

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Study Session

October 20, 2003
6:00 p.m.

Council Conference Room
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Marshall and Councilmembers Creighton, Davidson, Lee¹, Mosher, and Noble

ABSENT: Deputy Mayor Degginger

1. Executive Session

Mayor Marshall opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and announced recess to Executive Session for approximately 20 minutes to discuss one item of pending litigation and one item of potential litigation.

The Study Session resumed at 6:40 p.m. with Mayor Marshall presiding.

2. Study Session

(a) Solid Waste Discussion

City Manager Steve Sarkozy recalled previous Council direction to staff to negotiate the City's solid waste collection contract.

Damon Diessner, Assistant Director of Utilities, reviewed the contract goals to maintain flexibility for the City, refine the proposal package to ensure high-quality service, and maximize customer value. Major policy changes include:

- Moving to commingled, instead of sorted, single-family recyclables collection.
- Weekly single-family yard debris pickup.
- Weekly single-family food waste collection.
- Commingled multifamily recyclable collection.
- Adding commingled commercial recyclables collection.

Mr. Diessner explained that a cost comparison of eight cities (Seattle, Federal Way, Renton, Kirkland, Redmond, Auburn, Mercer Island, and Issaquah) was conducted. The study looked at

¹ Mr. Lee arrived at 6:07 p.m.

the average monthly fee for 1995, 2003, and new contract proposals. Bellevue's 2003 costs and anticipated new contract costs are lower than the average monthly bill for the eight cities. Mr. Diessner noted that both vendors who have submitted proposals are well qualified to provide the services. The experience of other cities indicates that customer services were affected and increased coordination was needed when new services were implemented with either service provider. Every city's contract is different, however.

Mr. Diessner reviewed the negotiations process since the August 4 Council meeting. Staff members have been negotiating with vendors, complied with the SEPA (State Environmental Protection Act) process, and met with industry groups and vendors to resolve single-stream recycling standards. The draft contract was distributed to the Council for preliminary review.

Mayor Marshall noted that Deputy Mayor Degginger raised the issue of mediation. Mr. Diessner said staff members have spoken with representatives of three cities on this issue. Mayor Marshall asked staff members to continue their research with other cities and report back to Council.

Mr. Mosher feels Council does not necessarily need to decide the issue but encouraged a streamlined mediation process.

Utilities Director Lloyd Warren noted that the contract includes several provisions governing conflict resolution. He said mediation would likely be used as a last resort on issues not affecting daily services.

Mayor Marshall noted that Council favors a single mediator rather than a panel of mediators. She further noted a memo from Mr. Warren addressing issues raised at the morning Mayor's Meeting.

Mr. Diessner said next steps include a request to proponents to provide clarification and additional information and reporting back to Council on November 3.

- Mr. Mosher moved to approve the schedule as proposed and to direct staff to issue a Request for Clarification and Additional Information, and to return to Council on November 3. Mr. Noble seconded the motion.

Noting the provision to enable the City to direct waste in the future to somewhere other than King County for disposal, Mr. Lee questioned the projected impact of such a move on rates. Mr. Diessner said the contract includes a provision that states if the contractor experiences a cost savings through an innovation, change in disposal, or other measure, 80 percent of the savings will be passed on to customers. The contract also includes language to allow renegotiation if something major such as an alternative landfill site is considered in the future.

- The motion to approve the schedule as proposed, direct staff to issue a Request for Clarification and Additional Information, and to return to Council on November 3 carried by a vote of 6-0.

(b) Third Quarterly Update on Neighborhood Investment Strategy (NIS)

Mr. Sarkozy opened discussion of the third quarterly update on the West Lake Hills Neighborhood Investment Strategy (NIS).

Cheryl Kuhn, Neighborhood Outreach Manager, reported that the projects previously identified as immediate have all been completed. She recalled that Council allocated \$6.5 million to accomplish several capital projects. All of these projects, except one, are underway in either the planning, design, or construction phase. Phase 1 construction of the 156th Avenue project to improve pedestrian facilities between Lake Hills Boulevard and SE 24th Street has been initiated. Projects scheduled for completion next year on Lake Hills Boulevard include replacement of the narrow asphalt pathways with City-standard sidewalks and the replacement of landscaping as needed. All transportation projects are in some phase of design.

Responding to Dr. Davidson, Ms. Kuhn said the NIS Citizen Advisory Committee is pleased with the progress while keeping a watchful eye on continued work. She hears from someone on the committee almost daily.

Mr. Mosher commended staff for implementing this successful neighborhood partnership. Mayor Marshall thanked Ms. Kuhn for her leadership.

Mr. Sarkozy congratulated Council for providing staff with the opportunity to involve residents extensively in the planning process.

(c) National Awards for NIS

Planning Director Dan Stroh reported that the Neighborhood Investment Strategy program recently was named the Gold Winner of the 2003 James C. Howland Award for Urban Enrichment. This award is sponsored by the National League of Cities (NLC) and CH2M Hill to recognize communities that have enriched the quality of their urban environment through thoughtful, innovative, and collaborative planning and implementation. Winners of the award will be featured in an upcoming issue of *Nation's Cities Weekly*. The NIS program previously received two national awards from the National Civic League and the City and County Communications and Marketing Association (3CMA): First Place (Savvy Award) for Outstanding Citizen Involvement program and Third Place (Award of Excellence) for Innovative Service Delivery.

Ms. Kuhn explained that the Howland award includes a \$2,000 cash prize to be donated to a non-profit community organization. Because the NLC required an immediate response regarding the recipient, staff conferred with Mayor Marshall and decided to donate the money to Bellevue Boys and Girls Club, in part due to their sponsorship of after-school programs at low-income housing complexes in West Lake Hills. Mark Haines, Housing Site Manager for Bellevue Boys and Girls Club, thanked Council for the donation.

Mr. Lee said he is pleased with this successful and positive neighborhood program.

(d) Launch of Spanish Language City of Bellevue Website

Ms. Kuhn noted that one-quarter of Bellevue residents speak a first language other than English, and 12.3 percent of the City's total population over age 5 report they do not speak English "very well." At the Crossroads Mini City Hall last month, 42 percent of all customers had language barriers, and of those customers, 35 percent spoke Spanish. The City's new Spanish website emerged as one of several elements in a 2003 action plan initiated by the Neighborhood Liaison Team. Additional accomplishments include the implementation of a Spanish message feature for the City's main telephone number, the installation of word processing software on some computers to produce documents in non-Roman alphabets, the establishment of an interdepartmental team to coordinate diversity outreach efforts, and training for employees who know other languages to act as interpreters.

Shelley Martin, Community Relations Coordinator and architect of the Spanish language website, demonstrated the website for Council. The site provides information on City services and programs as well as links to other agencies providing information in Spanish. Ms. Martin said the website was developed with limited funding and many volunteer hours, including Spanish-speaking volunteers from Crossroads Mini City Hall.

Responding to Dr. Davidson, Ms. Kuhn said the second most popular non-English language in the community is Russian. The development of a Russian language City web site will likely be more expensive and complicated.

Mayor Marshall thanked staff for their work.

3. Discussion

- (a) Application of Panfilo Morelli for the rezone of 16.25 acres located northwest of the interchange of I-405 and SR 520 from mixed zoning of R-15 and LI (light industrial) to R-20; also known as the Cedar Terrace Rezone. (File No. 02-131173-LQ)
(Council action is scheduled for November 3, 2003.)

Steve Cohn, Planner, described the application of Panfilo Morelli for the rezone of 16.25 acres located northwest of the interchange of I-405 and SR 520 from mixed zoning of R-15 and LI (light industrial) to R-20. Development of the site will actually be limited to 17 units per acre due to the steep slopes on the site.

At 7:20 p.m., Mayor Marshall declared recess to a reception for Bellevue 50Fest volunteers, to be followed by the Regular Session.

Myrna L. Basich
City Clerk

kaw