

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Session

January 2, 2007  
8:00 p.m.

Council Chamber  
Bellevue, Washington

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

ABSENT: None.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m., with Mayor Degginger presiding.

2. Roll Call, Flag Salute

Upon roll call by the City Clerk, all Councilmembers were present. Deputy Mayor Chelminiak led the flag salute.

3. Communications: Written and Oral

- (a) James Adcock expressed concern about the impact of the recent windstorm. He described and submitted a list of his suggestions for earthquake preparedness as well. His concerns relate to community-wide services including telephones, cell phones, traffic lights, private businesses, utilities, radio and television emergency broadcasts, roads, and garbage pickup.

4. Reports of Community Councils, Boards and Commissions

Doug Hoople, Chair of the Human Services Commission, thanked the Council for its support of human services in the recently adopted budget. Two new agencies, nine new programs, and 10 existing programs were funded. Two new programs funded are the Eastside Women's Center, which opened on December 11, and the Cultural Navigator program. Mr. Hoople said the Human Services Commission is already looking ahead toward planning for the 2009-2010 funding recommendations. He thanked Council for its vision and leadership.

5. Report of the City Manager

(b) Management Brief – Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

City Manager Steve Sarkozy announced that the City of Bellevue received the 2005 Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. This is the 24<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that Bellevue has been recognized with the award.

Mayor Degginger commended staff members for their hard work and exceptional fiscal management.

6. Council Business

Councilmember Lee remembered President Gerald Ford as a man of good character who displayed integrity, honesty, and credibility.

Councilmember Noble reported that the Eastside Transportation Partnership's legislative subcommittee met to draft a legislative agenda for discussion at the next ETP meeting. He invited Councilmembers to attend the Eastside Human Services Forum's annual meeting on January 10 at Crossroads Community Center from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Councilmember Balducci expressed regret that the King County Journal has decided to stop publishing its daily newspaper. She thanked the paper for its fine work in providing news and editorials that are not available elsewhere.

Mayor Degginger thanked Councilmembers who volunteered at emergency shelters in City facilities following the recent windstorm and praised the many City staff members who worked long hours.

7. Approval of the Agenda

➡ Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to approve the agenda, and Mr. Lee seconded the motion.

➡ The motion to approve the agenda carried by a vote of 7-0.

8. Consent Calendar

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak noted that Agenda Items 8(f) and (g) are being postponed from the Consent Calendar tonight. Mr. Lee requested pulling Agenda Item 8(b) for Council discussion.

➡ Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to approve the Consent Calendar, amended to exclude Agenda Items 8(b), (f) and (g). Ms. Balducci seconded the motion.

➡ The motion to approve the Consent Calendar, as amended, carried by a vote of 7-0, and the following items were approved:

- (a) Minutes of November 20, 2006 Study Session  
*[Action postponed from December 11, 2006 Consent Calendar.]*  
Minutes of November 27, 2006 Extended Study Session  
Minutes of November 29, 2006 Extended Study Session
- (c) Resolution No. 7485 ratifying the Emergency Declaration of the City Manager, ratifying the Proclamation of State of Civil Emergency of the Mayor, and ratifying the award of a contract for tree and debris removal to Davey Tree, all resulting from severe weather experienced on December 14 and 15, 2006.
- (d) Motion to approve payment of claims for the period December 9 through December 29, 2006, and payroll for the period December 1 through December 15, 2006.
- (e) Resolution No. 7486 authorizing execution of professional services agreements with R. Lee Springer, Anthony Kopezynski, SALT Accounting, PLLC, and Roberto de las Alas to perform audits of businesses to determine taxpayer compliance with the tax chapters of the Bellevue City Code, in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$412,900.
- (h) Resolution No. 7489 authorizing execution of the second amendment to the existing Joint Powers Agreement between the cities of Bellevue, Kirkland, Mercer Island, Medina, Clyde Hill, Issaquah, King and Kittitas Counties Fire District 51, Redmond, Bothell, Woodinville Fire and Life Safety, Northshore Fire, Eastside Fire and Rescue, King County Fire District 27, and Shoreline Fire to continue the progress toward the establishment of a Regional Public Safety Community Consortium, and to extend the term of the Agreement, add King County Fire District 45 to the Agreement, and approve additional funding for the operational budget.
- (i) Motion to award Bid No. 0659 to Vetch Construction as low bidder in the amount of \$54,846 for the NE 24<sup>th</sup> Street Median project (west of 104<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE), reconstruction of the median island and roadway channelization changes on NE 24<sup>th</sup> Street west of 104<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, and loop detector installation on NE 24<sup>th</sup> Street and on 104<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE. (CIP Plan Nos. PW-M-7 & PW-R-46)
- (j) Resolution No. 7490 authorizing approval of final settlement of a claim filed against the City in the amount of \$21,606.27 for property damage to the Dex residence caused by a water system failure.

Item for Council Discussion:

- (b) Ordinance No. 5712 amending the Bellevue City Code to allow emergency ordinances to take effect immediately upon a vote of a majority plus one of the whole membership of the City Council; amending Section 1.12.040 of the Bellevue City Code; and establishing an effective date.

Councilmember Lee questioned the previous policy requiring a unanimous vote in the case of an emergency action by the City Council.

City Attorney Lori Riordan said the previous policy was established when the City was first incorporated. Ordinance No. 5712 complies with state law regarding Optional Municipal Code cities.

Responding to Dr. Davidson, Ms. Riordan confirmed that emergency legislation can become effective immediately instead of requiring the normal five-day waiting period.

- Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to adopt Ordinance No. 5712, and Mrs. Marshall seconded the motion.
- The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 5712 carried by a vote of 7-0.

Items postponed for future action:

- (f) Resolution No. 7487 authorizing execution of a contract with Regency NW Construction, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$578,816 for the installation of fire sprinklers in existing fire stations.
  - (g) Resolution No. 7488 authorizing execution of an amendment to the professional services contract with Sierra-Martin Architects in an amount not to exceed \$47,041.30 to provide project management for the fire sprinkler installation project.
9. Public Hearings: None.
  10. Land Use: None.
  11. Other Ordinances, Resolutions and Motions: None.
  12. Unfinished Business
    - (a) City's Response to December 14 Windstorm [*Continued from Study Session, Agenda Item 2(a)*]

Deputy Police Chief Linda Pillo commended public safety dispatch staff, who handled nearly five times as many calls as normal during the first two days of the windstorm and power outages. Police officers responded to 105 more calls during the first 48 hours than for the same time period one year ago. Calls related primarily to downed power lines, fallen trees, and damage to structures. Police assisted at the scene of a mudslide at Coal Creek Parkway and Forest Drive for approximately five hours. They provided assistance by distributing information for non-English speaking residents. Police officers were posted at gas stations the first few days after several calls reporting disturbances. Police Department personnel provided initial security at emergency

shelters, increased staffing for neighborhood and business patrols, conducted welfare checks on elderly residents, escorted fuel trucks to pump stations, and assisted Puget Sound Energy trucks in reaching areas needing their attention. Criminal activity was minimal with five burglaries and one theft.

Deputy Fire Chief Mike Eisner said the Fire Department responded to 600 incidents within the first 48 hours, which is nearly six times the normal volume of calls. The majority of incidents were trees into structures, trees on power lines, welfare checks on elderly residents, and flooding. A total of 974 incidents occurred over the four-day period (December 14, 15, 16, 17). One structure fire was caused by a man attempting to start a fire in his basement with gasoline. Five citizens were transported and treated for carbon monoxide poisoning, and one fire fighter suffered minor first degree burns.

There was minor damage to Fire Station 4 in the Factoria area due to a tree falling on the roof. Three staff automobiles were damaged by trees, two emergency generators failed within the first 24 to 48 hours, and staffing was increased during the first 48 hours.

Mr. Sarkozy said City staff will review ways to improve preparedness and emergency response in the future. With the number of traffic control devices that suffered outages, the need for more temporary signs has been identified. More generators are needed throughout the community as well, particularly at schools and community centers.

Mr. Sarkozy described the difficulty of communicating with residents with the widespread power outage. City crews were sent out the second and third nights to identify areas without power and to distribute information leaflets. Communication with non-English speaking residents will be reviewed for enhancement as well. City staff is maintaining close communications with Overlake Hospital Medical Center and Puget Sound Energy.

Responding to Deputy Mayor Chelminiak, Deputy Chief Eisner said there is no Fire Code regulation prohibiting the use of emergency generators at gas stations.

Mr. Chelminiak encouraged residents to use the services of the shelters in the event of a future emergency. Citizens were able to get warm, have a hot meal, and enjoy a friendly sense of community.

Councilmember Marshall commended staff, Councilmembers, and the community for their response and cooperation following the storm.

Mrs. Marshall recalled a goal previously established by the Council to underground utilities over time. She requested from staff a list of all transportation projects completed since Council adopted this policy, along with an indication of whether or not utilities were placed underground. She inquired about the emergency plan for phone, cell phone, and cable operators. Mrs. Marshall said Overlake Hospital became a de facto shelter during the storm, primarily because the facility continued to have heat. Citizens who went to the hospital for shelter expected to be fed, and initially they were. However, once other shelters became available many would not go to the official emergency shelter locations.

Mrs. Marshall questioned the feasibility and financial implications of requiring multifamily housing with electric utilities to have an alternative heating source.

Dr. Davidson noted intermittent phone, cell phone, and cable service and suggested it would be helpful if radio and television stations provided more information about problems in specific areas. He said many residents were frustrated because they could not be sure when their power would come back on.

Mr. Lee praised community volunteers, but he noted that many residents were not aware of services available to them. He encouraged proactive efforts to distribute emergency preparedness and response information to citizens, more people to direct traffic in an emergency, and continued planning to assist vulnerable populations.

Mr. Noble noted that some residents went to malls, as well as the hospital, for warmth and food. He suggested setting up kiosks or tables to provide information and assist citizens. Mr. Noble asked if the City maintains a list of all assisted living and long-term care facilities. Referring to the citizens who did not want to move from the hospital to shelters, Mr. Noble questioned whether transportation was offered to these people.

Responding to Mr. Noble, Deputy Chief Pillo confirmed that some people who dialed 911 were placed in a waiting mode, although this is extremely rare under normal circumstances. Mr. Noble suggested that calling 211 might have been able to assist many of the callers looking for assistance and/or an emergency shelter.

Ms. Balducci praised City staff for their work, professionalism, and overall good humor in dealing with a very difficult situation. She noted the rule of thumb to have a minimum of three days' worth of food and supplies to prepare for an emergency. She encouraged working more closely with key organizations and businesses for emergency planning. In terms of communication, Ms. Balducci suggested vehicle-based public address systems, flyers, and A-board signs at key intersections and arterials. She questioned the feasibility of creating more day shelters for people wanting someplace to go for just a few hours and warm up.

Ms. Balducci noted radio announcements encouraging residents from neighboring cities to go to Bellevue for services. She suggested working with adjacent cities to encourage their ability to take care of their residents. She supports the need for a community survey to identify assisted living and adult group homes. Ms. Balducci further suggested establishing a registry of residents who would be most vulnerable in the event of an emergency.

Mayor Degginger reinforced the importance of being able to take care of our residents and to maintain a flow of information. Communications with neighborhood associations and key contacts were effective in providing information to some residents, who were then able to find out about shelters and other services. Mr. Degginger expressed concern about the need to better address debris removal.

Regarding 911 calls, Mr. Degginger reminded the public that it is not appropriate to call 911 for non-emergencies, such as to inquire about whether the mall is open. He encouraged more generators in additional City facilities and partnering with the school district to provide shelter space as well.

Dr. Davidson wondered if school buses could be used to transport citizens from assisted living and similar facilities. Mr. Sarkozy said the City is interested in working with the school district to enable schools to serve as shelters and information centers.

Mr. Chelminiak explained that while his corded phone continued to work, there were homes in his neighborhood in which they did not continue to function. He questioned the feasibility of requiring at least one emergency telephone jack per household.

Regarding debris removal, Mr. Sarkozy said the City is working with Allied to facilitate continued services. He announced that the public can take debris to Pacific Topsoils, 1733 127th Avenue NE (near Northup Way), through Sunday, January 14. This location is funded by the City and will accept yard waste. The City is also contracting with Davey Tree Service to remove trees in the right-of-way, which is likely to continue for another month.

13. Continued Oral Communications: None.

14. New Business: None.

15. Executive Session: None.

16. Adjournment

At 9:15 p.m., Mayor Degginger declared the meeting adjourned.

Myrna L. Basich  
City Clerk

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