

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Extended Study Session

February 25, 2008  
6:00 p.m.

Council Conference Room  
Bellevue, Washington

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

ABSENT: None.

1. Executive Session

- (a) Consideration of City Council candidates' qualifications

Deputy Mayor Balducci called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and announced recess to Executive Session for approximately 20 minutes for consideration of City Council candidates' qualifications.

The meeting resumed at 6:35 p.m., with Mayor Degginger presiding. The Council will continue its discussion about candidates' qualifications next week.

2. Oral Communications

- (a) Andy Swain, Puget Sound Energy, thanked Council and staff for working with PSE over the past two years to develop the proposed electrical utilities Comprehensive Plan Amendments presented for Council action. PSE looks forward to working with the City on the ongoing development of future system capacity and reliability improvements.
- (b) Carrie Courter-Blanton, Honda Auto Center, encouraged Council support of the Courter Enterprises Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA), Agenda Item 3(e). She noted the Planning Commission's recommendation that Council adopt the CPA. Ms. Courter-Blanton thanked the Council and City staff on behalf of her family for the time and attention involved in reviewing the CPA proposal.
- (c) Robert Thorpe spoke in support of Ordinance No. 5798, which adopts the Courter Enterprises CPA.

3. Study Session

(a) Council Business and New Initiatives

Deputy Mayor Balducci asked staff to look into the possibility of installing permanent signage for the Crossroads and Downtown Farmers Markets.

(1) Discussion of candidates for Council vacancy

Mayor Degginger noted that the discussion of Council candidates would be postponed until the next week.

(b) City Manager's Report – Update on Light Rail Best Practices Project

City Manager Steve Sarkozy opened staff's update on the Light Rail Best Practices project.

Maria Koengeter, Senior Planner, referred to the packet materials and noted that the research phase of the Light Rail Best Practices project is nearly completed. The identification of best practices for Bellevue is underway. The Light Rail Committee has heard presentations on the eight topic areas involved in the research and planning process. The committee traveled to San Diego and San Jose to tour their light rail systems and will go to Portland on the 29<sup>th</sup> to tour their system.

Michael Kattermann Senior Planner, noted ongoing public involvement activities including public roundtable and open house sessions in November, December, and January. A binder of information addressing crime/security, land use, and impacts (e.g., property values) was submitted by the Surrey Downs community and is available in the Council office for review. Staff will provide its next update to the Council in April. The next public involvement meeting will occur in late April or early May. It is anticipated that the committee will complete its work in June.

Councilmember Davidson commented on his participation in the tours of the San Diego and San Jose rail systems. Deputy Mayor Balducci described the committee's work through the review and planning process.

Responding to Councilmember Chelminiak, Planning Director Dan Stroh said any Comprehensive Plan Amendments related to light rail planning would need to go through the Planning Commission's process, including a public hearing. Mr. Stroh noted that the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is scheduled to be issued by Sound Transit in September. The Sound Transit Board will not take action on a preliminary preferred alternative until at least December. Mr. Stroh recalled that one goal of Bellevue's process is to be able to provide input in advance of the Sound Transit Board's decision. The CPA process typically takes approximately four months. If Council wishes to adopt by the end of the year a CPA based on light rail planning objectives, it will be adopted as an emergency amendment considered separately from the 2008 CPA package.

Mr. Sarkozy noted the need to postpone Agenda Item 3(d) due to staff illness.

(c) Regional Issues

Diane Carlson, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, referred Council to page 3-9 of the meeting packet for information about Sound Transit's Phase 2 planning for a ballot measure. A transit and roads ballot measure failed at the polls in November.

Ms. Carlson introduced Sound Transit staff Ric Ilgenfritz, Executive Director for Public Policy Affairs, and Greg Walker, Chief Policy and Planning Officer.

Mr. Ilgenfritz said the Sound Transit Board is interested in presenting a transit expansion ballot measure in 2008 or 2010. The Board has asked staff to prepare a 2012 plan instead of the 2020 plan and to evaluate options at lower revenue levels.

Mr. Walker reviewed the development of the Sound Transit system over the past 10 years. The Sound Transit Board adopted the 20-year Phase 2 plan in 2007, which was subsequently rejected by the voters in November. Staff is preparing a ST2 update in response to the Board's direction to create a smaller package with a shorter timeframe.

Mr. Walker noted current planning activities to address the demand for expanded transit services across Lake Washington on both I-90 and SR 520. Sound Transit is considering bus rapid transit along I-405, as well as the potential use of the BNSF rail corridor. Light rail across I-90 is a top priority for the Sound Transit Board and the region. Bus service, including transit-priority capital projects, is under consideration for SR 520. Mr. Walker summarized that the proposed 2020 plan is designed to implement multimodal solutions (Sounder, light rail, and ST Express improvements) to transportation needs in the differing corridors.

The Sound Transit Board and Executive Committee will review alternatives in March. Public input will be presented to the Board in March, and staff will seek direction on the development of a draft plan.

Councilmember Davidson suggested implementing bus rapid transit as a less expensive, interim solution to light rail, and one that would preserve the right-of-way for future light rail service. Mr. Ilgenfritz said Sound Transit is considering this type of alternative. He noted a project in Washington, D.C., that is similar to Bellevue's current Bel-Red corridor planning effort. Mr. Walker provided additional details on this development involving initial bus service that will preserve the right-of-way and roadway for eventual conversion to a light rail system.

Responding to Councilmember Lee, Mr. Walker noted the availability of federal grant funds for bus rapid transit projects. Mr. Lee expressed his interest in considering a range of options.

Sound Transit staff responded to additional questions of clarification.

Responding to Deputy Mayor Balducci, Mr. Walker reviewed Sound Transit Phase 2 sales tax revenue projections for 2009 through 2020.

Responding to Councilmember Chelminiak, Mr. Walker explained that the placement of light rail on the SR 520 bridge is not feasible due to restricted right-of-way for light rail on the west end of the bridge.

Turning to the state legislative session, Ms. Carlson reported that the House transportation budget was approved. It includes provisions related to early implementation projects on I-90 and SR 520. The state tolling policy bill is likely to be passed in the Senate. A bill allowing the transfer of state revenues to fund law enforcement retirement benefits would provide direct funding to local governments for public safety purposes. She noted two bills addressing climate change and a bill expanding the scope of people eligible to recover damages in wrongful death cases.

At 7:56 p.m., Mayor Degginger declared a brief recess. The meeting reconvened at 8:05 p.m.

- (d) Review final elements of Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) and Growth and Transportation Efficiency Center (GTEC) Plans

Ordinance No. 5795 relating to Commute Trip Reduction (CTR); amending Sections 14.40.010, 14.40.020, 14.40.040, 14.40.050, 14.40.060, 14.40.070, 14.40.080, 14.40.090, 14.40.100, 14.40.110, 14.40.120, 14.40.130, and 14.40.140; repealing 14.40.030 and 14.40.120 and establishing an effective date.

Ordinance No. 5796 adopting the Commute Trip Reduction and Growth and Transportation Efficiency Center which will guide the implementation of transportation demand management programs; authorizing execution of a grant agreement with the Washington State Department of Transportation in the amount of \$300,000; amending the 2007-2008 General CIP fund to increase the appropriation by \$300,000; and amending the 2007-2013 General Capital Investment Program to increase the project budget for the Transportation Demand Management Program by \$300,000 (CIP Plan No. PW-R-87).

Transportation Director Goran Sparrman referred to the meeting packet materials and explained that Bellevue is one of the first cities to be awarded a grant by the State to implement the new GTEC (Growth and Transportation Efficiency Center) program. Noting a staff illness, Mr. Sparrman suggested postponing discussion of the Ordinances until March 10.

- (e) 2007 Comprehensive Plan Amendments

Deputy City Manager Brad Miyake opened discussion regarding adoption of the 2007 Comprehensive Plan Amendments.

Planning Director Dan Stroh recalled previous discussions with Council regarding the CPA proposals and briefly reviewed each Ordinance presented for Council action.

Ordinance No. 5797 relating to the Comprehensive Plan of the City of Bellevue, as required and adopted pursuant to the Growth Management Act of 1990, as amended (Chapter 36.70A RCW); adopting 2007 amendments to the Comprehensive Plan amending the Factoria Subarea Plan Map (**St. Margaret's Church CPA**).

Mr. Stroh explained that the St. Margaret's CPA will change the Factoria Subarea Plan Map from single family-high to multifamily-high for the church's site.

→ Deputy Mayor Balducci moved to adopt Ordinance No. 5797, and Councilmember Noble seconded the motion.

Councilmember Chelminiak commended St. Margaret's Church for its efforts to create transitional and affordable housing.

→ The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 5797 carried by a vote of 6-0.

Ordinance No. 5798 relating to the Comprehensive of the City of Bellevue, as required and adopted pursuant to the Growth Management Act of 1990, as amended (Chapter 36.70A RCW); adopting 2007 amendments to the Comprehensive Plan amending the Factoria Subarea Plan (**Courter Enterprises CPA**).

Mr. Stroh said the Courter Enterprises CPA will add a new Factoria Subarea policy to the Comprehensive Plan to support retail auto sales in the OLB (Office Limited Business) district.

→ Councilmember Lee moved to adopt Ordinance No. 5798, and Councilmember Chelminiak seconded the motion.

→ The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 5798 carried by a vote of 6-0.

Ordinance No. 5799 relating to the Comprehensive Plan of the City of Bellevue, as required and adopted pursuant to the Growth Management Act of 1990, as amended (Chapter 36.70A RCW); adopting 2007 amendments to the Comprehensive Plan amending the Factoria Subarea Plan (**SRO Factoria CPA**).

Mr. Stroh explained that Ordinance No. 5799 will add a new Factoria Subarea policy to the Comprehensive Plan to allow additional office development up to a total of 0.75 FAR (floor-area ratio). It applies to land located on Factoria Boulevard SE and SE 38<sup>th</sup> Street, north of Factoria Mall.

→ Deputy Mayor Balducci moved to adopt Ordinance No. 5799, and Councilmember Noble seconded the motion.

Mayor Degginger commented that the CPA provides the opportunity for the creation of an attractive gateway to the city as well as an improved pedestrian environment.

Councilmember Lee feels the proposal will be beneficial for the area.

→ The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 5799 carried by a vote of 6-0.

Ordinance No. 5800 relating to the Comprehensive Plan of the City of Bellevue, as required and adopted pursuant to the Growth Management Act of 1990, as amended (Chapter 36.70A RCW); adopting 2007 amendments to the Comprehensive Plan amending the Capital Facilities General Element updating references to include the adopted six-year 2007-2013 Capital Investment Program (**Capital Facilities CIP Update CPA**).

→ Deputy Mayor Balducci moved to adopt Ordinance No. 5800, and Councilmember Chelminiak seconded the motion.

→ The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 5800 carried by a vote of 6-0.

Ordinance No. 5801 relating to the Comprehensive Plan of the City of Bellevue, as required and adopted pursuant to the Growth Management Act of 1990, as amended (Chapter 36.70A RCW); adopting 2007 amendments to the Comprehensive Plan amending the Downtown Subarea Plan and the Wilburton/NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street Subarea Plan and the East Bellevue Transportation Plan adding policy to provide additional east-west transportation connections and to include additional future transportation improvement projects located in and near Downtown Bellevue (**Downtown Mobility CPA**).

Mr. Stroh said the Downtown Mobility CPA adds policies providing additional east-west transportation connections, including intersection improvements, between downtown and the Wilburton area.

Councilmember Lee encouraged the City to consider a range of mobility alternatives including sky bridges, tunnels, bikeways, and a downtown circulator.

Geoff Bidwell, a citizen, interrupted the meeting and wanted to comment on the proposal. The Mayor, as the presiding officer, stated that Mr. Bidwell's comments were out of order and asked that he be seated.

Continuing, Mr. Stroh explained that the projects contained in the Downtown Mobility CPA are primarily from the Downtown Implementation Plan (DIP).

→ Deputy Mayor Balducci moved to adopt Ordinance No. 5801, and Councilmember Noble seconded the motion.

→ The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 5801 carried by a vote of 6-0.

Ordinance No. 5802 relating to the Comprehensive Plan of the City of Bellevue, as required and adopted pursuant to the Growth Management Act of 1990, as amended (Chapter 36.70A RCW); adopting 2007 amendments to the Comprehensive Plan amending the Utilities General Element to: amend the text of the Goals section; amend the text of the Electrical Service and Natural Gas subsections of the Non City-Managed Utilities section; add new policies to the Non City-Managed Utilities – Additional Electrical Facilities section; delete Figure UT.5 Electric Transmission Facilities and add new Figure UT.5 – Existing Electrical Facilities and new Figure UT.5a – New or Expanded Electrical Facilities; and amend Figure UT.7 – PSE Natural Gas Mains (**Utilities Element Update and Electrical Facilities CPA**).

Mr. Stroh explained that Ordinance No. 5802 contains a policy framework clarifying the siting of utilities facilities in neighborhoods. He responded to brief questions of clarification.

Mayor Degginger commended City staff on their work with the community and with Puget Sound Energy.

→ Deputy Mayor Balducci moved to adopt Ordinance No. 5802, and Councilmember Chelminiak seconded the motion.

→ The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 5802 carried by a vote of 6-0.

Ordinance No. 5803 relating to the Comprehensive Plan of the City of Bellevue, as required and adopted pursuant to the Growth Management Act of 1990, as amended (Chapter 36.70A RCW); adopting 2007 amendments to the Comprehensive Plan incorporating the Wilburton/NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street Study amending the Wilburton/NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street Subarea Plan and the East Bellevue Transportation Plan (**Wilburton/NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street Study CPA**).

Mr. Stroh recalled that the Wilburton/NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street Study was initiated by the Council. He reviewed two minor revisions to the Ordinance based on previous Council direction.

→ Deputy Mayor Balducci moved to adopt Ordinance No. 5803, and Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.

→ The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 5803 carried by a vote of 6-0.

Ordinance No. 5804 relating to the Comprehensive Plan of the City of Bellevue, as required and adopted pursuant to the Growth Management Act of 1990, as amended (Chapter 36.70A RCW); and as adopted pursuant to Chapter 35A.63 RCW, adopting the City's 2007 amendments to the Comprehensive Plan as

separately set forth in Ordinance Nos. 5797, 5798, 5799, 5800, 5801, 5802, and 5803.

→ Deputy Mayor Balducci moved to adopt Ordinance No. 5804, and Councilmember Chelminiak seconded the motion.

→ The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 5804 carried by a vote of 6-0.

Responding to Councilmember Chelminiak, Mr. Stroh reviewed the CPA process, which involves review and public hearing by the Planning Commission as well as extensive discussion by the City Council of all CPA proposals.

Ordinance No. 5805 amending the Land Use Code Relating to Electrical Utility Facilities; specifically amending Sections 20.50.018 E, 20.50.032 L, 20.50.044 R, 20.50.050 U, 20.20.650, 20.20.520. F.2.a, and 20.10.440 of the Land Use Code, and adoption of a new section LUC 20.20.255; providing for severability; and establishing an effective date.

[Postponed to March 3, 2008 meeting.]

4. Executive Session

At 8:56 p.m., Mayor Degginger declared the meeting adjourned.

Myrna L. Basich  
City Clerk

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