

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Session

November 19, 2012  
8:00 p.m.

Council Chamber  
Bellevue, Washington

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

ABSENT: Councilmember Wallace

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:07 p.m., with Mayor Lee presiding.

2. Roll Call, Flag Salute

Upon roll call, all Councilmembers except Councilmember Wallace were present.

Councilmember Davidson led the flag salute.

3. Communications: Written and Oral

- (a) Steve Kasner recalled that he previously spoke to the Council about Eastgate Park and to commend Cheryl Kuhn, former Neighborhood Outreach Manager, upon her retirement. He thanked Acting Manager Julie Ellenhorn for keeping the Neighborhood Outreach Program going since the end of August. Mr. Kasner said he is pleased to hear that the new Neighborhood Outreach Manager will be starting next week. He noted that Eastgate Park was formerly owned by King County, transferred to the City approximately 10 years ago, and is now a valuable asset with the South Bellevue Community Center.
- (b) Patrick Bannon, Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA), invited the Council and the public to enjoy Bellevue's 16<sup>th</sup> annual Magic Season celebration, which kicks off on Friday, and Garden d'Lights at the Bellevue Botanical Garden. He thanked the City for its partnership in this community program.
- (c) Gerald Wright, representing Hopelink, thanked the City for its generous support of human services and for its creation of the only severe weather shelter in North and East King County. He described Hopelink's services to provide food, housing, and other assistance to low-income individuals, and asked the City to continue its support.

- (d) Alex Zimmerman, representing Stand Up America, said he has been making a request for public records for seven months regarding the cost of a three-year investigation. He shared concerns regarding traffic enforcement and political/religious persecution.

Deputy Mayor Robertson reminded the audience that a Public Hearing on the budget is scheduled for later in the agenda.

- (e) Jim Pratt and Lisa Goodman, Bellevue Youth Theatre Foundation, provided an update on fundraising efforts for the new theatre, which have reached the \$1 million mark. Sponsors and partners include The Norcliffe Foundation, Nordstrom, McEachern Foundation, Jimmy Choo in the Bravern, Microsoft, Puget Sound Energy, Sher Family Fund, and Walmart. Ms. Goodman said a Chinese performance group from Beijing participated in a November 9 fundraiser for the theatre. Kemper Development Company and the Bellevue Collection were sponsors of that event. Mr. Pratt said the theatre continues to seek other grant funding as well.
- (f) Gary Makowski urged City staff to study traffic on Lakemont Boulevard, which has become increasingly dangerous at the intersection of SE 63<sup>rd</sup> Street/SE Cougar Mountain Way. SE 63<sup>rd</sup> Street becomes SE Cougar Mountain Way at Lakemont Boulevard but the transition is not properly aligned. He expressed concern about traffic patterns, speeds, and volumes.
- (g) Quiana Ross, resident of a community in the Factoria area, thanked the Council for its support of human services and encouraged the Council to continue to support the ARCH (A Regional Coalition for Housing) Trust Fund. She thanked the City for providing hope to individuals in need who may have the will and the drive to succeed, but may lack the necessary resources.
- (h) Eric Smith, a resident of the Lakemont area, expressed concern about traffic conditions at the intersection of SE 63<sup>rd</sup> Street/SE Cougar Mountain Way and Lakemont Boulevard. The transition from SE 63<sup>rd</sup> Street to SE Cougar Mountain Way is misaligned, causing unsafe conditions at the intersection with Lakemont Boulevard. Mr. Smith recalled the community's opposition years ago to expansion of the Open Window School, which now serves children from 300 families. He noted plans for continued residential development and expressed concern that there will be a bad accident.

Responding to the Council, City Manager Steve Sarkozy said staff has identified design alternatives, one of which is to install a traffic circle. This option costs approximately \$750,000 more than the traffic signal alternative due to the need to acquire property to accommodate the traffic circle. He said there is no money currently budgeted to construct the project.

Councilmember Chelminiak explained for the public that the planning and public involvement process for this type of project requires time and money. He believes the project is in the budget for 2015.

Mayor Lee thanked residents for bringing the issue to the Council's attention.

4. Reports of Community Council, Boards and Commissions: None.
5. Report of the City Manager: None.
6. Council Business and New Initiatives

Councilmember Balducci reported that she chaired the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Transportation Policy Board meeting. She has agreed to co-chair the Alaskan Way Viaduct Committee, on which she has served for the past couple of years. Ms. Balducci attended meetings related to the Sound Transit light rail project and a meeting with Arts Commission representatives. She recalled that the Arts Commission spoke to the Council the previous week requesting reinstatement of \$10,000 in arts funding.

Councilmember Stokes reported that he and Deputy Mayor Robertson attended a luncheon for the Eastside Baby Corner. Mr. Stokes attended a meeting of the PSRC Growth Management Policy Board, and he has been working with a group interested in relocating the Bellevue Farmers Market to Old Bellevue.

Councilmember Chelminiak attended meetings of the Eastside Human Services Task Force, Trade Development Alliance, and the State Building Code Council. He and Mayor Lee attended a luncheon at Overlake Hospital Medical Center.

Councilmember Davidson attended meetings of the Suburban Cities Association, Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council, and the Growing Transit Communities Oversight Committee.

Deputy Mayor Robertson said she would forego her report to move forward with the public hearing. She noted street flooding due to heavy rains and encouraged citizens to remove debris from storm drain openings in their neighborhoods on an ongoing basis to help prevent flooding.

Mayor Lee attended the luncheon at Overlake Hospital Medical Center and a ceremony at the Mahatma Gandhi statute at Bellevue Regional Library. He wished everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Responding to the Mayor about the heavy rains, Mr. Sarkozy said the City has avoided the more major problems that have been reported in other areas. However, there is localized flooding on certain streets and heavy rain is expected to continue through the week. Mr. Sarkozy asked citizens to help clear storm drains, as suggested by the Deputy Mayor, and to report any problems to the City in a timely manner.

7. Approval of the Agenda

→ Deputy Mayor Robertson moved to approve the agenda, and Councilmember Chelminiak seconded the motion.

→ The motion to approve the agenda carried by a vote of 6-0.

8. Consent Calendar

→ Deputy Mayor Robertson moved to approve the Consent Calendar, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

→ The motion to approve the Consent Calendar carried by a vote of 6-0, and the following items were approved:

- (a) Minutes of October 22, 2012 Extended Study Session  
Minutes of November 5, 2012 Study Session  
Minutes of November 5, 2012 Regular Session
- (b) Resolution No. 8468 ratifying and approving payment of \$22,231.26 for a claim filed against the City by Naoshi and Shinobu Hinami for property damage to their residence caused by a water system failure.
- (c) Resolution No. 8469 authorizing execution of an amendment to the Agreement for Professional Services with DA Hogan & Associates, Inc., in the amount of \$257,675, for the design and construction of sports field and parking lot improvements at Hidden Valley Sports Park.
- (d) Resolution No. 8470 authorizing execution of an 18-month contract with the Natural Start Preschool, LLC, in the amount of \$220,000, for a preschool program offered at the Northwest Arts Center
- (e) Resolution No. 8471 authorizing execution of a two-year General Services Contract with Environmental Control, with the option to renew for an additional two years for janitorial services at 30 multi-use park facilities.
- (f) Resolution No. 8472 authorizing execution of a purchase agreement with Tri-Tech Forensics, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$66,111.72, for a Police Digital Forensics Network Server that will be housed in the Bellevue Police Digital Forensics Laboratory.
- (g) Motion to award Bid No. 12171 for Sanitary Sewer Repairs (2012) - Phase 2, to Laser Underground & Earthworks, Inc., as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, in an amount not to exceed \$272,737.13 (CIP Plan No. S-24).

9. Public Hearings

- (a) Third and final Public Hearing for the 2013-2014 Operating and 2013-2019 Capital Budget
  - (1) Staff Report

City Manager Steve Sarkozy introduced the third and final Public Hearing on the 2013-2014 General Fund (Operating) Budget and the 2013-2019 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan. He described it as a status quo budget that builds on the reset of the City's budget in recent years due to the economic downturn. He noted that an overwhelming majority of citizens continue to rate Bellevue as a good or excellent place to live and to indicate that they are receiving a good or excellent value for their tax dollars.

There are no general tax increases in the budget, and there are no further layoffs of staff. Utility rates and development services fees are increasing slightly. The preliminary budget was presented to the Council on July 30.

(2) Motion to open Public Hearing

- Deputy Mayor Robertson moved to open the public hearing, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

(3) Public Testimony

The following citizens came forward to comment:

1. Norm Hansen, representing the Bridle Trails Community Club and Bellevue Neighborhoods Working Together, encouraged the Council to continue implementation of the consultant's report regarding electrical reliability in the 2013-2014 budget.
2. Stan Kehl, Executive Director for the Eastside Legal Assistance Program, thanked the City for its support of this program. He noted that ELAP is a member of the Alliance of Eastside Agencies, which is a network of human services providers.
3. Charles (Ted) Watts, an attorney, said he has been a member of ELAP since its inception 23 years ago. He has served on the ELAP Board for 15 years. He explained that the main driver of the organization's financial need relates to domestic violence cases. ELAP is the only referring agency to take domestic violence victims to their first and second court hearings where they are able to achieve injunctive and restraining order relief from the courts that can be enforced by law enforcement. ELAP receives referrals from the Bellevue Police Department, Hopelink, LifeWire (formerly the Eastside Domestic Violence Program), and other agencies. Mr. Watts asked the City to continue to provide funding assistance to ELAP.
4. Vic Bishop, President of the West Lake Sammamish Parkway Association, thanked the City for awarding the contract for the first phase of the West Lake Sammamish Parkway improvements project. He asked the Council to consider including a \$200,000 investment over the next two years for planning the second phase of the five-mile-long project. Mr. Bishop submitted his comments in writing.

5. David Plummer urged the Council to eliminate all operating and CIP budget proposals related to the Bel-Red Subarea and the Mobility and Infrastructure Initiative. He asked the Council to deny the proposed utility rate increases and to decrease utilities' tax rates. He suggested that the proposed Utilities Department operating and capital budgets should be decreased by \$53.6 million. He said the proposed Transportation Department operating capital budgets should be decreased by \$70.3 million. Mr. Plummer urged the Council to begin an in-depth review of the Interlocal Agreement between the City and the Cascade Water Alliance, which he feels contributes to excessive increases in the City's wholesale water costs. He said there is no substantive regulatory oversight of the Alliance. [Mr. Plummer's written comments were provided in the Council's desk packet.]
6. Hal Ferris, Board Member of the Housing Development Consortium, said he also serves on the National Advisory Board for the Urban Land Institute with regard to housing affordability issues. He expressed support for the City Manager's budget, which provides \$400,000 to A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH). Mr. Ferris said the need for affordable housing continues to increase, and he asked the Council to consider increasing the City's funding in the future.
7. Jill Davies, a housing developer with the Low Income Housing Institute, thanked the Council for its continued support of ARCH, which is working toward breaking ground on 57 units of affordable workforce housing just a few blocks from City Hall. The project includes a small number of units set aside for individuals at risk of homelessness and will work with agencies to help them regain self-sufficiency.
8. Sharon Linton, representing Visit Bellevue Washington, recalled that the organization requested \$50,800 from the City for specific projects identified for 2013. She asked the Council to consider also setting aside a similar amount for 2014. Ms. Linton said she looks forward to describing specific proposals in the future.
9. Liz Swanson, Board President-Elect for Eastside Baby Corner, and Karen Rubin, a longtime volunteer and past Treasurer, provided an update on the services provided by the organization. They thanked Deputy Mayor Robertson and Councilmember Stokes for attending their luncheon, and requested the City's continued support.
10. Gina Yarwood, Director of the YWCA Family Village in Redmond, requested approval of the City Manager's budget and continued support of ARCH's investments in the community. Two programs, YWCA Eastside Employment Services and YWCA Housing and Services, receive support from the City of Bellevue.
11. Ward Urion, Social Change Manager at LifeWire, described the organization's services assisting those affected by domestic violence. He thanked the City for its ongoing support and commented on the importance of consistent stable funding for human services.

12. Lincoln Vander Veen, Bellevue Chamber of Commerce, thanked the Council and staff for their thoughtful and deliberate work on the City budget. He invited the Council to read the Chamber's 2013 Eastside Economic Strategy Guide, which includes a budget survey highlighting key issues for the business community.
13. Patrick Bannon, Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA), thanked the Council for its work on the budget. The BDA supports the City Manager's budget, which includes commitments to the East Link light rail project, NE 4<sup>th</sup> Street/120<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE project, the Downtown Livability Plan update, and the Downtown Transportation Plan update. He encouraged the City to continue to invest in infrastructure and to work toward developing a long-term plan for funding the backlog of needed capital projects. [Written comments from the BDA are provided in the Council's desk packet.]
14. Joanne White spoke on behalf of the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society. As a volunteer for more than 12 years, she urged support of the budget proposal to create a new visitors center and expanded parking at the Garden. The Society has raised nearly \$4 million for the new visitors center. Ms. White described educational programs enjoyed by both children and adults. Volunteers have contributed more than 20,000 hours to the Garden so far this year.
15. Michele Cournoyer, President of the Northwest Perennial Alliance (NPA), expressed the organization's strong support for the Bellevue Botanical Garden building project. NPA created, funds, and maintains the perennial border around the Garden. NPA offers lectures, workshops, classes, and garden tours and organizes neighborhood groups. She said the planned Bellevue Botanical Garden visitors center will provide much-needed educational facilities.
16. Steve Kasner encouraged the City to continue to invest in infrastructure including water, sewer, and storm water facilities. He said it is important to ensure that major systems do not fail.

(4) Motion to close Public Hearing

- Deputy Mayor Robertson moved to close the public hearing, and Councilmember Balducci seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

- (b) Public hearing and action on proposed Resolution authorizing execution of documents relinquishing easements in a 21 square foot curve return area at the corner of vacated NE 9<sup>th</sup> Street and vacated 111<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE.

Mr. Sarkozy said the proposed relinquishment represents 21 square feet located at 11011 NE 9<sup>th</sup> Street. The owner of the adjacent property proposes building 242 apartment units and has requested this unused utility area to be vacated, which is consistent with the City's past practices. Upon vacation, the adjoining property owner receives the land.

→ Deputy Mayor Robertson moved to open the public hearing, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

No one came forward to comment.

→ Deputy Mayor Robertson moved to close the public hearing, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

Resolution No. 8473 authorizing execution of documents to relinquish easements located in a 21 square foot curve return area at the corner of vacated NE 9<sup>th</sup> Street and vacated 111<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE.

Deputy Mayor Robertson observed that she is happy to see development occurring in this area of the community.

→ Deputy Mayor Robertson moved to approve Resolution No. 8473, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

10. Land Use: None.

11. Other Ordinances, Resolutions and Motions

(a) Ordinance No. 6081 updating the school impact fee schedule for Issaquah School District No. 411; amending Section 22.18.100 of the Bellevue City Code; providing for severability; and establishing an effective date.

→ Councilmember Balducci moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6081, and Deputy Mayor Robertson seconded the motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 5-1, with Councilmember Davidson opposed.

12. Unfinished Business: None.

13. Continued Oral Communications: None.

14. New Business: None.

15. Executive Session: None.

16. Adjournment

At 9:55 p.m., Mayor Lee declared the meeting adjourned.

Myrna L. Basich, MMC  
City Clerk

/kaw