

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Extended Study Session

November 24, 2014  
6:00 p.m.

Conference Room 1E-113  
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Balducci, Deputy Mayor Wallace, and Councilmembers Chelminiak, Lee, Robertson, Robinson, and Stokes

ABSENT: None.

1. Executive Session

Deputy Mayor Wallace called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m., and declared recess to Executive Session for approximately one hour to discuss three items of potential litigation and one item of pending litigation.

At 7:20 p.m., City Clerk Myrna Basich announced that the Executive Session would be extended for approximately an additional 20 minutes.

The meeting resumed at 8:30 p.m., with Mayor Balducci presiding.

2. Oral Communications

- (a) Jeff Ross, Board Chair of Music Works Northwest, distributed information on this nonprofit music school. The school has been in Bellevue for 16 years and served approximately 20,000 public school music students during that time. More than 800 students with special needs have benefited from music therapy sessions, and more than 50,000 citizens have attended and enjoyed free or low cost concerts in various genres. The organization was forced to move out of its location in March and relocated to 1131 118<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE.
- (b) Karen Nestvold, Director of Development and Classical Programs with Music Works Northwest, requested support for remodeling the new 8,300-square foot location. The organization has received funding from a variety of public and private sources. Ms. Nestvold requested \$75,000 from the City to assist in its capital improvements.

Mayor Balducci indicated that this is a late request that has not gone through the normal budget process. She said staff would talk to the speakers about the request.

- (c) Marty Nizlek commented on the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Update. He introduced Scott Sheffield and noted that they are both on the Board of the Washington Sensible Shorelines Association. Mr. Nizlek said the SMP has changed from the options discussed earlier this fall, and he and Mr. Sheffield have met with City staff to discuss these changes. Current provisions would double the regulated area found in the Critical Areas Code and impose regulations for routine landscape activities. He noted the proposed mitigation formula for vegetation, which is heavily weighted toward dense, native vegetation and tall vegetation at the water's edge. Mr. Nizlek expressed concern about dense vegetation providing a desirable habitat for vermin. He noted additional concerns and submitted written comments prepared by Charles Klinge, attorney for the WSSA.
- (d) Scott Sheffield said the WSSA has spent the past three weeks studying the details of the most recent draft SMP Update. He said that meetings with staff have helped improve residents' understanding about the regulations, and some changes have resulted from discussions with Carol Helland and Mike Brennan. However, there are still issues, concerns, and opportunities for improvement. Mr. Sheffield said the WSSA looks forward to additional discussions to resolve the issues and submit the SMP for approval.

### 3. Study Session

- (a) Council Business and New Initiatives

There was no discussion.

- (b) East Link Monthly Update

City Manager Brad Miyake introduced the monthly East Link light rail project update.

Transportation Director Dave Berg introduced Sound Transit representatives Ron Lewis, East Link Executive Project Director; Paul Denison, Director of Light Rail Operations; and Paul Cornish, Engineer.

Mr. Lewis presented a brief overview of the East Link alignment through Bellevue between I-90 and North Bellevue and the project schedule. The Bellevue design packages have advanced to between 60 percent and 90 percent design. Sound Transit has selected a General Contractor/Construction Manager (GC/CM) for four of the six stations in Bellevue. Shoreline permits have been issued by the City, and two of four design and mitigation permits have been submitted. Mr. Lewis said Sound Transit continues with property acquisitions, community outreach, and art program coordination.

Mr. Lewis said Sound Transit is currently authorized to acquire 234 parcels for the East Link project, and 218 relocations are required. For the acquisitions, 80 offers have been made and 55 have signed agreements and/or closings. All of the early condominium acquisitions have closed, and 12 of the 18 single-family home acquisitions have closed. Of the relocations, 52 have been completed.

Mr. Lewis highlighted ongoing community outreach efforts. Open houses for the Bellevue stations will continue through 2015, as will public involvement in the art program.

Mr. Lewis said the South Bellevue station is at 60 percent design. This is an elevated station with a 1,500-stall parking garage which will also serve as a transfer point for carpools and Metro Transit. He said public input regarding this station led to additional colors to highlight the natural environment, additional landscaping, and integration of art into the station.

The East Main station is an at-grade, side platform station. Feedback on the design, which is intended by the architects to reflect the mid-century modern style of the adjacent neighborhoods, has been positive from the Citizens Advisory Committee and the general public.

The Downtown daylighted station has both west and east entrances. The architects and designers created a tree canopy at the west entry to reflect Bellevue's City in a Park theme. The station also reflects some of the same finishes used at City Hall. Both ends of the station are equipped with elevators, stairs and escalators.

The Hospital station is an elevated, center platform station with access by escalator, elevator, and stairs. The site includes surface improvements to accommodate pickup and drop-off areas for carpools and special transit services as well as pedestrian enhancements. The development of this location will include upgrades to Sturtevant Creek.

Mr. Lewis said the 120<sup>th</sup> Avenue retained cut station is in the Spring District. Sound Transit is working with the developer to integrate the design of the station with the adjacent Spring District development. The 130<sup>th</sup> Avenue station is an at-grade, side platform station at the northeast end of the Bel-Red corridor with a 300-stall surface Park and Ride lot. Feedback on this station related to the use of color and materials as well as landscaping. Mr. Lewis said the station will ultimately be aligned in the center of the street with side platforms when the roadway along the north side of the alignment is completed.

Responding to Councilmember Robinson, Mr. Lewis said the shoreline permits have been issued, and two of the design and mitigation permits have been submitted. He described it as a robust permit process informed by public comment and the Citizen Advisory Committee's review. He said Sound Transit is eager to work with City staff to move forward with the other permits.

Ms. Robinson noted that the community would like to see more landscape screening, including larger trees, at the South Bellevue Station.

Mr. Lewis concurred that there have been discussions about the size of the trees, more so than the type of trees. However, it is important to not plant trees that are so big they might be less likely to survive. He said residents have requested blueberries on the site as well.

In further response to Councilmember Robinson, Mr. Lewis said the project does not include flashing lights at the platforms. Ms. Robinson said that issue has been raised numerous times at public meetings, especially by older adults. Mr. Lewis said Sound Transit is still reviewing that issue, and he will provide a more thorough response in the near future.

Responding to Councilmember Robertson, Mr. Lewis said the highest ranked firm for the Segment 335 contract is a joint venture of Atkinson and Stacy and Witbeck. Sound Transit and the contractors are currently negotiating the pre-construction phase. The 335 contract covers the East Main Station, Downtown Station, Hospital Station, Spring District Station, and the guideway connecting those stations. It excludes the Downtown tunnel.

Deputy Mayor Wallace recalled his previous request for a Sound Transit schedule that can be combined with the City's project schedule, in order to better understand how the projects will be phased. Mr. Wallace noted the outstanding issues of the cost reconciliation between the City and Sound Transit as well as the project mitigation to be provided by Sound Transit.

Responding to Mr. Wallace regarding right-of-way (ROW) acquisitions, Mr. Lewis said Sound Transit allows up to two years for any single parcel. He said he would get back to the Council with more details. The intent is to secure property in advance of awarding the contract for the relevant segment of work.

Mayor Balducci said she is pleased with the addition of color and changes in materials at certain stations. She talked about the importance of weather protection for commuters, especially in areas with heavy pedestrian activity such as between the Downtown Station and Bellevue Transit Center.

Responding to Ms. Balducci, Mr. Lewis welcomed Council input regarding station names. He said the potential names reflected in the presentation are suggestions from the public. The Sound Transit Board is expected to address station naming in the first quarter of 2015.

Mayor Balducci would like staff to schedule a time for the Council to discuss station names.

Councilmember Lee suggested that Sound Transit consider designing spaces at stations for public activities, particularly at the Downtown Station and Spring District Station. Mr. Lewis agreed that those are two good candidates for that type of amenity.

Councilmember Chelminiak said the wind and rain can blow hard from the south at the South Bellevue Park and Ride while waiting for the bus. He suggested special attention to that issue. Mr. Lewis said the architects and designers have been attentive, in general, to the pedestrian environment and have incorporated elements such as wind screens. Mr. Chelminiak said he likes the art at the Mercer Slough/South Bellevue Station.

Councilmember Stokes concurred with Mr. Chelminiak's comment about the wind experience at the South Bellevue Park and Ride. He likes how the Downtown Station is looking, and he looks forward to discussions on station names.

Mr. Denison described the operating plan for the East Link line, including how the trains will be distributed from the maintenance facility early in the morning to the Overlake Transit Center, Bellevue Transit Center, Mercer Island Station, and Rainier (Seattle) Station. The peak hours with the highest number of trains per hour will be 6:00-8:30 a.m. and 3:00-6:30 p.m. For the initial establishment of East Link service, the Operations and Maintenance Satellite Facility (OMSF) in Bellevue will store and service Eastside trains only.

Service begins at approximately 5:00 a.m. and trains will be deployed from the OMSF at approximately 4:30 p.m. to reach key stations. Service ends at 1:00 a.m., and trains are not left at stations. Mr. Denison described the number of in-service trains versus trains in the OMSF yard throughout the day. Trains 1 and 2 will reach the OMSF at approximately 1:15 a.m., and Train 3 arrives at 1:30 a.m.

Mayor Balducci said the Council needs to understand the number of trains passing through Bellevue due to the siting of the OMSF versus the number of trains that would be traveling through the community if the OMSF were located elsewhere. She said this is part of the impact of siting the base and is a consideration in determining mitigation.

Councilmember Robertson observed that there will be only three hours in the middle of the night when trains are not running in Bellevue, as compared to a four-hour period on the Rainier end of the line. She asked whether Sound Transit has looked at the noise impacts of that additional hour at a time in which people are trying to sleep.

Ms. Robinson said that, when the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was completed, the siting of the OMSF in Bellevue was not considered. The longer operations time is an additional impact that was not studied in the original EIS for East Link. She said this is an issue of deep concern for the City and its residents.

Mr. Lewis said Sound Transit will provide a written response to that question. Councilmember Robertson asked that all relevant studies be provided to City staff to share with the Council.

Deputy Mayor Wallace apologized to his constituents and noted his frustration with the current status of the East Link project. He opined that the City does not have the will to do what it takes to protect the community from the noise impacts to be caused by trains running nearly all hours of the night, including through residential areas (i.e., Enatai, Surrey Downs). He is not sure where the City and the Council go from here, but he hopes things turn out better than they currently appear.

Mayor Balducci said it helps to have a better understanding of how the trains flow in and out of the OMSF yard. She said these issues will be discussed more in the near future, noting the need to move forward with the agenda.

(c) Budget Review and Wrap Up

Mayor Balducci said the Council and staff have been through months of budget planning including multiple Council discussions, three budget retreats, and three public hearings. She proposed reviewing the Capital Investment Program (CIP) Budget first, followed by a few outstanding items in the Operating Budget and one item in the Utility Budget.

Ms. Balducci recalled that Mr. Wallace suggested specific changes to the capital budget the previous week, and she asked him to go through those items again.

Deputy Mayor Wallace recalled his previous proposal to remove the Spring Boulevard project from the CIP Plan in order to avoid a property tax increase. Further discussions with staff indicate that this would cause delays for the Sound Transit project, which he would like to avoid as well. Mr. Wallace said he looked at alternative ways to avoid the property tax increase.

Mr. Wallace said the City Manager's Budget proposes \$60 million in long-term debt. Mr. Wallace suggested removing the five percent property tax increase, which eliminates \$25 million in long-term debt and the added property tax revenue.

As his second item, Mr. Wallace said the City was awarded a grant the previous week for 120<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, Stage 3. He said this is an example of how grant funding can offset the need for a property tax increase.

Mr. Wallace proposed removing the Expanded Community Connectivity line item and said he is not convinced there is a need for the project. He noted that the Community Network Connectivity line item remains in his budget.

Mr. Wallace said that, the previous week, he proposed a Competitiveness and Collaboration Fund of \$250,000 annually. However, he could not afford that in his rebalance and removed it from his proposal.

Mr. Wallace said his revised proposal retains \$1 million for partnerships with organizations like KidsQuest Museum, Boys and Girls Clubs of Bellevue, the Tateuchi Center, and others.

Mayor Balducci observed that the last item is another way of describing what was called the Opportunity Fund in the City Manager's Budget.

Deputy Mayor Wallace noted that the City Manager's Opportunity Fund includes the Bellevue Way HOV project. Mr. Wallace would like to eliminate the Opportunity Fund and allocate amounts to specific line items.

Mr. Wallace suggested moving the Downtown Park NE Entry project from the 2015-2016 timeframe to 2021.

Councilmember Lee expressed support for Mr. Wallace's now-withdrawn proposal for a Competitiveness and Collaboration Fund (\$250,000 annually).

Councilmember Robinson requested a list of the Opportunity Fund projects. She questioned the value of completing the Bellevue Way HOV project design work sooner than later.

Mayor Balducci and others listed the potential Opportunity Fund projects as KidsQuest Museum, Boys and Girls Clubs of Bellevue, Salvation Army, BNSF trail, neighborhood traffic calming projects, enhancements to the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, and the Bellevue Way HOV lane design.

Responding to Councilmember Stokes, Mayor Balducci suggested a line item under Expenditure Changes: Performing Arts Center Eastside (PACE) Incentive Starter Fund, approximately \$1 million.

Moving on, Councilmember Lee spoke in support of the Community Connectivity Item, which is proposed for elimination from the budget. He believes it is consistent with the City's focus on technology. However, he observed there was not a comprehensive plan of what the project is intended to accomplish in the long term. He suggested that, with a clear plan, the project could attract corporate partners as well. Mr. Lee suggested some level of funding now with direction to staff to develop a more comprehensive plan.

Councilmember Robertson agreed that the project did not seem fully developed. She would support leaving it out of the current budget. Councilmember Stokes concurred.

Councilmember Chelminiak said it is not a high priority for him. However, he does like that the project is focused on people and their access to technology.

Councilmember Robinson observed that the staff presentation did not adequately represent the value of the project. She requested a good explanation of the project and its benefits from staff, including a discussion of why it would be a good use of City funds.

Mayor Balducci concurred with the general consensus to eliminate the project for now. However, she strongly supports the objective of increasing the community's access to the Internet.

Moving on to partnerships and cultural items, Mayor Balducci said she has supported the idea of the City Manager's Opportunity Fund for time-sensitive projects providing a great benefit to the community including KidsQuest Museum, the Downtown partnership with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Bellevue, and the Bellevue Way HOV lane project in conjunction with light rail construction.

Councilmember Robertson said those are her top three priorities within the Opportunity Fund as well. She supports eliminating the fund and creating two separate line items: \$7 million for arts and culture partnerships ( i.e., KidsQuest and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Bellevue) and \$4.4 million for the Bellevue Way HOV lane project. After funding KidsQuest and the Boys and Girls Clubs partnership, she is comfortable with leaving the remainder of that line item unappropriated in anticipation of additional work and/or a potential contribution to the Tateuchi Center.

Councilmember Stokes spoke in favor of retaining a contingency for the Tateuchi Center (Performing Arts Center Eastside).

With regard to the Opportunity Fund, Councilmember Robinson said she supports the Eastside Rail Corridor, KidsQuest, Boys and Girls Clubs of Bellevue, and Pacific Science Center (Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center) items. She would like to remove the Bellevue Way HOV lane from this fund and replace it with the Tateuchi Center.

Councilmember Chelminiak said he appreciates the work done by Deputy Mayor Wallace and Councilmember Stokes. He appreciates Mr. Wallace's goal of avoiding a property tax increase for capital funding. Mr. Chelminiak said the City needs to fund the NE 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> Street project. He is opposed to the Bellevue Way HOV lane project. He would like to find a way to fund Mr. Lee's Competitiveness and Collaboration item as well as move forward with the Eastside Rail Corridor. Mr. Chelminiak said he likes the idea of an incentive fund for the Tateuchi Center.

Mayor Balducci said she is hearing strong support for KidsQuest and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Bellevue partnership, and moderate support for the Eastside Rail Corridor item. She hears general support for finishing NE 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> Street (Spring Boulevard Zone 1) within this seven-year CIP Plan.

Councilmember Stokes said the NE 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> Street project has been in the Bel-Red Plan for some time. He said it will be less expensive to complete it now instead of later. He suggested the Council does not have to approve the full five percent property tax increase.

→ Councilmember Robertson moved to extend the meeting to 11:00 p.m. Mr. Chelminiak seconded the motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Mr. Stokes said Bellevue needs to look to the future and to continue to invest in infrastructure, including the Bellevue Way HOV project. He believes the long-term benefits will be significant.

Responding to Councilmember Robertson, Transportation Director Dave Berg said the City could complete the full Spring Boulevard Zone 1 project by 2021, in order to synch up with Sound Transit's light rail project. The costs will be higher if the timeline is extended and project completion is delayed. Mr. Berg said the revised proposal is the minimum the City could do to coordinate with the East Link project, and it pushes Spring Boulevard project completion into the next seven-year CIP Plan.

In further response to Ms. Robertson, Mr. Berg said extending the project over a longer timeline increases costs and involves more contracts. Completing the five phases of the Zone 1 project with one contractor achieves the optimal economies of scale. Mr. Berg said the City's plans for completing Spring Boulevard need to be coordinated with Sound Transit's East Link schedule as well to achieve the lowest overall costs.

Councilmember Robinson said that completing Spring Boulevard is not only about coordinating with Sound Transit's schedule, but it is also about supporting development that the City values and wants to encourage. She said it is important to provide funding for the road project.

Councilmember Stokes concurred with Ms. Robinson's comment, noting that the question is one of timing. He believes it is important to move forward with the project. Councilmember Chelminiak agreed.

Mayor Balducci declared a brief recess. The meeting resumed at approximately 10:30 p.m.

Mayor Balducci highlighted staff's adjustments to the City Manager's Budget based on the discussion:

- Remove the proposed five percent property tax increase.
- Remove bonding supported by the five percent property tax increase.
- Add Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) grant.
- Remove debt service.
- Accept Deputy Mayor's proposal for the technical adjustment to the debt service.
- Remove \$2.3 million (of the original \$2.5 million) for Community Connectivity item.
- Add money for KidsQuest Museum and Boys and Girls Clubs of Bellevue partnership.
- Add \$1 million related to BNSF Eastside Rail Corridor.
- No changes to Spring Boulevard Zone 1 project.
- Add full design costs for Bellevue Way HOV lane.
- Remove Opportunity Fund (which was related to property tax increase).
- Instead of adding \$1.7 million for Competitiveness and Collaboration, Mayor Balducci suggested, for the purposes of this proposal, to treat it in the same manner as an operating fund and to fund it for two years. During that time, new Economic Development staff will develop their work plan and budget requests/recommendations.
- Add \$1 million for PACE Incentive Starter Fund.

Mayor Balducci said this plan requires a property tax increase of two percent.

Responding to Councilmember Robinson, Ms. Rezab said the property tax impact is \$10 annually on a \$500,000 home.

Deputy Mayor Wallace said he still feels that the property tax increase is not necessary. However, two percent is a low increase that he could support.

Councilmember Lee said he would like to include the contribution to the Salvation Army (\$450,000), which needs funding to expand its site at Crossroads.

Councilmember Robinson observed that the Council hired a consultant to evaluate the Performing Arts Center Eastside (PACE) project. She is interested in hearing the consultant's recommendation before determining whether or how to support PACE.

Mayor Balducci said the Incentive Starter Fund is not a grant. Rather, it would set aside a certain amount of money as a contingency toward the Council's future decision.

Deputy Mayor Wallace said the City's Human Services Commission has a robust process for soliciting and evaluating funding requests and for making recommendations to the City Council. While he supports the Salvation Army's work, he would need to see a formal recommendation through the Commission's process before considering the contribution. Councilmembers Robertson and Stokes concurred.

- Councilmember Robertson moved to extend the meeting to 11:30 p.m., and Councilmember Robinson seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.
- Councilmember Robertson moved to direct staff to bring back a modified Budget that includes the adjustments listed by Mayor Balducci and supported by a two percent CIP Budget property tax increase. Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

Councilmember Robertson noted that the proposal presented by the Deputy Mayor the previous week caused a lot of activity, which she believes has led to a leaner, more thoughtful, and truly collaborative budget. She expressed support for the motion, assuming that the calculations made tonight are accurate.

Councilmember Robinson said she would like to look at what it would take to fund the additional Mercer Slough Education Center classroom (\$1.5 million). She said the foundation is already built for the classroom, and there are sufficient activities and students to utilize it.

Responding to Councilmember Chelminiak, Parks and Community Services Director Patrick Foran said the City would provide full funding. There are no matching funds from the Pacific Science Center or any other organization.

Mr. Chelminiak said he has been a strong supporter of the partnership at the Mercer Slough. He suggested postponing the classroom project pending efforts to secure partnership funding.

Mayor Balducci said she would like to see the classroom completed but suggested it not be included in this budget. She noted that the budget process has been a great deal of work, and the Council has reached an agreement that includes items wanted by individual Councilmembers and the Council as a whole.

Councilmember Lee said the Council has not yet reached agreement on the Operating Budget. Given his opposition to the CIP Plan property tax increase, and the potential for an additional Operating Budget property tax increase, he will vote against the current motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 6-1, with Councilmember Lee dissenting.

Mayor Balducci suggested treating the Music Works Northwest request separately from this Budget and directing staff to determine how it might be funded for further Council consideration and discussion. She recalled similar requests that the Council was able to fund in the past including the Farmers Market and the Bellevue Philharmonic Orchestra.

Moving to the Operating Budget, Mayor Balducci said she is aware of four requested changes as follows: 1) additional firefighters; 2) \$50,000 for City Council educational expenses; 3) \$20,000 in multicultural/economic development-related Council expenses, and 4) moving the Wilburton area planning study from 2016 to 2015.

Councilmember Robertson said she had previously asked the City Manager to describe how he would implement the recommendations of the Electrical Reliability Study. Mr. Miyake said the proposed budget contains funding that would make good progress on operating budget items in the study's recommendations. However, there were a number of capital requests as well.

Councilmember Chelminiak said the report recommended an electrical engineer to complete some of the work. However, a determination has been made to assign this body of work to intergovernmental relations staff, who will work with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) and monitor relevant activities, including the Columbia Grid project. This work could produce recommendations for state legislation that regulates how project decisions are made (e.g., Energize Eastside project), funding for underground utilities, and other issues.

With regard to utilities, Councilmember Robertson noted the need for a decision on whether to add a one percent utilities rate increase in 2016 to implement Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI). The planning and evaluation for an AMI system will occur in 2015. Ms. Robertson suggested gathering the information next year and deciding during the mid-biennium budget process whether to fund the project in 2016.

Mayor Balducci noted Council consensus to proceed as suggested.

Moving on, Councilmember Robertson recalled the elimination of eight firefighter positions during previous budget cycles, which removed the water pumper truck from the Wilburton/Woodridge station. The City Manager's Budget proposes putting a pumper truck at that station. However, doing that without adding personnel reassigns a firefighter from the Eastgate station to Wilburton/Woodbridge.

Ms. Robertson proposed restoring the aid car position to the Eastgate station, which requires hiring four fighters to cover the new position. The cost of this proposal is \$584,000 in 2015 and \$587,000 in 2016. Ms. Robertson noted that this does not take into consideration the BLS (Basic Life Support) transport revenue that would be lost by operating the aid car 12 hours per day instead of 24 hours.

Councilmember Robertson proposed funding the added position (four firefighters) through a one percent property tax increase. She suggested that the Fire Chief hire the personnel in mid-2015 to ensure the costs are covered by the property tax increase.

→ Councilmember Robertson moved to direct staff to bring forward an Operating Budget amendment for fully funding the four firefighters needed to restore one position at the Eastgate station. This would be funded through a one percent property tax increase. Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

Responding to the Mayor, Finance Director Jan Hawn said the concept is to fund the four firefighters beginning June 1, 2015.

Councilmember Lee said he supports the proposal, with reluctant support of a property tax increase.

Councilmember Chelminiak expressed support for the motion and observed that this is the first time he is aware of the City using the property tax for operations.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

→ Councilmember Robertson moved to extend the meeting to 11:45 p.m., and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

→ Councilmember Lee moved to allocate \$20,000 annually for building multicultural engagement and international relations. Councilmember Robinson seconded the motion.

Councilmember Lee said Bellevue is a global city and he believes the funding would provide opportunities of benefit to the community.

Deputy Mayor Wallace observed that, with the operating budget, he takes the approach that it is staff's role to recommend funding and to determine ways for achieving objectives. With regard to the firefighter proposal, he recalled that the Fire Chief previously indicated to the City Manager and the Council that current staffing was adequate for now.

Mr. Wallace suggested that this proposal could be part of the work included in the Competitiveness and Collaboration Fund in the capital budget. Councilmember Stokes concurred.

Mayor Balducci suggested that the goals represented by the motion can be pursued through economic development activities.

- The motion failed by a vote of 2-5, with Councilmembers Lee and Robertson in favor.
- Councilmember Lee moved to add \$50,000 per year for Council education, training, opportunities, and staff support. Councilmember Robinson seconded the motion.

Councilmember Robertson said she will not support the motion. She noted that the Council does not use all of its education money now. She suggested that this issue be examined, however, if the Council moves forward with hiring an independent review of Council compensation.

Mayor Balducci confirmed that the Council currently has funds for those uses. She suggested revisiting the issue later next year if specific needs arise.

- The motion failed by a vote of 1-6, with Councilmember Lee in favor.

Councilmember Robinson commented on the Fire Department CARES program, which provides social workers to respond to certain 911 calls along with emergency personnel. This is focused on helping individuals who make frequent 911 calls for non-emergency reasons by referring them to social services. Ms. Robinson supports the purpose but said this program is similar to two King County programs. She suggested funding the program for one year, and spending that year to pursue a County grant for continuing the City's program.

Interim Fire Chief Risen concurred with that proposal.

- Councilmember Robinson moved to fund Bellevue CARES for one year only, and Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.

Councilmember Robertson suggested leaving the funding in the budget as currently written, while pursuing grant funding as suggested by Councilmember Robinson. Mayor Balducci further suggested adding a provision that no 2016 funds will be expended until staff addresses the issue again with the Council.

Councilmember Robinson accepted the suggestions as friendly amendments.

Responding to Councilmember Chelminiak, Chief Risen said the Fire Department will work to advocate for King County including this type of program under its Advanced Life Support (ALS) levy funding.

- The motion, as amended, carried by a vote of 7-0.

Responding to Mayor Balducci, Planning and Community Development Director Chris Salomone said the budget contains funding for initiating work on the Wilburton Grand

Connection project and for addressing the Northtowne housing redevelopment issues. Mr. Salomone recommended deferring the Bel-Red Plan Update somewhat. Mayor Balducci suggested that, if budget funding is adequate, Council and staff will refine the work plan next year.

Mayor Balducci thanked everyone for their hard work and announced that the Council would take action on the final budget on December 1.

(d) Regional Issues

- (1) Update on Regional Animal Services Interlocal Agreement
- (2) Multi-City Business License and Tax *FileLocal* Portal
- (3) State and Federal Legislative Update

[Regional Issues topics were postponed.]

At 11:45 p.m., Mayor Balducci declared the meeting adjourned.

Myrna L. Basich, MMC  
City Clerk

/kaw