

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Special Meeting

November 24, 2008
5:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Council Conference Room

PRESENT: Mayor Degginger and Councilmembers Bonincontri, Chelminiak, Davidson, Lee and Noble

ABSENT: Deputy Mayor Balducci

1. Executive Session

Mayor Degginger called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

[The Executive Session was postponed to December 1.]

2. Study Session

(a) Issaquah School District Impact Fees

City Manager Steve Sarkozy recalled that the Issaquah School District generates its capital projects funding through impact fees. This requires that Bellevue collect the impact fees for parts of the city served by the Issaquah School District.

Land Use Director Carol Helland introduced Catherine Drews, the City's new Legal Planner. Mayor Degginger noted Ms. Drews' expertise in NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) and storm water issues and regulations, which will benefit the City as well.

Ms. Drews referred the Council to materials regarding the proposed impact fees, beginning on page 2-1 of the meeting packet. ISD proposes a decrease in impact fees, resulting in a fee of \$5,495 for single-family units (8.7% decrease) and \$806 for multifamily units (15% decrease). Staff recommends Council adoption of the impact fees.

Jacob Cooper, ISD Chief Financial Officer, explained that the reduction of school impact fees is due primarily to tax payment credits and lower enrollment.

In response to Mayor Degginger, Mr. Cooper said the Issaquah High School project will be going out to bid on January 5, 2009. Major demolition is scheduled for February and March, followed by a 36 to 40 month construction schedule.

Responding to Councilmember Davidson, Mr. Cooper said projects at Sunset and Cougar Ridge schools were completed in recent years. In further response, Mr. Cooper said a District bond measure was approved in February 2006.

Dr. Davidson expressed concern that impact fees place an undue burden on new housing and contribute to increased housing costs.

Councilmember Lee expressed support for the proposed impact fees.

Mayor Degginger noted that the net dollar impact of the fees in Bellevue is relatively small. The fees are an important source of revenue for the District's capital program, which supports projects benefiting students that live in Bellevue. Approximately 11% of Issaquah School District enrollment is made up of southeast Bellevue residents.

Mayor Degginger noted general Council support for the impact fees, and directed staff to bring back an Ordinance for Council action.

Noting that Oral Communications were scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Mr. Degginger moved forward with the Extended Study Session agenda.

(b) Regional Issues [Extended Study Session Agenda Item 2(b)]

Diane Carlson, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, referenced information in the meeting packet regarding revised cross-lake tolling scenarios, the North East King County Public Safety Communications Agency (NORCOM) 2009 budget, the state legislative update, and the federal legislative update.

Ms. Carlson noted a draft letter [Page 2-147 of the meeting packet] to Bellevue's Congressional delegation in support of an economic stimulus package. In addition to the projects cited in the draft letter, Ms. Carlson noted that funding for SR 520 will be requested as well, as suggested by Mayor Degginger.

Noting that the stimulus package will likely include so-called green jobs, Councilmember Chelminiak suggested requesting funding for Bellevue's climate change initiative as well as elements of the Bel-Red corridor implementation plan.

Councilmember Lee expressed an interest in innovative, technology-based transportation projects.

Councilmember Noble suggested requesting funds for projects related to Sound Transit light rail, including potential tunneling, through Bellevue.

Responding to Mr. Noble, Transportation Policy Advisor Kim Becklund said the Tolling Implementation Committee is seeking feedback in sufficient time to present information to the state legislature in early 2009. A newly introduced option proposes two HOT lanes on I-90,

along with tolling on SR 520. Council discussion is scheduled for early January. Ms. Becklund said the state legislature is expected to be in session until at least April.

Mayor Degginger suggested a Council Study Session addressing both the tolling and the SR 520 design configurations.

Ms. Carlson noted that the King County Council adopted its budget today. Bellevue residents provide approximately \$59 million in annual tax revenue, and receive services for King County Superior Court, felony court, assessor, elections, human services, public health, and animal control.

At 6:00 p.m., Mayor Degginger declared recess to the Extended Study Session.

Myrna L. Basich
City Clerk

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