

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Special Meeting
Legislative Breakfast

January 8, 2008
7:30 a.m.

Council Conference Room
Bellevue, Washington

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

ABSENT: Councilmembers Lee and Marshall

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mayor Degginger called the meeting to order at 7:50 a.m. and welcomed the following state legislators in attendance:

41st District

Senator Brian Weinstein
Representative Judy Clibborn
Representative Fred Jarrett

48th District

Senator Rodney Tom¹
Representative Deb Eddy
Representative Ross Hunter

2. 2008 Legislative Priorities

Mayor Degginger referenced the Legislative Agenda in the meeting packet for a full summary of the City's priorities.

Public Facility Emergency Readiness – Councilmember Chelminiak described Bellevue's emergency response during last winter's windstorm. He noted that the City is seeking \$500,000 in state funding to help provide generators for City facilities and to retrofit building systems for emergency situations in order to provide emergency shelter opportunities.

¹ Senator Tom arrived at 8:13 a.m.

NORCOM – Mr. Chelminiak said the City supports capital funding for NORCOM, the new regional consortium for public safety emergency communications to be implemented in 2009. He thanked the state legislature for the funding that acted as a catalyst for the formation of the partnership.

State legislators commented that funding for the 2009 capital budgeting session will be very competitive.

Representative Eddy explained that some legislators view these partnerships as strictly local entities in terms of funding. She feels the consolidation of public services is beneficial for the state, and she would like to discuss the needs further in the coming year.

Mayor Degginger recalled that during last winter's windstorm, Bellevue experienced an increased demand for services, including temporary shelters, from residents throughout the region. Representative Eddy noted the need for a clear delineation of local versus state and regional responsibilities in terms of emergency response.

SR 520 – Mayor Degginger emphasized the need for funding to replace the SR 520 bridge. The Council is troubled by discussions about reducing the number of lanes. He noted the state benefits from billions of dollars in sales tax generated within Bellevue, and he urged legislators to support a six-lane configuration.

State legislators expressed their frustration with the need for transportation funding for a number of major projects including SR 520, the Alaskan Way viaduct, and I-90.

Tolling – Deputy Mayor Balducci noted the multiple studies underway within the region regarding tolling for transportation facilities. Bellevue would like to see a thorough evaluation of the effects of tolling on specific facilities. Ms. Balducci urged state legislators to support the development of a comprehensive regional report clearly articulating statewide tolling opportunities, and analyzing the benefits and impacts of the alternatives.

I-90 – Mayor Degginger described Bellevue's interest in expediting the I-90 two-way HOV project. The Council requests that Stage II funding be moved from 2017 to 2009 in order for construction to begin in 2009.

Clean Air Agency – Councilmember Chelminiak expressed concern that Bellevue does not have a seat on the Clean Air Agency Board. The agency's Board members are chosen from the largest municipality in each of four member counties. Mr. Chelminiak noted that Bellevue's per capita contribution to the agency is significant and continues to increase.

Cascade Water Alliance – Mayor Degginger reported that the Alliance is seeking eminent domain authority again this year as it works to achieve its goal of supplying a current and future water supply for its members. Bellevue supports the Alliance's request.

Climate Change – Councilmember Noble explained that a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report has

been completed for the City, and a Municipal Emissions Reduction Plan is scheduled for completion in mid-2008. He noted the City's Environmental Stewardship Initiative encompassing a broad range of efforts including the use of alternative and flexible fuel vehicles, aggressive recycling strategies, and tree retention/planting activities. Bellevue supports addressing the impacts of climate change through local efforts rather than through the proposal to incorporate climate change goals into the Growth Management Act.

Economic Development – Councilmember Chelminiak noted the extensive development activity in Bellevue over the past few years. He described the City's efforts to further expand economic development potential into the Bel-Red corridor, a summary of which is provided in the meeting materials. The plan includes a focus on environmental stewardship, an affordable housing component, enhanced transit services, and overall transportation improvements. Bellevue is looking at alternative funding mechanisms to provide infrastructure as the area redevelops.

Square Footage Business Tax – Councilmember Davidson expressed concern regarding the projected loss in revenue to the City beginning in 2008 with the implementation of B&O tax revenue apportionment. He noted a handout providing background information on Bellevue's B&O tax and square footage tax, and urged the legislators to not consider any further modification to business and licensing authority that would further reduce revenue for Bellevue.

At 9:00 a.m., Mayor Degginger thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting adjourned.

Myrna L. Basich
City Clerk

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