

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Session

December 11, 2006
8:00 p.m.

Council Chamber
Bellevue, Washington

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

ABSENT: None.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:04 p.m., with Mayor Degginger presiding.

2. Roll Call, Flag Salute

Upon roll call by the Deputy City Clerk, all Councilmembers were present. Councilmember Davidson led the flag salute.

3. Communications: Written and Oral

- (a) Shannon Smith lives above Vasa Park. She noted that 10 to 15 families are affected by the noise from parties at the park during the summer and fall. This fall there were parties at Vasa Park for six weeks in a row that ran until 1:00 a.m. Neighbors stopped calling the Police because there was nothing they could do. Ms. Smith stated her understanding that there is to be no amplified sound on Sundays and the noise is supposed to end at 5:00 p.m. on other days. She encouraged Council to adopt stricter regulations with escalating fines and penalties. She noted that some neighbors are selling their homes to get away from the noise.
- (b) Lori Taylor, Executive Director of Bellevue Farmers Market, reported that 2006 was an outstanding year with attendance at approximately 36,000, a 56-percent increase over last year. Participants included 39 farms from 13 counties and gross sales increased from \$366,000 to \$509,000 this year. Local chefs conducted cooking demonstrations and the farmers were generous with fresh food donations delivered to Hopelink's food bank. The Eastside Heritage Society provided several agricultural exhibits throughout the season. Two additional attractions at the market this year were booths by KidsQuest Museum and Eastside Public Health. Ms. Taylor requested \$3,000 from the City for the 2007 market. The funds will be used for the placement of A-boards on market day. She thanked the Council; Ron Kessack, ROW Manager; the Transportation Department; and the Police

Department for their support of the market.

- (c) Barbara Linde, the newly elected Presiding Judge for King County District Court, acknowledged that the City of Bellevue is exploring alternatives for future municipal court services. She feels confident that the District Court can continue to meet Bellevue's needs and hopes to move forward to work together in a positive way.
- (d) Alex Porter, a student at Odle Middle School, expressed support for the proposal before Council regarding the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement.
- (e) Grace Bludostrom spoke about global warming and encouraged Council to sign the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement.
- (f) Eric Dawes, a South Bellevue resident, spoke regarding a parcel to the north of the SE Bellevue boat launch. He asked the Parks Department to consider acquiring the lot to expand the boat launch and its parking facilities.

Mayor Degginger asked the City Manager to have Parks staff look into activity on the parcel.

- (g) Susie Winkowski, Vasa Park Resort, thanked staff and Council for their work on the noise code. She is concerned with the proposal to limit noise permits to four days a week. The resort runs eight day camps per summer with 200 to 400 children daily. The directors of the camps need weeklong permits to use amplified sound (a bullhorn) to announce "buddy checks" every thirty minutes that children are in the water. Vasa Park Resort provides nine lifeguards daily for the day camps. Ms. Winkowski said they are willing to comply with the decibel limit but are opposed to limiting amplified sound to four days per week.
- (h) Ted Cox, a teacher at Bellevue High School, encouraged investments in high-tech interior and street lighting, energy efficient building standards, and modernized heating and cooling systems throughout the community. He supports the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement. Mr. Cox described how cities have saved money and energy by using highly efficient LED bulbs in traffic lights and gas-electric hybrid vehicles.

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

5. Report of the City Manager

- (b) Management Brief – Status of 2006 Comprehensive Plan Amendments

Planning Director Dan Stroh explained that the state Growth Management Act requires the City to consider annual Comprehensive Plan Amendments (CPAs) together to identify cumulative impacts. The 2006 CPAs will be presented for Council action in February. The CPAs have been delayed somewhat by additional work and public outreach for the Crossroads CPA proposal. The 2006 CPA package includes four privately initiated CPAs and two publicly initiated CPAs (Wilburton and Crossroads).

6. Council Business

[Council Business was reported during the earlier Study Session.]

7. Approval of the Agenda

- Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to approve the agenda, and Mr. Noble seconded the motion.
- The motion to approve the agenda carried by a vote of 7-0.

8. Consent Calendar

Councilmember Lee suggested a clarification to the minutes of the November 20 Study Session. In the discussion regarding Sound Transit's specific criteria that dictates when tunneling is appropriate, Mr. Lee would like the minutes to highlight his concern about mitigating neighborhood impacts and utilizing Bellevue's criteria in addition to Sound Transit's criteria.

- Councilmember Marshall moved to approve the Consent Calendar, amended to exclude the Minutes of the November 20 Study Session under item 8(a). Ms. Balducci seconded the motion.
- The motion to approve the Consent Calendar, as amended, carried by a vote of 7-0, and the following items were approved:
 - (a) Minutes of November 6, 2006 Study Session
Minutes of November 6, 2006 Regular Session
Minutes of November 13, 2006 Extended Study Session
~~Minutes of November 20, 2006 Study Session~~
Minutes of November 20, 2006 Regular Session
 - (b) Resolution No. 7474 authorizing execution of a Settlement Agreement and Release to implement settlement in the amount of \$40,822.01 to resolve claims related to clean-up costs and property damage sustained to the Williams/Ryan residence due to a water system failure.
 - (c) Motion to approve payment of claims for the period November 18 through December 8, 2006, and payroll for the period November 1 through November 30, 2006.
 - (d) Resolution No. 7475 authorizing the execution of a four-year contract with Washington Institute of Sports Medicine in an amount not to exceed \$194,760 to provide wellness/fitness examination to fire fighters.
 - (e) Resolution No. 7476 authorizing execution of a four-year agreement with ClearPoint in an amount not to exceed \$264,000 to provide health and welfare benefits consulting and brokerage services for 2007 through 2010.

- (f) Resolution No. 7477 authorizing execution of an addendum to the existing Interlocal Agreement between cities for sharing fiber optic installation projects adding the City of Renton and the Renton School District as participating agencies.
- (g) Resolution No. 7478 authorizing execution of a Wi-Fi Right-of-Use Agreement between the City and Harborlink Network, LLC, to provide wireless services in the Central Business District for a period of one year.
- (h) Resolution No. 7479 authorizing the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Bellevue Police Officers' Guild and the City settling an unfair labor practice complaint.
- (i) Resolution No. 7480 authorizing execution of a Permit and Agreement with Lincoln Square Retail LLC governing construction and the use of the Lincoln Square/Bellevue Place tunnel under NE 8th Street, and the execution of future amendments to reflect increases in the annual permit fee. *[Discussed with Council on December 4, 2006.]*
- (j) Motion to waive minor bid irregularities and award Bid No. 0660 in the amount of \$534,208 to Sanders General Construction LLC, as low bidder, for Commercial Water Meter Replacement 2006, replacement of seven commercial water meter assemblies.
- (k) Resolution No. 7481 authorizing execution of a professional services agreement with Jacobs Civil Inc. in the amount of \$82,000 for construction management and inspection services for the Commercial Water Meter Replacement 2006 project. [CIP Plan No. W-98]
- (l) Ordinance No. 5702 authorizing execution of a contract, and any necessary supplements, with the Washington State Department of Trade and Economic Development to accept \$66,000 in grant reimbursement funds to assist ARCH (A Regional Coalition for Housing) in developing and adopting a joint strategic plan to preserve and increase the supply of affordable housing in East King County, establishing a project within the operating Grants and Donations Fund, and appropriating unanticipated and future revenues to that fund.
- (m) Resolution No. 7482 approving the 2006-2017 Transportation Facilities Plan. *[Discussed with Council on December 4, 2006.]*

Mayor Degginger said the November 20 Study Session minutes will be reviewed and presented for Council approval in early January.

9. Public Hearings

- (a) Public Hearing on consideration of a property tax increase to fund public needs

identified by the community.

City Manager Steve Sarkozy explained that the purpose of the public hearing is to obtain public comment on the Council's consideration of a property tax increase to fund public needs identified by the community during the public input process regarding the 2007-2008 Preliminary Budget and 2007-2013 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan. This is the fourth public hearing on the budget and CIP Plan.

Finance Director Jan Hawn said the proposed two percent property tax increase will generate \$525,000 per year to support maintenance and operations (M&O) costs associated with capital improvements, and will allow the City to address critical infrastructure needs. These needs were identified as part of long-range plans identified and adopted by Council following the first three public hearings.

Ms. Hawn described a graph showing that even with the property tax increase, Bellevue's tax rate is well below neighboring cities including Duvall, Kirkland, Redmond, Renton, and Seattle. Bellevue's tax rate will go from \$1.10 per \$1,000 assessed valuation in 2006 to \$1.04 per \$1,000 in 2007. Without the increase, the tax rate would have decreased to \$1.02 per \$1,000 assessed valuation. This tax adjustment reflects an annual increase of \$10.60 for the average homeowner with a home valued at \$530,000. Bellevue's tax rate will continue to decrease, but this revenue source allows the City to address ongoing operational and infrastructure needs.

- ➡ Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to open the public hearing, and Mr. Noble seconded the motion.
- ➡ The motion to open the public hearing carried by a vote of 7-0.

The following citizens came forward to comment:

- (1) Dick Chapin provided a brief history of Bellevue's aging infrastructure, transportation needs, and past practice of not increasing property taxes. He supports implementing the tax increase this year. Mr. Chapin encouraged the City Council to take strong leadership on this issue.
- (2) Wynn Cannon spoke on behalf of the Bellevue Chapter of the League of Washington Taxpayers. He expressed concern about increasing utility rates and taxes, water and sewer charges, and the proposed property tax increase. Noting the City's financial contributions to nonprofit and cultural organizations, Mr. Cannon said government is too large and costly.
- (3) Renay Bennett opposes the proposed property tax increase and encouraged Council to not fund so many outside cultural groups and human services organizations.
- (4) Audrey Kelley opposes the proposed tax increase. She feels Parks Department expenditures and facilities are excessive and wasteful. Similarly, she feels expenditures on the new City Hall were extravagant.

- (5) Steve Kelley encouraged a stronger budget emphasis on Public Safety functions and encouraged the City to fund Medic One services in its budget.
- (6) Katherine Lindquist expressed concern about the proposed tax increase.
- (7) Keith Baldwin, Bellevue Arts Museum, expressed support for the budget including funding for transportation and cultural arts. He thanked Council for its support of the museum.
- (8) Leslie Lloyd, Bellevue Downtown Association, noted that Bellevue has been decreasing property tax rates annually for several years, but is now considering not decreasing taxes this year. She described significant revenue being generated by booming downtown development, which has been used on an ongoing basis to reduce property taxes. She supports the tax increase and feels this is a good first step to meet community needs.
- ➡ Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to close the public hearing, and Councilmember Marshall seconded the motion.
- ➡ The motion to close the public hearing carried by a vote of 7-0.

10. Land Use

- (a) Ordinance No. 5703 approving application of Bel-Red Office Rezone File No. 06-116036-LQ. *[This quasi-judicial matter was discussed with Council on December 4, 2006.]*

Land Use Director Carol Helland described the application of Mark Alguard, Kirkland Builders, for the Bel-Red Office Rezone affecting property at 15063 Bel-Red Road (At intersection of Northup Way). The application is not actually for a rezone but to remove a condition concerning traffic circulation, which is no longer necessary. No public comments have been received. Ms. Helland requested Council action on Ordinance No. 5703.

- ➡ Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to adopt Ordinance No. 5703, and Mr. Lee seconded the motion.
- ➡ The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 5703 carried by a vote of 7-0.

11. Other Ordinances, Resolutions and Motions

- (a) Ordinance No. 5704 revising adopted charges for water service, water consumption, and water service for fire protection; repealing Ordinance No. 5573; and establishing an effective date.

- ➡ Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to adopt Ordinance No. 5704, and Dr. Davidson seconded the motion.

Responding to Councilmember Lee, Mr. Sarkozy explained that the user charges for each city

covered by Bellevue Utilities were negotiated and set by previous agreement.

- The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 5704 carried by a vote of 7-0.
 - (b) Ordinance No. 5705 revising adopted sewerage service charges; repealing Ordinance No. 5574; and establishing an effective date.
- Councilmember Marshall moved to adopt Ordinance No. 5705, and Dr. Davidson seconded the motion.
- The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 5705 carried by a vote of 7-0.
 - (c) Ordinance No. 5706 revising adopted storm and surface water drainage rates and charges for the Storm & Surface Water Utility of the City; repealing Ordinance No. 5575; and establishing an effective date.
- Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to adopt Ordinance No. 5706, and Mrs. Marshall seconded the motion.
- The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 5706 carried by a vote of 7-0.

Councilmember Davidson noted that the Environmental Services Commission extensively reviewed the budget in order to formulate recommendations for the City Council. The Council then thoroughly studied and discussed the Commission's proposal before choosing to support the utility rates.

- (d) Ordinance No. 5707 adopting the Human Services Commission's 2007-2008 Human Services funding recommendations and authorizing entering into contracts with local human services agencies in accordance with the recommendations.
- Councilmember Noble moved to adopt Ordinance No. 5707, and Mrs. Marshall seconded the motion.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak commended the Human Services Commission for its work to study community needs and develop funding recommendations. While other local governments have been reducing human services spending, Bellevue continues to increase funding in this area. Mr. Chelminiak noted one benefit of the funding is to assist the homeless and help to provide shelters.

Councilmember Lee expressed his strong support for human services funding, particularly for emerging needs based on changing demographics within the community.

Councilmember Noble noted that the City does not provide direct services but rather funds agencies with the expertise and experience to provide programs. Bellevue's funding enables organizations to help more people and contribute to the overall quality of life.

- The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 5707 carried by a vote of 7-0.

- (e) Ordinance No. 5708 updating development services under the Bellevue City Code; fees for applications requiring construction, land use, fire, survey, sign, transportation, utility, and clearing and grading review and inspection services; repealing Ordinance No. 5502.

Councilmember Marshall referred Council to the desk packet for a proposed amendment to Ordinance No. 5708, which substitutes a lower single-family unit inspection fee for new homes.

- Councilmember Marshall moved to adopt Ordinance No. 5708, as amended, and Mr. Chelminiak seconded the motion.

Responding to Mr. Lee, Mike Brennan, Deputy Director for Development Services, explained that the adjusted fee representing 85% of the proposed fee is expected to align with cost recovery objectives. A detailed assessment of Building Division fees, including comparisons with other jurisdictions, is planned for 2007.

Mayor Degginger expressed support for the amendment.

Mr. Lee supports the fees but is concerned about whether they will generate adequate revenue.

- The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 5708, as amended, carried by a vote of 7-0.

- (f) Ordinance No. 5709 authorizing the transfer of funds from the Local Improvement District (LID) Guaranty Fund to the General Fund and amendment of the 2005-2006 General Fund to increase the appropriation by \$1,100,000; and establishing an effective date.

- Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to adopt Ordinance No. 5709, and Mrs. Marshall seconded the motion.

- The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 5709 carried by a vote of 7-0.

- (g) Ordinance No. 5710 establishing the amount of property taxes to be levied for the year 2007, the first year of the City of Bellevue's 2007-2008 fiscal biennium.

- Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to adopt Ordinance No. 5710, and Councilmember Balducci seconded the motion.

Councilmember Marshall noted that the property tax rate was \$1.10 per \$1,000 assessed valuation in 2006 and would decrease to \$1.02 if the proposed adjustment is not approved. Ordinance No. 5710 restores the tax rate to \$1.04 per \$1,000 assessed valuation. Regarding some comments by citizens that growth should pay for growth, Mrs. Marshall explained that downtown development has been subsidizing property taxes, resulting in a significant lowering of the tax rate from \$1.60 per \$1,000 assessed valuation approximately 8 to 10 years ago to the current level. The additional revenue will fund needed infrastructure investments including master planning for new parks, cultural arts, human services, fire fighter staffing, and numerous

transportation projects. Mrs. Marshall expressed support for restoring a property tax rate of \$.02 per \$1,000 assessed valuation, resulting in a savings of \$.06 per \$1,000 since January 1, 2006.

Dr. Davidson noted that he typically does not favor tax increases. However, the City has not increased property taxes in many years, and the revenue is needed to fund unmet needs. Council and staff have agreed to further review property tax rates during the next budget cycle.

Councilmember Noble supports Ordinance No. 5710. He noted Bellevue's history of maintaining and decreasing tax rates while King County, School Districts, and other jurisdictions consistently increase taxes. Responding to comments during Oral Communications, Mr. Noble disagreed that government's purpose is to raise revenue. Mr. Noble feels the role of government is to meet community needs. He agrees with the speaker who commented that cultural arts organizations should be able to be self-sustaining in the long term.

Mr. Noble supports Parks funding and said the City has started to receive complaints that some parks are not properly maintained. Master planning is needed for newly acquired parks properties as well. Mr. Noble said Bellevue's share of overall property taxes is quite low, and the bulk of property tax revenue is distributed to other jurisdictions, which are not providing direct services or capital improvements for Bellevue citizens.

Councilmember Lee noted his longstanding opposition to raising property taxes. The City's history of not raising taxes has resulted in a significant banked taxing capacity. Additional funds are needed to keep pace with population growth and increasing demands. Mr. Lee would have liked to exempt retired citizens on a fixed income from the property tax increase.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak stated that Bellevue is attempting to fund needs and not merely wants or nice-to-have items. The tax increase is approximately \$10.60 per year for a \$500,000 home. Bellevue's policy to not increase property taxes for many years represents a \$9 million tax break for Bellevue citizens, at a time when many jurisdictions had increased property taxes the full six percent allowed annually. Revenue from the tax increase will be applied to maintenance and operations expenditures to support the City's infrastructure.

Referring to Ms. Bennett's comments, at the budget public hearing, Mr. Chelminiak explained that money that will become available as a result of the tax adjustment will largely fund projects in the Downtown Implementation Plan stemming from a planning process in which Ms. Bennett participated. These items include transportation projects, public open spaces, a downtown fire station, and potentially a new municipal court.

Mr. Chelminiak said additional projects funded in the budget include placing LED lights in traffic signals, creating a downtown bus/trolley circulator system, and neighborhood livability projects (e.g. sidewalks). He supports Ordinance No. 5710.

Councilmember Balducci noted that one of the City's five Core Values is Stewardship, which refers to a responsibility for the tax burden placed on citizens and the use of these funds. Council and staff have extensively reviewed and studied the budget and competing needs. Ms. Balducci supports Bellevue's human services funding, which is not necessarily provided by other jurisdictions. Review of budget priorities and future needs will continue by Council into 2007.

Ms. Balducci supports Ordinance No. 5710.

Mayor Degginger thanked the community for its extensive involvement and input into the budget process. He supports Ordinance No. 5710, which will help to fund needed projects including transportation infrastructure. Mr. Degginger feels the property tax adjustment is necessary to maintain a quality of life to which residents have become accustomed. Boards, Commissions, staff, and the Council have all spent a significant number of hours reviewing and preparing the budget.

➤ The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 5710 carried by a vote of 7-0.

Councilmember Lee praised Mayor Degginger for his role and leadership.

Resolution No. 7483 providing for the banking of levy capacity pursuant to RCW 84.55.092.

➤ Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to approve Resolution No. 7483, and Councilmember Balducci seconded the motion.

➤ The motion to approve Resolution No. 7483 carried by a vote of 7-0.

(h) Ordinance No. 5711 adopting the 2007-2008 Budget and 2007-2013 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan; setting forth the estimated revenues and appropriations; authorizing the Finance Director to execute interfund loans to accommodate cash flow needs within the General CIP Fund; establishing job classifications and pay ranges; and establishing an effective date.

➤ Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to adopt Ordinance No. 5711, and Councilmember Balducci seconded the motion.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak thanked staff and citizens for their roles in the budget process. He commended Mayor Degginger for his oversight and facilitation of the budget process, and thanked all Councilmembers for their hard work and cooperative spirit.

➤ The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 5711 carried by a vote of 7-0.

(i) Resolution No. 7484 authorizing execution of an Interlocal Agreement with King County for the provision of municipal court services through King County District Court from January 1, 2007, through December 31, 2011.

Diane Carlson, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, requested Council action on Resolution No. 7484 authorizing execution of the Interlocal Agreement with the King County District Court through December 31, 2011. She recalled previous review of the agreement with the Council, as well as information provided in the meeting packet. Ms. Carlson noted an early termination provision that allows the City to provide an 18-month notice, no earlier than July 1, 2007, if it wishes to discontinue the agreement. A draft work program outlining staff's approach for evaluating the development of a municipal court is provided in the meeting packet for Council's

review.

Councilmember Balducci feels this will be a good opportunity to evaluate customer service practices.

- Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to approve Resolution No. 7484, and Mr. Noble seconded the motion.

Mayor Degginger looks forward to working with the District Court and Judge Linde. However, he noted concerns of Councilmembers including the recent loss of a judge in Bellevue District Court.

Ms. Balducci is concerned about the loss of a judge position as well and suggested working with the state legislature to obtain additional funding for the court.

- The motion to approve Resolution No. 7484 carried by a vote of 7-0.

12. Unfinished Business

- (a) Environmental Stewardship Initiative [Study Session Agenda Item 2(a)]

Mr. Sarkozy opened discussion of the Environmental Stewardship Initiative.

- Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to extend the meeting to 10:30 p.m., and Mr. Noble seconded the motion.
- The motion to extend the meeting to 10:30 p.m. carried by a vote of 7-0.

[Councilmember Balducci left the table briefly from 9:49 p.m. to 9:52 p.m.]

Sheida Sahandy, Assistant to the City Manager, recalled an environmental philosophy statement previously presented to Council articulating longstanding local values regarding environmental stewardship and suggesting strategies that reflect Bellevue's approach for translating the values into action. She noted that the quality of life provided by environmental stewardship is becoming an increasingly important factor in determining where people want to live.

Ms. Sahandy explained that while the City does a great deal in terms of environmental stewardship, there has not been a comprehensive approach to identify everything the City should be doing and what could possibly be done differently. The mission is to ensure that organizational decisions and actions explicitly integrate and balance economic, ecological, and social impacts. The goals of the Environmental Stewardship Initiative are to achieve sustainable operational practices, facilitate sustainable community practices, and strengthen Bellevue's brand or identity.

Ms. Sahandy noted a question regarding the relationship between the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement and the Environmental Stewardship Initiative. Signing the agreement communicates an intention to conduct work anticipated to be a component of the Environmental

Stewardship Initiative. In addition, signing the agreement provides an internationally recognized framework within which to plan and measure success; involvement in regional, national and international efforts to face this cross-boundary problem; and access to resources shared by participating jurisdictions.

Ms. Sahandy reviewed a proposed schedule for future Council discussions which includes a presentation in April covering potential action items and presenting feedback from the community; a discussion in June to review a proposed plan of action and discuss implementation alternatives; and a presentation in July with the refined Plan of Action and Implementation Schedule.

Councilmember Marshall asked staff to provide a cost-benefit analysis and financing plan when the proposed Plan of Action is presented in June. She prefers to identify a funding source as part of the planning proposal. Mr. Sarkozy acknowledged the need for some preliminary analysis to occur before June.

Mrs. Marshall expressed concern regarding the costs for many items contained within the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement including recovering landfill methane and wastewater methane for energy production. Responding to Mrs. Marshall, Utilities Director Denny Vidmar said methane is currently recovered at the Eastgate Landfill but it is not enough to generate fuel. Mrs. Marshall suggested eliminating these two items from the list of possible actions because Bellevue does not operate a landfill or wastewater treatment facility. She also would prefer to eliminate political references from the agreement.

Councilmember Lee supports the proposed Environmental Stewardship Initiative. He questioned the consequences of Bellevue's not signing the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement.

Ms. Sahandy said the primary benefit is that participating jurisdictions have formed a group and are working together to share resources and ideas.

Mr. Lee expressed support for signing the agreement. However, he feels environmental issues should be addressed in a non-partisan way. Referring to the Bellevue Action on Climate Protection statement [Page SS 2-129 of packet], Mr. Lee concurred with Mrs. Marshall's concern regarding the reference to the Kyoto Protocol targets for reducing global warming pollution. He suggested simply stating a commitment to the reduction of global warming pollution without being specific at this point when the Council is not familiar with the Kyoto Protocol.

Dr. Davidson noted Bellevue's longstanding leadership in environmental protection and expressed reluctance to adopt the position of a national organization. He is not prepared to support either the ESI or the U.S. Mayors' agreement because he is not convinced they are needed based on the City's historical commitment to environmental stewardship.

Councilmember Noble said he is not prepared to support the agreement at this point. He is open to hearing more about the ESI in the future, however.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak expressed support for signing the agreement to demonstrate the City's environmental leadership.

Councilmember Balducci concurred with supporting the agreement, but expressed her hesitation that the agreement represents a political movement. She noted strong national support for the agreement and feels Bellevue should participate as well. Ms. Balducci thanked staff for the information and presentation on the Environmental Stewardship Initiative and looks forward to further discussions.

Mayor Degginger noted that the concept of an Environmental Stewardship Initiative arose from discussions earlier in the year about the critical areas ordinance. The Council determined that the ordinance was not enough and expressed interest in a comprehensive programmatic approach for the City.

Mr. Degginger feels the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement is consistent with existing practices and values of the City. He supports signing the agreement. He briefly reviewed actions proposed for reducing global warming and noted that Bellevue already incorporates many of the recommended best practices.

Mr. Lee questioned the tangible benefits of signing the agreement and expressed his support for practices aimed at environmental protection.

13. Continued Oral Communications: None.

14. New Business: None.

15. Executive Session: None.

16. Adjournment

At 10:28 p.m., Mayor Degginger declared the meeting adjourned.

Myrna L. Basich
City Clerk

kaw