CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Session

July 5, 2016 Council Chamber
8:00 p.m. Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Stokes and Councilmembers Lee, Robertson, Robinson, Slatter, and Wallace

ABSENT: Deputy Mayor Chelminiak

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:08 p.m., with Mayor Stokes presiding.

2. Roll Call, Flag Salute

All Councilmembers except Deputy Mayor Chelminiak were present. Councilmember Robinson led the flag salute.

(a) Kladno, Czech Republic, Sister Cities Student Exchange Presentation

Mayor Stokes introduced Gregg Schrader, President of the Bellevue Sister Cities Association. Mr. Schrader introduced Kate Robertson, a recent graduate of Newport High School, who will be traveling to Kladno this summer and attending Texas Christian University this fall. He said two young men from Kladno, Ondrej Kopecký and Daniel Bendl, have been staying with the Robertson family for the past three weeks. Mr. Schrader thanked Councilmember Robertson and her family for hosting the exchange students.

Kate Robertson said she has enjoyed having the exchange students as guests over the past few weeks. They have traveled together to the Olympic Peninsula, Lopez Island, and a Mariners game. She said it has been a valuable experience to be able to share their cultural differences, opinions, and perspectives as young people.

Mr. Bendl thanked the Bellevue Sister Cities Association and the Robertson family for providing this opportunity for him. He looks forward to introducing Kate to Kladno when they travel back to the Czech Republic.

Mr. Kopecký thanked everyone for the opportunity to participate in the student exchange program. He has enjoyed his time in Washington, including the trips to the Olympic Peninsula, Mt. Rainier, and Lopez Island. He found the history of Mt. Rainier to be particularly interesting.

The guests presented a Czech crystal bell to the Mayor, which he accepted on behalf of the City.

Councilmember Robertson said Bellevue has four Sister Cities, which participate in staff and student exchange experiences as well as trips by elected officials. The four cities are Hualien, Taiwan; Kladno, Czech Republic; Liepaja, Latvia; and Yao, Japan. She encouraged Bellevue students to consider applying for the exchange program.

The Council took a brief recess to take photos with the students.

(b) The Boeing Company Centennial Commendation

Mayor Stokes introduced Richard White representing The Boeing Company, which celebrates its 100th anniversary on July 15.

Mayor Stokes read a commendation recognizing the contributions of The Boeing Company as an employer, innovator, economic engine, and community philanthropist.

Mr. White thanked the Council for honoring the company's 100th anniversary. He acknowledged the exchange students introduced earlier and noted The Boeing Company's role throughout the world, including its 3,000 employees in Bellevue.

The Council recessed briefly for photos with Mr. White.

(c) Parks and Recreation Month Proclamation

Councilmember Robertson read a proclamation recognizing July as Parks and Recreation Month in Bellevue. James McClain, Program Manager for the Bellevue Youth Theatre, came forward to accept the proclamation on behalf of the Parks and Community Services Department.

Mayor Stokes encouraged the public to attend a performance at the Bellevue Youth Theatre located in Crossroads Park.

3. Approval of Agenda

Mayor Stokes suggested amending the agenda to switch the order of Items 9(a) and 9(b) and to add Item 12(a) to address Item 2(b) from the earlier Study Session agenda.

→ Councilmember Robertson moved to approve the agenda, amended to change the order of Items 9(a) and (b), and to add Study Session Agenda Item 2(b) as Agenda Item 12(a). Councilmember Robinson seconded the motion.

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

4. Communications: Written and Oral

(a) Chris Johnson, Bellevue Chamber of Commerce, thanked the Council for addressing the community's deferred transportation needs. He thanked the Transportation Commission for its work. He said the Chamber has not taken a formal position on a potential ballot measure. However, the Chamber identified three principles: 1) funded transportation projects should produce measurable benefits across all neighborhoods and transportation modes, 2) at least one-third of the expenditures should address neighborhood congestion relief, and 3) high priorities to consider should include Bellevue Way SE, Eastgate Way and 150th Avenue, the 148th Avenue and NE 8th Street intersection, and West Lake Sammamish Parkway.

(b) Glenn Extor expressed concerns regarding pedestrian safety and the need for sidewalks and safe ways to cross the street along West Lake Sammamish Parkway and 162nd Place SE. He said a portion of the West Lake Sammamish Parkway project was completed several years ago, but the remainder of the project is not funded. He encouraged the Council to provide adequate funding to complete the improvements.

(c) Tom Fischer encouraged completion of the West Lake Sammamish Parkway area improvements. He noted the need for enhanced pedestrian safety along the road, which has heavy traffic and overgrown vegetation forcing pedestrians into the road. He said he was hit by a truck and knocked into the ditch while walking.

Responding to Councilmember Wallace, Mr. Fischer confirmed his concern regarding SE 34th Street, which connects to West Lake Sammamish Parkway.

(d) Patrick Bannon, President of the Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA), expressed his gratitude for the City's partnership and enthusiasm in co-sponsoring the Family 4th celebration at the Downtown Park. He said Parks and Community Services Department staff are great to work with in organizing events.

(e) Todd Woosley thanked the City for the significant investments in transportation projects that are already underway. He expressed support for the transportation levy currently under consideration by the Council. He said he wanted to go on record as supporting .20 cent per $1,000 assessed valuation (AV) property tax, which was the last proposal discussed by the Council a few years ago. He identified key projects as Bellevue Way SE, intersections in the Eastgate area, projects in the BelRed corridor that would serve REI, east-west neighborhood connections, and West Lake Sammamish Parkway safety improvements.

5. Reports of Community Council, Boards and Commissions: None.

6. Report of the City Manager: None.

7. Council Business and New Initiatives

(a) Appointment of new Board and Commission Members

Mayor Stokes asked Councilmember Robertson to present her recommended candidates for appointment to the Parks and Community Services Board.

Ms. Robertson said the City received 17 applications for two openings on the Board, and more than half of those participated in interviews. She said the applicants were highly qualified and the decision was difficult.

→ Councilmember Robertson nominated Yu Deng and Jared Nieuwenhuis to serve four-year terms on the Parks and Community Services Board, expiring on May 31, 2020. Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Stokes congratulated and welcomed Ms. Deng and Mr. Nieuwenhuis, who were in the audience.

Councilmember Wallace thanked Mr. Bannon and Bellevue Downtown Association staff for all of their hard work on the Family 4th event.

Mr. Wallace reported that he, Transportation Commission Vice Chair Vic Bishop, and Kevin McDonald, Senior Planner interviewed candidates for an opening on the Transportation Commission. They were in agreement to nominate Lei Wu, who has a particular interest in ITS and new technologies.

→ Councilmember Wallace nominated Lei Wu to serve a four-year term on the Transportation Commission, expiring on May 31, 2020. Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Stokes congratulated Ms. Wu on the appointment.

8. Consent Calendar

→ Councilmember Robertson moved to approve the Consent Calendar, and Councilmember Wallace seconded the motion.

Councilmember Wallace highlighted Agenda Item 8(f), Bid No. 16040 for the NE Spring Boulevard Zone 1B project contract. He complimented City staff for saving taxpayers more than $14 million on this project by identifying that the bid submitted by Sound Transit's contractor was too high and selecting an alternate contractor.

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

(a) Council Meeting Minutes
Minutes of June 13, 2016 Extended Study Session
Minutes of June 20, 2016 Study Session
Minutes of June 20, 2016 Regular Session

(b) Resolution No. 9115 authorizing execution of an Interagency Agreement between the City of Bellevue Fire Department and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, South Puget Sound Region (DNR) to provide Bellevue Fire Department employees and equipment for wildfire or other emergency response and to allow DNR to reimburse the City.

(c) Resolution No. 9116 Resolution authorizing execution of a one-year contract, with the option to renew yearly up to four additional years, with Prime Parking Systems, LLC, for parking management services for the visitor lot at Bellevue City Hall, for a total contract amount not to exceed $400,000.00.

(d) Ordinance No. 6298 amending Bellevue City Code Chapters 22.16 (Transportation Impact Fee Program) and 22.18 (School Impact Fees for Issaquah School District No. 411 and Renton School District No. 403) to provide an option for deferral of payment of impact fees for single family attached and detached residential construction and make other necessary amendments for clarity and consistency with Chapter 82.02 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW); adopting a new Chapter 22.19 (Option for Deferred Payment of Impact Fees) to the Bellevue City Code to establish the process for optional deferral of payment of impact fees for single family attached and detached residential construction; and establishing an effective date.

(e) Motion to reject all bids for Bid No. 16021 for Meydenbauer Bay Park Sewer Line Replacement and Grange Pump Station Improvements, CIP Plan Nos. S-69 and S-16, redesign the project and call for bids at a later date.

(f) Motion to reject the bid protest of Scarsella Bros Inc. and to award Bid No. 16040 for the NE Spring Boulevard (Zone 1B) project (CIP Plan No. PW-R-172), to Johansen Excavating Inc. as the lowest responsible and responsive bidder, in the amount of $12,547,141.45.

(g) Motion to award Bid No. 16033, 120th Avenue NE, Stage 3 project, NE 12th Street to NE 1600 Block (CIP Plan No. PW-R-168), to Scarsella Bros Inc., as the lowest responsible and responsive bidder, in the amount of $10,895,510.07.

9. Public Hearings

(b) Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 6289 adopting interim official controls designating financial institutions as retail activity and allowing them to locate in tenant spaces currently restricted to pedestrian oriented uses and retail activity for a period of one year, to be in effect while the City drafts, considers, holds hearings and adopts permanent zoning regulations as part of the Downtown Livability Initiative.

City Manager Brad Miyake said Ordinance No. 6289 previously adopted interim official controls designating financial institutions as retail activity. He asked staff to provide a brief report.

Carol Helland, Land Use Director, introduced the two public hearings. Ordinance No. 6289 designates financial institutions as retail activity and allows them to locate in tenant spaces currently restricted to pedestrian oriented uses and retail activity. She said the Council adopted the interim official controls on May 9, 2016, to allow the Land Use Code Amendment to go into effect quickly to accommodate the location of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC).

→ Councilmember Slatter moved to open the public hearing, and Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.

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

The following individual came forward to comment:

1. Patrick Bannon, President of the Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA), spoke in favor of the ordinance and noted that it aligns with the BDA's existing position regarding increased flexibility for pedestrian oriented frontage uses.

→ Councilmember Robertson moved to close the public hearing, and Councilmember Slatter seconded the motion.

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

Ms. Helland said the interim controls will remain in place until permanent regulations are adopted as part of the broader Downtown Livability Initiative work.

Responding to Councilmember Slatter, Ms. Helland said no written comments were received from the public.

(a) Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 6290 adopting interim official controls amending the Land Use Code, allowing businesses located in BelRed and displaced by the Sound Transit East Link Project to relocate to existing buildings within the BelRed Corridor for a period of six months, to be in effect while the City drafts, considers, holds hearings and adopts permanent zoning regulations.

Ms. Helland said Ordinance No. 6290 adopted interim official controls amending the Land Use Code to allow businesses located in the BelRed area and displaced by the Sound Transit East Link project to relocate to existing buildings within the corridor. The ordinance was adopted on May 9, 2016, to allow the amendment to go into effect quickly to facilitate the relocation of Park Place Motors. Ms. Helland said the public hearing will allow the interim controls to remain in place while staff drafts permanent regulations for the Council's consideration as part of the BelRed Review/ Look Back work program.

→ Councilmember Slatter moved to open the public hearing, and Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.

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

No one came forward to comment. City Clerk Kyle Stannert said no written comments were received on this item.

→ Councilmember Robertson moved to close the public hearing, and Councilmember Slatter seconded the motion.

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

10. Land Use: None.

11. Other Ordinances, Resolutions and Motions: None.

12. Unfinished Business

(a) Council Compensation Review *[From Study Session]*

Mayor Stokes said this item carried over from the earlier Study Session. He said staff will provide an update on options for adjusting the Council's compensation.

City Manager Brad Miyake said it has been 17 years since the Council updated its salary. He asked staff to describe the options for Council consideration.

Kyle Stannert, Assistant City Manager and City Clerk, said the Council's compensation has not been reviewed since 1999 and no inflationary adjustments have been made. He said one option that became available under state law in 2001 allows the formation of a salary commission, which has been used by a number of cities to review Council compensation.

Option 1 follows RCW 35.21.015 enacted in 2001 allowing salaries of elected officials to be set by salary commissions. Members are appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the City Council. The duration of the commission can be a specific time period or ongoing, with the commission meeting at least once annually under the latter approach. Changes to the Council salary become effective without further action by the City Council, with salary increases becoming effective in 30 days and decreases going into effect following the next election. Mr.

Stannert said the benefit of this approach is that it removes the Council from handling a difficult conversation about its own compensation.

Mr. Stannert said Option 2 is the method used by the City Council in 1999 to conduct a review of Council compensation. In this approach, a task force is appointed to develop a recommendation for the Council's consideration. The Council would make the final decision and adopt legislation to implement the salary adjustment. The effective date of any salary adjustment is the next election for each Council position (i.e., 2017 and 2019). In 1999, the Council chose to implement the salary adjustment for every Councilmember at one time instead of linking it to the election cycle.

Option 3 is outlined in RCW 35a.13.040 and allows the Council to independently develop and adopt an ordinance to update salaries and compensation. This option was last used by the Bellevue City Council in 1989. Salary adjustments became effective after the election for each Council position.

Mr. Stannert noted that the Open Public Meetings Act applies to all three options, and meeting agendas and minutes will be published.

Mr. Stannert said that, if the Council wishes to conduct a compensation review this year, staff recommends forming a salary commission consisting of five members to meet for a duration of six months. Staff suggests asking the commission to consider future review procedures including potential cost-of-living adjustments and whether to appoint an ongoing commission versus a temporary salary commission as needed.

Mr. Stannert said the salary commission approach is used by a number of cities and, while the number of members varies, the commissions typically have five members.

Responding to Councilmember Lee, Mr. Stannert said the commission may address salary and benefits as part of the Council's compensation. The task force method has been interpreted to apply only to salary adjustments.

Councilmember Lee said it is important to define the purpose of the commission or task force. He is interested in increasing efficiency and would only want to increase the salary if there is a supporting purpose. He said the Council has a strong history of attracting qualified and effective Councilmembers. He noted Bellevue's important role in the region and the many responsibilities of Councilmembers. Mr. Lee suggested providing staff for Councilmembers to increase efficiency and responsiveness. He expressed an interest in having budget control within the Council, at the Council's direction.

Responding to Councilmember Slatter, Mr. Stannert said the salary commission approach would have a minimal budget impact. The commission members would not be paid, and staff time to support the commission would not be a significant work item.

Councilmember Slatter said it is a pleasure and a privilege to serve on the Council. It requires a fairly significant amount of time, and she feels the salary should reflect that commitment. She

said that a broader range of individuals might be more economically able to pursue a Council position if the compensation is higher. Ms. Slatter observed that any salary increase should go into effect with the next election. She expressed support for appointing a task force.

Councilmember Robertson expressed support for staff's recommendation to form a salary commission for a short-term duration to review compensation and to make recommendations for the future salary commission process. She said it is a privilege and a challenge to serve on the Council. She observed that the Council would likely attract a broader range of candidates with a higher level of compensation.

Councilmember Robinson concurred with Ms. Robertson. Ms. Robinson said that, in order to attract the best individuals, it is appropriate to provide a salary that is commensurate with the time and commitment involved in serving on the Council. She expressed support for staff's recommended salary commission approach.

Councilmember Wallace said he is opposed to Option 3 and would not participate in that process. Under Options 1 and 2, he would be opposed to implementing a salary increase within 30 days. He opined that the increase should not occur until the next election. He expressed an interest in learning how the Council benefits package has increased over the past 17 years. If a salary increase is implemented, Mr. Wallace said he will donate the increased amount to local human services organizations.

Mayor Stokes expressed support for the salary commission approach. He observed that many in the community believe the Council's salary is higher than it is, and he does not think there would be objections to a modest increase. He favors the salary commission approach, which does not involve a political decision. He concurred with Councilmember Robertson that a higher salary would likely attract a broader range of candidates.

Mr. Stokes said that Bellevue is the urban center of the Eastside, and it is appropriate that the Council's salary reflect the demands of the regional and local involvement. He opined that any salary increase should be applied to all Councilmembers at the same time, rather than waiting for the next elections, which are staggered every two years. Mayor Stokes said he believes the public would support the salary commission approach and a potential salary increase.

Councilmember Lee concurred with the concept of encouraging more individuals to pursue a City Council position. He reiterated that his goal is to make the Council as effective as possible. While salary is one aspect, he would like to review the bigger picture and the purpose of what compensation is intended to accomplish.

[Councilmember Wallace left at approximately 9:25 p.m.]

Responding to Councilmember Slatter, Mr. Stannert said it would be possible for the salary commission to determine that any increase would not be implemented until the next election for every Council position. Ms. Slatter said she would like the salary commission to be able to decide when a salary adjustment should go into effect. Mr. Stannert said staff would want to conduct a legal analysis to determine the extent of the salary commission's discretion. Ms.

Slatter said her preference for the task force is based on the provision that salary increases would not take effect until the next election for each position. She would like a salary commission to be able to choose that timing as well.

Councilmember Robertson summarized that three Councilmembers support staff's recommendation, one Councilmember generally supports the salary commission, one potentially supports the salary commission under different rules, and one Councilmember has an alternate proposal. She noted that one Councilmember is missing.

Ms. Robertson suggested that staff bring back a draft ordinance for further Council discussion, along with the results of the legal research on whether the salary commission could dictate the effective date for a salary adjustment. At that point, the Council could review the options.

13. Continued Oral Communications: None.

14. New Business: None.

15. Executive Session: None.

16. Adjournment

At 9:30 p.m., Mayor Stokes declared the meeting adjourned.

Kyle Stannert
City Clerk

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