

**CITY OF BELLEVUE
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday
June 2, 2016
6:30 p.m.

Conference Room 1E-113
Bellevue City Hall
Bellevue, Washington

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Vice Chair Wang; Commissioners Howe, Mach, and Strom

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Chair Swenson & Commissioner Morin and Shin

OTHERS PRESENT: Andrew Lee, Deputy Director; Lucy Liu, Asst. Director – Resource Mgmt. & Customer Svc.; Martin Chaw, Fiscal Mgr. – Resource Mgmt. & Customer Service

MINUTES TAKER: Laurie Hugdahl

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Wang at 6:30 p.m.

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Commissioner Howe, seconded by Commissioner Strom, to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously (4-0).

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 19, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Wang noted that the minutes should reflect that Commissioner Morin is a Commissioner, not the Vice Chair under “Commissioners Present” on the first page. He also stated he would not be voting on the minutes as he wasn’t at that meeting.

Motion made by Commissioner Mach, seconded by Commissioner Howe, to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion passed (3-0) with Vice Chair Wang abstaining.

5. REPORTS & SUMMARIES

- ESC Calendar/Council Calendar

Deputy Director Lee proposed that the BSC Center be moved to July 7 as the first part of the tour followed by the CIP tour. He also asked about starting the tour at 5:00 p.m. It was noted that some commissioners might have difficulty making it by 5:00 p.m. There was consensus to tentatively start at 5:00 p.m.

Vice Chair Wang asked for an update on the “Motion to Award Meydenbauer Bay Park Sewer Line Replacement” item on the Council Calendar. Deputy Director Lee replied that this might possibly be on the CIP tour. He explained that the City would not be awarding a contract because the bids came back \$3 million higher than the engineer’s estimate. After further discussion with Parks, it was decided to reject all bids, do a redesign and go back out to bid in the summer.

Commissioner Strom asked about the reason for the cost difference. Deputy Director Lee thought there were a lot of reasons. He suggested that the engineer’s estimate might not have been accurate and didn’t consider all the risks that the contractor is looking at. Also, there were only two bids so it may have had something to do with the timing and the fact that there was less competition.

Commissioner Mach asked what material was to be used in the replacement. Deputy Director Lee replied that it was going to be ductile iron to replace the existing asbestos cement pipe. Commissioner Mach said he heard material prices have gone up quite a bit. Deputy Director Lee noted this could be a factor, but probably not the only one when there is such a large discrepancy.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- **Budget Proposal Recommendation to Results Teams and Leadership Team**

*Presenters: Lucy Liu, Asst. Director – Resource Mgmt. & Customer Svc.;
Martin Chaw, Fiscal Mgr. – Resource Mgmt. & Customer Service*

Asst. Director Lucy Liu reviewed the 2017-2018 Budget Objectives which include providing services that customers value, preserving and protecting utility infrastructure, and exercising fiscal stewardship. There are five key themes to the proposed budget: It is a balanced budget, there are no new FTEs for Operations or to support the base CIP program; there are proposed capital investments in infrastructure including Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI); there are also some prudent planning studies proposed to position the City for the future including resiliency-related challenges.

The proposals have been forwarded to the Results Teams who are reviewing the proposals. They will be formulating their recommendation for the Leadership Team's consideration. Asst. Director Liu solicited any comments the ESC might have for the Results Team and Leadership Team.

Motion made by Commissioner Strom, seconded by Commissioner Howe, to recommend the proposed budget as presented to the Healthy and Sustainable Environment Results Team and the Leadership Team.

Deputy Director Lee explained that staff would work with the ESC Chair to craft a letter to the Results Team.

Commissioner Mach commented that the biggest item on the budget is the AMI proposal. He supports this overall, but thinks it needs to be presented better to the customers so they understand the benefits. He recommended more of a focus on outreach. He acknowledged Mr. Plummer's concerns at the last meeting regarding the AMI topic not being on the agenda.

Deputy Director Lee commented that staff has had a lot of discussions about the timing of outreach communications. He explained they exercise caution with their communications prior to going to Council, but following Council's approval there will be robust communications.

Commissioner Strom asked if there would be any outreach before the Council approves the budget. Deputy Director Lee replied that there would be informational-type outreach, but nothing concrete because nothing has been approved yet.

Commissioner Howe asked if it was okay for commissioners to be talking about the proposed budget with people they know. Deputy Director Lee replied that was fine. Asst. Director Liu added that staff will be talking with stakeholders about the proposed budget and rates, and there will be conversations with the community in those venues. She noted that most of the outreach will occur after the fall.

Motion passed unanimously (4-0).

7. COMMISSION REPORT

8. DIRECTOR'S OFFICE REPORT

Deputy Director Lee commented that there was an overflow into Lake Sammamish, as well as another backup that had been discussed at the last meeting, due to baby wipes and FOG (fats, oils, and grease). He noted that staff will be doing some public education on those two topics.

Commissioner Strom recommended adding baby wipes to the list of things not to flush when Utilities does its outreach at fairs or festivals. Deputy Director Lee agreed that this would be a good idea.

9. CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

None

10. CONTINUED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.