

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Extended Study Session

February 11, 2008
6:00 p.m.

Council Conference Room
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Degginger, Deputy Mayor Balducci, and Councilmembers Chelminiak, Davidson, Lee, and Noble

ABSENT: None.

1. Executive Session

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m., with Mayor Degginger presiding.

2. Oral Communications: None.

3. Study Session

(a) Council Business and New Initiatives

→ Deputy Mayor Balducci moved to defer Agenda Item 3(a)(1) to the end of the agenda. Mayor Degginger seconded the motion.

→ The motion to defer Agenda Item 3(a)(1) to the end of the agenda carried by a vote of 6-0.

(b) Recognition of Extraordinary Customer Service

Utilities Director Denny Vidmar described an incident that occurred on September 5, 2007, involving Utilities Department employees Richard Bruckman, Sean O'Connor, Jeremy Sinon, and Scott Wilde. They noticed a car at a traffic light with an elderly gentleman slumped over the wheel. They took the man out of the car and administered CPR until Bellevue Fire/Medic personnel arrived and took the 83-year-old man, Donald Courtney, to Overlake Hospital.

Mr. Vidmar described an incident that occurred on December 7, 2006, in which Utilities Department employee Mike Caruso noticed a man lying on the floor inside his home. He called 911 and the man was taken to the hospital, where it was determined that he had been in a hypoglycemic coma for 3-1/2 days. Nearly a year later the man, Michael Holcombe, wrote to the Utilities Department to explain what happened and to thank Mr. Caruso. Mr. Holcombe said he

would have written sooner but that he had spent the past year in and out of hospitals and nursing homes. Mr. Vidmar shared a video from Mr. Holcombe describing the incident and thanking Mr. Caruso.

Mayor Degginger presented plaques recognizing these extraordinary efforts to Mr. Caruso and to the Utilities employees involved in the more recent incident.

- (c) Municipal Stormwater Permit – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Permit Update [*Council action to authorize submittal of the 2007 NPDES Annual Report to the state Department of Ecology is scheduled for February 19, 2008.*]

City Manager Steve Sarkozy recalled efforts to obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Permit for the City's stormwater sewer system and acknowledged staff to provide an update.

Mr. Vidmar provided background information on the NPDES permit process and noted that Council action is scheduled for next Tuesday on a Resolution authorizing submittal of the 2007 NPDES Annual Report to the state Department of Ecology by the March 31 deadline. The Federal Clean Water Act established the NPDES permit process, and the state Department of Ecology administers the permits in Washington.

The City of Bellevue was issued a Phase II permit in February 2007, and permit conditions are phased in over a five-year period. While the City is challenging some permit conditions that will go into effect in future years, tonight's presentation is about two submittals: 1) 2007 Permit Compliance Report, and 2) 2008 Stormwater Management Plan. Neither document contains items that are being challenged. The permit affects all City operational and support departments with the exception this year only of the Police Department. Police will be involved in future years.

Mr. Vidmar said the City's actions since the permit was issued one year ago include reviewing the City's activities and legal requirements; significant planning by cross-departmental teams with oversight by a steering committee; providing public involvement opportunities, and preparing for the required March 31 submittals to the Department of Ecology. The City was in full compliance with the permit in 2007. The 2008 Stormwater Management Program documents the actions to be initiated and/or completed in 2008 to ensure continued compliance.

Mr. Vidmar explained that public involvement activities included presentations to the Environmental Services Commission and the Planning Commission, followed by a joint Public Hearing on January 9, 2008. There were no public comments at the hearing. Mr. Vidmar noted a memo in Council's desk packet from the Environmental Services Commission, which recommends Council approval of the 2008 Stormwater Management Program.

Councilmember Davidson confirmed the ESC's recommendation and indicated that the Commission will continue to discuss and debate the issues.

[Return to previous Agenda Item.]

(a) Council Business and New Initiatives

(1) Process for Filling Vacant Council Seat

Mayor Degginger reported that the City received 21 applications for the vacant City Council position. The Council now needs to choose the remaining process for selecting the Councilmember.

Responding to Councilmember Chelminiak, Mayor Degginger indicated his desire to complete the selection process by the end of the month. Mr. Chelminiak suggested interviewing 5 to 7 candidates during the February 19 Council meeting and making a decision by the February 25 meeting.

Deputy Mayor Balducci noted the pool of well-qualified candidates, and concurred with Mr. Chelminiak's suggested procedure.

Councilmember Lee questioned how the Council will narrow the list of candidates to those to be interviewed. He noted the Council's commitment to spending the time needed to review the candidates and make a final selection.

Councilmember Noble suggested asking all applicants the same question or questions in order to maintain fairness. He is interested in candidates' skill sets as well as experience that demonstrates a commitment to the community.

Mr. Lee suggested providing the question/s to candidates before the public interviews.

Councilmember Davidson reiterated his previous suggestion to limit candidates to past Councilmembers.

Mr. Chelminiak feels it is not necessary to provide the interview questions in advance. He noted a slight preference for candidates who have served on Boards and Commissions due to their knowledge of the City's policies and issues.

Mayor Degginger summarized the desired candidate qualifications as articulated by the Council including a demonstrated commitment to the community, familiarity with the City's operations and issues, strong communication skills, and the ability to work within a team. His preference is to provide candidates with a list of potential interview questions in advance, and to limit their responses to two minutes.

Ms. Balducci spoke in favor of not providing the questions to candidates in advance, as a way of seeing how well candidates respond to an unexpected question or issue. Mr. Noble concurred.

Mayor Degginger noted general Council consensus to ask three questions of each candidate and to limit their responses to three minutes per question. The questions will not be provided to the candidates in advance. Mr. Degginger summarized that candidates have already submitted resumes and written answers to questions about their interest in serving on the Council.

Councilmember Noble suggested recessing to Executive Session to discuss the candidates, and Deputy Mayor Balducci concurred.

Responding to Mayor Degginger, City Clerk Myrna Basich confirmed that the Council is allowed by law to discuss candidates' qualifications in Executive Session. However, the Council must discuss in a public meeting the criteria to be used for selection.

- Councilmember Noble moved to recess to Executive Session for approximately 15 minutes to review the qualifications of candidates for the vacant Council position. Deputy Mayor Balducci seconded the motion.
- The motion to recess to Executive Session to review the qualifications of candidates for the vacant Council position carried by a vote of 6-0.

At 7:01 p.m., Mayor Degginger declared recess to Executive Session.

The meeting resumed at 7:26 p.m.

Mr. Degginger briefly recapped the desired criteria discussed before the Executive Session, and he noted it is important that the person be able to dedicate sufficient time to the position. He said that some of the applicants have run for a Council seat in the past and were not elected, which presents a dilemma in terms of consideration for voters' wishes.

Councilmember Noble spoke to his preference for a person who has demonstrated an interest in and commitment to the City by serving on a Board or Commission.

Councilmember Lee said he is pleased with the number of ethnic minorities who have applied for the vacant position. He endorsed the criteria discussed so far including relevant skills, commitment to the community, and experience in working with the City and community groups.

Ms. Balducci summarized her key criteria as commitment, competence, and compatibility. Compatibility includes listening to and working well with fellow Councilmembers, staff, other elected officials, and the public. Competence includes familiarity with local and regional policy issues.

Mr. Chelminiak suggested that only finalists supported by a majority of the Council be interviewed. He feels recent experience on a Board or Commission is important.

- Councilmember Chelminiak nominated the following seven people to continue through the interview process during next week's Council meeting: 1) Former Councilmember

Mike Creighton, 2) Former Planning Commissioner Patsy Bonincontri, 3) Arts Commission Vice Chair Betina Finley, 4) Parks and Community Services Board Member David Karle, 5) Transportation Commissioner Lise Northey, 6) Planning Commission Chair Jennifer Robertson, and 7) Former Planning Commissioner Ken Schiring. Councilmember Noble seconded the motion.

Deputy Mayor Balducci expressed support for the narrowed list of candidates.

Mr. Lee feels that all seven of the candidates meet the qualifications the Council has been discussing.

Mr. Noble said he seconded the motion for the purpose of discussion, and he does support the candidates. He noted his hesitancy in usurping the right of voters to select their own Councilmembers, but he understands the need to move forward with the process.

Councilmember Davidson expressed support for the motion.

Mayor Degginger commented on the extensive experience and commitment reflected in the pool of candidates.

→ The motion to continue with the selection process by interviewing the seven candidates listed above carried by a vote of 6-0.

Mr. Degginger invited Councilmembers to submit proposed interview questions to the City Clerk.

4. Executive Session

At 7:25 p.m., Mayor Degginger declared recess to Executive Session for approximately 2 hours to discuss one personnel matter.

The Executive Session concluded at 10:20 p.m., and Mayor Degginger declared the meeting adjourned.

Myrna L. Basich
City Clerk

kaw