

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Study Session

February 17, 2004
6:00 p.m.

Council Conference Room
Bellevue, Washington

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

ABSENT: None

1. Executive Session

Deputy Mayor Noble opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and announced recess to Executive Session for approximately 15 minutes to discuss one item of labor negotiations.

The meeting resumed at 6:30 p.m. with Mayor Marshall presiding. She noted that City Manager Steve Sarkozy is on vacation and welcomed Deputy City Manager Ed Oberg.

2. Study Session

(a) Proposed New City Building Briefing Schedule

Planning and Community Development Director Matt Terry explained that staff and the New City Building project team will be working through April to refine project costs based on the current design. Council will be asked to approve a maximum allowable construction cost (MACC) in May, which will set the final budget and initiate the redevelopment construction. Public outreach activities include an open house on March 4, presentations to neighborhood and business groups in March, and public hearings on April 5 and May 3. Mr. Terry reviewed a proposed schedule of topics for weekly Council briefings through May and requested Council's feedback.

Councilmember Degginger expressed concern that the May 3 public hearing will be too late to adequately incorporate public comments into Council's decision process. Mr. Terry said full budget information will not be available until April 26. Mayor Marshall suggested project scope be added as a topic for the April 5 public hearing on project design.

(b) Regional Issues

Diane Carlson, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, opened the discussion of regional issues. Charlie Bush, Management Analyst, discussed the upcoming annual General Assembly meeting of the Puget Sound Regional Council on March 25. The meeting will give member jurisdictions the opportunity to vote on PSRC's officers and the 2004-2005 Supplemental Biennial Budget and Work Program. Bellevue's dues for FY 2004 were \$52,895, and proposed dues for FY 2005 are \$57,679. Mr. Bush explained that the increase is due in part to a new contractual partnership between PSRC and the Economic Development District (EDD), a regional planning organization. The EDD recently expanded its Board and Bellevue gained a seat that is currently filled by Councilmember Chelminiak.

Dr. Davidson expressed concern that Bellevue's dues are the second highest yet Bellevue does not have a seat on the PSRC Executive Board. Mayor Marshall agreed and suggested including a letter with the dues payment requesting a seat on the Executive Board. Councilmembers concurred with this approach.

Mr. Chelminiak explained that the EDD's goal is to match economic development with transportation and growth management planning, which is PSRC's role. He feels this is a positive step toward a meaningful regional economic development strategy.

Responding to Mayor Marshall, Councilmembers indicated consensus to support the budget and work program. Mrs. Marshall will attend the General Assembly and cast Bellevue's vote.

Moving to the state legislative update, Ms. Carlson referred Council to page 11 of the Regional Issues packet. Mike Doubleday, lobbyist, reported the House is not reaching consensus on HB 1281 regarding economic development. The RTID/RTA/PSRC bill (2SHB 1960) was passed out of the House today. It would provide the election of a nine-person board to replace the PSRC, Sound Transit, and RTID boards. Mayor Marshall questioned how the board would be funded, how elections would be structured, and whether subarea equity is addressed.

Mr. Doubleday reported that SSB 6711 would give Bellevue, Kent, and Renton seats on the PSRC Executive Board. Bob Mack, lobbyist, said SHB 2485 to reduce tort judgment interest rates was passed by the House and sent to the Senate. SHB 2779 regarding reference checks was amended and passed by the House and sent to the Senate. The House Finance Committee passed its version of the sales tax streamlining bill (SHB 2500) on February 6, which was on the House's calendar today. SSB 6544 regarding the collection of sales tax on remote (e.g., Internet) sales continues to be a contentious issue. HB 1667 regarding gambling has moved to the Senate.

Ms. Carlson said SHB 2985 regarding retiree health care is now in the Senate and a hearing is scheduled for February 19. She mentioned a bill (HB 1741) not included in the meeting packet regarding the preemption of restrictions on siting manufactured homes on single-family lots. Mr. Mack said local governments generally cannot restrict the siting of manufactured homes although they can impose requirements such as fixed foundations. A meeting is scheduled at the Association of Washington Cities on February 18 to discuss these two bills. Mr. Mack praised Representative Fred Jarrett for his leadership in defeating HB 2340 regarding local government's authority to site energy transmission facilities.

Ms. Carlson referenced page 33 and requested Council direction regarding the draft Federal Legislative Agenda. Funding is requested for four projects: 1) Access Downtown, 2) Downtown Greenstreets Program, 3) 911 Communications Center equipment, and 4) emergency water purification units. Ms. Carlson described an additional opportunity to request funds for art museum operations and programming assistance.

Councilmember Degginger encouraged the City to work with Cascade Water Alliance to lobby for funding in the Corps of Engineers' budget for developing a new water supply at Lake Tapps.

Ms. Carlson turned to page 45 and reviewed an item regarding the King County Task Force on Regional Human Services. There was Council consensus to send a letter to King County Executive Ron Sims addressing the lack of representation by City elected officials on the task force, the County's increasing efforts to transfer responsibility for human services to cities, and similar work already completed by the Regional Policy Committee. Ms. Carlson said the task force's next meeting is February 26.

(c) Information Technology Department Quarterly Update

Toni Cramer, Chief Information Officer, provided the Information Technology Department's quarterly update. She announced that the eCityGov.net partnership recently received Microsoft's first Government to Citizen Award in a national competition. A recent collaboration with three neighboring cities for aerial photographs will save the City \$42,000 compared to the cost of similar services in 2001. This effort not only saved money but resulted in higher quality photos and more accurate building footprints.

Ms. Cramer provided an update on the realignment of staff. She recalled that four internal FTEs were shifted to the ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) Project team, and an initial need of six FTEs to support Public Safety systems was reduced to three FTEs. The IT Department is in the process of reducing two GIS FTEs through organizational consolidation, and one position is now vacant. The IT Department has enhanced access to IT staff for smaller departments such as the City Clerk's Office, Human Resources, and the City Attorney's Office. Overall, projects are now prioritized based on broad citywide functions rather than by department. This puts the City in a better position to engage in partnerships with external parties and to leverage resources for regional initiatives. Additional highlights include SPAM filtering (40,000 SPAM messages per month) and successful management of the Mydoom virus.

Ms. Cramer reviewed major projects for 2004 including the ERP Project (also known as Finance and Human Resources Systems replacement), Public Safety wireless project, technology planning for the New City Building, Utilities customer information and billing system, E-Parks (Internet registration), and E-Permitting enhancements for MyBuildingPermit.com. The ERP project is scheduled to activate core financials as of March 1. The next phase of ERP implementation is scheduled for late April. Ms. Cramer noted the Public Safety wireless project experienced a 3-4 month delay. She reviewed upcoming items for Council action:

- March – Aerial photos contract. Local and long distance phone services agreement.

- April – Contract addendum for Phase 2, ERP Project. Revision of Public Safety wireless contract to include regional fire agencies.

Mr. Degginger expressed appreciation for the quarterly updates.

(d) Update on West Lake Sammamish Parkway

Nancy LaCombe, Project Manager, provided an update on the West Lake Sammamish Parkway alternatives analysis. Approximately \$49,000 has been expended to date on the on-call consultant contract in addition to \$40,000 in staff time, printings costs, and room rentals. \$400,000 is allocated to design and \$160,000 is allocated to early implementation. Construction is not yet funded.

Public workshops were held on November 18, 2003, and January 27, 2004, and three more are scheduled for March 3, March 30, and in April. Approximately 65 citizens participated in each of the first two workshops. Ms. LaCombe presented a video reviewing the project's competing interests and issues and encouraging citizen involvement in the planning process.

At 7:55 p.m., Mayor Marshall declared recess to the Regular Session.

Myrna L. Basich
City Clerk

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