, members must coordinate with Cascade to introduce their own independent water supplies. If the source supplies more than one million gallons per day, the source must be documented and incorporated into the Cascade system plan as part of the agency's supply strategy. Mr. Cebron said the Lake Washington watershed is currently closed to new water rights appropriations and it would be incredibly difficult to achieve rights to develop new wells. He said it is possible there are existing water rights that could be used if they are still valid.

In further response to Mayor Robinson, Mr. Cebron said water rates increase to keep pace with the cost of water from Seattle and Tacoma. Ms. Liu said the projected 3.4 percent rate increase in the cost Bellevue pays to Cascade in 2023 translates to a 1.7 percent rate increase for the average

ratepayer. Regarding wells, Ms. Liu said the City maintains four wells for municipal water purposes. The wells were used in the 1950s and 1960s to provide water supply to the Lake Hills and Crossroads neighborhoods but they have not been used in many years. During the next budget cycle, City staff will propose projects to restore and maintain the wells for non-potable and emergency uses. Ms. Liu said staff plans to evaluate options to install additional wells for emergency use only throughout the City's service area.

Councilmember Lee said certain City staff have expressed concern regarding the Water Supply Development Fund. Mr. Hoffman said the Cascade Board took action in June related to the shared benefits funds and moved more money into the Water Supply Development Fund. He said there is regular reporting and assessment of the fund with the Board.

Mr. Lee asked about the reserve policies and financial strategies for addressing a major infrastructure failure and recovery costs. Mr. Cebron said Cascade and municipal staff are currently working on a formal emergency response plan to be completed by the end of the year. He said the purpose is to formalize the roles and responsibilities of Cascade member agencies in the event of an emergency. He said Cascade's approach is to properly maintain infrastructure to minimize the risk of failures.

At 8:40 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared a break. The meeting resumed at 8:50 p.m.

(c) Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) Quarterly Update

City Manager Miyake introduced staff's update regarding the Environmental Stewardship Initiative.

Emil King, Assistant Director, Community Development Department, said that implementing the 2021-2025 Environmental Stewardship Plan is a key Council priority. He noted that tonight's presentation would include the annual update on environmental performance indicators.

Jennifer Ewing, Environmental Stewardship Program Manager, said that community greenhouse gas emissions decreased by 20 percent from 2011 to 2021 despite the addition of 28,000 residents and 24,000 new jobs. She noted the goal to reduce emissions by 50 percent by 2030 and 80 percent by 2050. She presented the wedge analysis, which reflects the different strategies needed to achieve the GHG emissions targets in the areas of buildings, transportation and waste.

Ms. Ewing said that the meeting packet and the online Environmental Stewardship performance dashboard include information on all of the performance measures. She noted the goal to reduce vehicle miles traveled per capita by 50 percent by 2050 and reported that vehicle miles per capita were reduced by 30 percent in 2021. Total energy usage was down by eight percent in 2021, particularly for commercial buildings, and the use of energy from renewable sources (i.e., wind and solar) increased.

Ms. Ewing said the City updated its tree canopy assessment using 2019 as the most recent data. The 2021 data and aerial images should become available later this year. The 40-percent tree canopy target reflects the City's goals related to the park system, neighborhood character, habitat

and natural systems, and the prevention of urban heat islands. Ms. Ewing said the tree canopy assessment is updated approximately every five years. Overall tree canopy growth between 2011 and 2019 offset tree losses citywide. The tree canopy was 37.5 percent in 2011 and 39.5 percent in 2019. While the overall tree canopy has increased, the tree canopy declined in nearly half of Bellevue's land area. Ms. Ewing noted the community's interest in expanding the tree canopy and preventing additional tree canopy losses.

Ana Hagerup, Resource Conservation Program Manager, presented information regarding municipal operations GHG emissions, which decreased by 16 percent from 2011 to 2021. The reduction target was 25 percent by 2021. The sources of municipal emissions were primarily buildings, transportation and waste. Ms. Hagerup noted benefits from the Green Direct renewable electricity program. She said Cedar Grove Composting is expanding its options for compostable products, which allows the City to divert more waste from landfills.

Ms. Hagerup highlighted the progress to date for municipal operations. The drive-alone rate for City employees increased in 2021 due to the pandemic. The City is installing the electrical infrastructure needed to provide electric vehicle charging stations for employees. However, the City continues to urge employees to use vanpools, carpools and public transit. Ms. Hagerup said there was a significant decrease in gas usage by the City's fleet in 2021.

The City is implementing six projects through an energy efficiency grant and expects to hear later this summer about another grant. Ms. Hagerup noted efforts to convert certain gas equipment to electrical equipment to take advantage of the renewable energy the City is purchasing through the Green Direct program. She said there are also opportunities to install solar energy equipment.

Ms. Hagerup said that 2021 had a hot summer and there was an increase in water usage. She said projects are underway (e.g., City Hall plaza renovation) to reduce water use. She said there was a decrease in composting and recycling in 2021 but that trend is not expected to continue.

Ms. Ewing said the City is approximately 18 months into implementing the five-year Environmental Stewardship Plan, and work has started on three-quarters of the actions. She noted efforts with commercial buildings to benchmark their energy use and to explore strategies for reducing energy use.

Ms. Ewing said the City is launching its heat pump campaign with the cities of Issaquah, Kirkland, Mercer Island and Redmond. The program is partnering with a heat pump distributor and will provide discounts for residents to install heat pumps.

Ms. Ewing said residents have expressed appreciation for the City's efforts to date. However, members of the public have expressed concern that the City and the community are not on track to meet their goals, and implementation needs to move forward more quickly. She noted feedback from the community about the need for additional City staffing and resources and the need to meet environmental goals while accommodating growth. Ms. Ewing said a town hall meeting regarding sustainability and the Comprehensive Plan update process was held on July 14.

Responding to Councilmember Lee, Ms. Ewing said there was a slight increase in GHG emissions in 2021. She concurred with the need to look at how to continue to reduce emissions as the region emerges from the pandemic and economic activity increases.

Councilmember Zahn thanked staff for the update. She noted that a number of City initiatives contribute to achieving environmental goals (e.g., Parks and Open Space Levy, Mobility Implementation Plan, tree canopy monitoring, Comprehensive Plan update, housing programs). She asked whether it is possible to determine the percentages of reductions in emissions for the different strategies. She encouraged exploring ways for the community and for the City's operations to more aggressively reduce GHG emissions. She thanked everyone for their work.

Councilmember Barksdale said he shares Councilmember Zahn's interest in better understanding the impact of individual strategies on reducing emissions.

Councilmember Stokes expressed concern that more needs to be done to reach the City's environmental goals. He suggested that additional staffing might be needed to expedite the implementation of the Environmental Stewardship Plan.

Responding to Mayor Robinson regarding staffing, Michael Kattermann, Director of the Community Development Department, commented on the need to review the programs the City is putting in place to achieve the desired goals. That review will help determine the level of effort needed, including staffing, to expedite efforts. Mr. Kattermann said those issues will be addressed during budget discussions this fall. While not currently on track to meet emissions goals, the City's efforts are gaining momentum.

Mayor Robinson expressed concern that, according to Republic Services, 70 percent of recycling materials end up in the landfill due to improper recycling practices. She encouraged enhanced public outreach regarding recycling. Ms. Ewing confirmed that the Utilities Department provides information about recycling and the waste stream.

Ms. Robinson noted the recommended practice for recycled materials to empty, clean and dry items before placing in the recycling bin. She expressed an interest in how the community can be more successful with recycling. Ms. Hagerup said staff periodically audits recycling bins at municipal facilities to determine the contamination rate. She acknowledged that there is confusion about whether items are recyclable or compostable.

Councilmember Robertson expressed support for an enhanced focus on the actions with the greatest benefit in reducing GHG emissions. Noting the significant increase in the number of residents and workers, Ms. Robertson said it would be interesting to understand the per capita reduction in GHG emissions and how that contributes to overall reductions. She said that might be more motivating for individuals to focus on recycling and other environmental goals.

Responding to Ms. Robertson, Ms. Ewing confirmed that the greatest loss of tree canopy was associated with Sound Transit's light rail project. Ms. Ewing said Sound Transit is replanting trees. However, she was not sure of the status of that effort.

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

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC
City Clerk

/kaw