

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Extended Study Session

June 12, 2006
6:00 p.m.

Council Conference Room
Bellevue, Washington

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

ABSENT: None.

1. Executive Session

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and announced recess to Executive Session for approximately 20 minutes to discuss one item of property acquisition and one item of potential litigation.

The Study Session resumed at 6:35 p.m. with Mayor Degginger presiding.

2. Oral Communications

- (a) Lloyd Jacobs, a resident from the east side of Woodridge hill, spoke on behalf of West Woodridge, Surrey Downs, and Bellecrest citizens who are concerned about freeway noise and its impact on property values. He commended the City Council for supporting residents' efforts toward noise mitigation. Since 1992, Mr. Jacobs has worked with four Bellevue communities and WSDOT regarding highway noise. Initially WSDOT actively opposed highway noise control. Now they are embracing it but with stringent controls. Residents have studied the noise effect of I-405 for the past nine months, and there have been more than 50 communications between WSDOT and residents. The residents have also communicated with the Federal Highway Administration. Communities with single-family residences cannot qualify for noise mitigation with WSDOT's current code, and residents recommend specific code changes. At least five states have set lower noise limits than Washington's 66 decibels. Washington increased its decibel limit in 1995, when the federal government mandated highway noise requirements for states. Mr. Jacobs noted information submitted to the Council with suggestions for a Resolution and letter to WSDOT. Residents also encourage requests to the state legislature, Congress, and the US Department of Transportation. Residents suggest measures beyond quiet pavement and sound walls including modifications to vehicles. Mr. Jacobs thanked

Councilmembers Davidson and Lee for responding to residents' cry for help and the entire Council for supporting a Resolution on noise mitigation.

- (b) Shannon Boldizar, Bellevue Chamber of Commerce, described the Chamber's work with the City Council regarding the Critical Areas Ordinance over the past several months. She thanked Mayor Degginger and Deputy Mayor Chelminiak for their leadership and City staff Heidi Bedwell and Michael Paine for their involvement in discussions. Ms. Boldizar commended the City for its consideration of business and development issues. She complimented Deputy City Attorney Kate Berens for her willingness to listen and compromise.

Ms. Boldizar asked Council to consider the following revisions to the proposed ordinance: 1) For consistency, edit all references to the 25-foot minimum stream buffer, 2) Link the section on increasing specificity of decision criteria (Critical Areas Report) to the section titled "Clarifying the Critical Areas Report Process," and 3) Ensure that third party review is formally included in the ordinance and not left to administrative rule. Ms. Boldizar asked if the Chamber could provide Code text change examples for these specific sections to ensure clarity as the ordinance is drafted.

- (c) Randy Bannecker, Seattle-King County Association of Realtors, thanked the Bellevue Chamber, the City Council, and City staff for their significant investment in working on the Critical Areas Ordinance. He said the draft ordinance combines high environmental standards with a commitment to treating property owners fairly and reasonably. Mr. Bannecker feels Bellevue's ordinance will be a model for the region and for future regulations imposed by the State.
- (d) Mike Ogliore and Beth Knox, Bellevue SEAFAIR Marathon, commended Bellevue's Special Events Committee for its work with SEAFAIR to plan the July 9 marathon. Participation has increased 25 percent since last year. Marathon and City representatives are coordinating street closures and traffic control to minimize disruptions. Ms. Knox invited Councilmembers to visit the hospitality tent on July 9.
- (e) Tim Johnson, Board Member for the Eastside Heritage Center, reviewed the Center's activities including its sponsorship of the annual Strawberry Festival. The organization is working to establish a museum and research facility and currently has offices at the Winters House and the McDowell House. The Center is currently planning mini-museums in downtown Bellevue and other locations throughout the Eastside. The Strawberry Festival will be held in Downtown Park on June 24 and 25.
- (f) Stacie LeBlanc Anderson, representing the Surrey Downs neighborhood, noted her letter commenting on the proposed highway noise Resolution for Council consideration tonight. She asked Council to revise the letter to state that promising new technologies such as quiet pavement are currently an option for I-405, I-90, and SR 520. Ms. Anderson said WSDOT could obtain a waiver from the Federal Highway Administration to test rubberized asphalt on I-405, but they have not. She asked Council to advocate for

rubberized asphalt and noise abatement for all affected neighborhoods in Bellevue and all property owners along I-405. Ms. Anderson thanked the Council for its efforts.

- (g) Scott Robertson spoke in favor of rubberized asphalt (quiet pavement). He feels the statement in a recent news article that rubberized asphalt wears prematurely is inaccurate. He said rubberized asphalt is an exact science, and application while hot is critical to its performance. The material is flexible and durable and tolerates chains and studded tires better than regular asphalt. Mr. Robertson submitted a May 24 letter from state legislators to WSDOT requesting the use of rubberized asphalt in this state.
- (h) Holly Smith, Polygon Northwest, encouraged Council to initiate a Comprehensive Plan Amendment for Bellewood Apartments [Agenda Item 3(b)(2)].
- (i) Tricia Kishel, East Lake Washington Audubon Society, asked Council to strengthen the proposed Critical Areas Ordinance for the conservation and preservation of natural areas.
- (j) Milton Alberson noted he submitted an inquiry to City staff, who said he can cut any trees on his property. He is concerned about the effect of critical areas regulations on the future replacement of his bulkhead. He would like a written, definitive document for his heirs regarding the future ability to alter the footprint of his home.

3. Study Session

(a) Council New Initiatives

- Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to cancel the July 3 City Council meeting and to schedule a meeting on the fifth Monday, July 31. Councilmember Marshall seconded the motion.

Mayor Degginger feels this makes sense given the July 4 holiday on Tuesday. Ms. Balducci noted there will still be four meetings in July.

- The motion to cancel the July 3 City Council meeting and to schedule a meeting on the fifth Monday, July 31, carried by a vote of 7-0.

Councilmember Noble reminded Councilmembers about the Eastside Human Services Forum's Strategy Summit scheduled for Wednesday, June 14, at the North Bellevue Community Center.

Councilmember Balducci said she has been approached by fire fighters who want to participate in a national muscular dystrophy campaign. It would involve the use of City streets. The event has been held in Redmond with participation by both Bellevue and Redmond fire fighters. Ms. Balducci asked staff to research the issue and respond to Council and fire fighters.

City Manager Steve Sarkozy said participation in the event has been studied in the past. Concerns were related to the City's self-insured status and the possible safety risk of having fire fighters out in traffic. Mr. Sarkozy said the full cost and risk of this activity would accrue to

taxpayers, and City staff determined this was not a reasonable risk. Ms. Balducci asked if staff could explore the possibility of purchasing additional insurance for this event.

Dr. Davidson agrees that the matter should be reviewed from a public safety perspective. He observed the previous event in Redmond and felt the intermingling of fire fighters and cars was not as safe as he would like it to be.

(b) City Manager's Report

(1) Participation in National Trial of EMS Equipment

City Manager Steve Sarkozy asked staff to describe a proposal to participate as one of 10 sites in a national trial of EMS (emergency medical services) equipment. Equipment will be provided by Philips Medical at no cost to the City. Fire Chief Mario Trevino said Council action on this item will be requested on June 19.

Battalion Chief Michael Remington explained that Bellevue is one of 10 jurisdictions invited to participate in the ROC (Resuscitation Outcomes Consortium) trial of EMS equipment funded by the federal government's National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. The project will supply 12 ALS (advanced life support) and 23 BLS (basic life support) defibrillator units at no charge during the three-year trial. The equipment has new technology to measure the quality of the CPR being administered and to transmit information directly to the hospital.

Responding to Dr. Davidson, Chief Trevino said the equipment will be donated to the City at the completion of the study. The City will be responsible for maintenance of the equipment during the trial period.

Responding to Councilmember Lee, Chief Trevino said the commitment to a five-year service agreement with Philips Medical will cover equipment maintenance.

(2) Proposed Bellewood Apartments Comprehensive Plan Amendment

Dan Stroh, Planning Director, explained that Polygon Northwest owns an apartment complex at 148 102nd Avenue SE. The company is requesting that Council initiate a site-specific 2006 Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) for portions of the site. The original zoning designation reflects split zoning with two different designations on the site. Current practice does not split parcels with different zoning designations. Mr. Stroh noted Council's options to initiate the CPA itself or to forward it for review and a public hearing before the Planning Commission. Staff recommends directing the application to the Planning Commission for CPA Threshold Review.

☞ Dr. Davidson moved to forward the CPA proposal directly to the 2006 CPA work program where it will be reviewed under Final Review criteria. Councilmember Marshall seconded the motion.

→ As a substitute motion, Councilmember Balducci moved to forward the proposal to the Planning Commission for Threshold Review. Mr. Noble seconded the motion.

Responding to Mr. Chelminiak, Mr. Stroh said a review of this CPA proposal will not delay the schedule of the existing 2006 CPA work program.

Dr. Davidson feels the Threshold Review and public hearing are unnecessary in this case. Councilmember Marshall concurred, noting that the split zoning resulted from an incorrect mapping decision instead of a recognition of actual land use. She supports the main motion.

Responding to Mr. Lee, Mr. Stroh reiterated staff's recommendation to forward the proposal for Threshold Review. Mr. Stroh feels this preserves the review process applied to other proposals and does not delay the 2006 CPA work program.

→ The substitute motion to forward the proposal to the Planning Commission for Threshold Review carried by a vote of 4-3, with Dr. Davidson and Councilmembers Lee and Marshall opposed.

- (c) Resolution No. 7375 declaring the City of Bellevue's desire that the Washington State Department of Transportation and other applicable agencies aggressively pursue all noise abatement strategies, traditional and emerging, to mitigate noise generated by the use of major transportation facilities to levels well below current state policy and federal regulations. *(Presented to City Council on June 5, 2006. Council action is requested this evening on Resolution and Letter.)*

Mr. Sarkozy referred Council to the proposed Resolution and Letter to the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) regarding highway noise mitigation.

Transportation Director Goran Sparrman recalled previous Council discussion on June 5 regarding the draft Resolution and Letter pertaining to highway noise. He noted that Councilmembers Davidson and Lee have proposed revisions to the letter [Alternate version provided in Council's desk packet].

Mr. Lee highlighted the following items in the revised letter:

- Working with the state legislature and federal government to pursue more flexible guidelines and noise abatement techniques.
 - Lowering the noise abatement threshold to 64 dBA (decibels) or lower.
 - Constructing more effective noise barriers.
 - More extensive testing and use of quiet pavement technologies.
 - Banning studded snow tires to eliminate one major source of pavement wear.
- ☞ Dr. Davidson moved to approve Resolution No. 7375. Mr. Lee seconded the motion and proposed a friendly amendment to add a Whereas statement to the Resolution citing the State of Arizona's success in using quiet pavement. Dr. Davidson accepted this amendment.

- Councilmember Noble proposed an additional amendment adding a Whereas clause to reference the letter from state legislators to Governor Gregoire advocating for strong neighborhood protection from highway noise. Dr. Davidson accepted the amendment.
- ☉ The motion to approve Resolution No. 7375 amended as follows: 1) Add a Whereas statement to the Resolution citing the State of Arizona's success in using quiet pavement, and 2) Add a Whereas clause to reference the letter from state legislators to Governor Gregoire advocating for strong neighborhood protection from highway noise, carried by a vote of 7-0.

Councilmember Marshall expressed support for the version of the letter to WSDOT in Council's desk packet. She suggested: 1) Addressing the letter to Governor Gregoire and copying WSDOT Secretary Doug MacDonald, and 2) Inserting a sentence in the last paragraph as follows, "We applaud these efforts as quiet pavement and noise mitigation will improve the quality of life in neighborhoods."

Ms. Balducci supports the desk packet letter and Mrs. Marshall's proposed revisions. She suggested revising the second sentence in the last paragraph as follows: "While this is encouraging, we understand that promising new technologies such as these are not currently being considered for an option on I-405, I-90, or SR 520." She further suggested adding a statement strongly urging WSDOT to apply these and other promising new noise abatement techniques.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak suggested replacing the first sentence of the last paragraph (Desk packet version of letter) with: "We urge you and WSDOT to work with the state legislature and federal government to pursue more flexible guidelines and noise abatement techniques."

Mr. Noble expressed reluctance about including the five bullet points reviewed by Mr. Lee because the items have not formally been discussed by the Council. He would feel more comfortable noting the items as possible options to be considered, if the majority of the Council wishes to retain the list.

Mayor Degginger said he is particularly concerned about the statement regarding an appropriate dBA threshold and about the proposed ban on studded snow tires. Mrs. Marshall concurred with both Mr. Degginger and Mr. Noble. Mr. Degginger suggested revising the statement about a 64 dBA threshold to express a general interest in lowering the noise abatement threshold. Mr. Lee concurred with that revision.

Mr. Sarkozy said staff will rewrite the letter and return for Council action.

(d) Sound Transit/RTID Package Development Schedule and Decision Update

Transportation Director Goran Sparrman opened staff's update of Sound Transit and RTID (Regional Transportation Investment District) planning and decision schedules. He recalled that Bellevue's Regional Mobility Interest Statement advocates for specific corridor improvements

for general purpose capacity, HOV lanes, transit, and high capacity transit (HCT) with a dedicated right-of-way.

Mr. Sparrman reviewed Bellevue's interest in a HCT project linking downtown Bellevue to Seattle as well as to the Overlake area and downtown Redmond. The regional system should not give up general purpose capacity to achieve transit objectives. Improvements are desired in both areas. Bellevue's Future High Capacity Transit Interest Statement [Page 3-17 of packet] supports further consideration and study of light rail and rail-convertible bus rapid transit options.

Mr. Sparrman described the technology options evaluated by Sound Transit. Bus rapid transit using HOV lanes was ultimately eliminated from further consideration by the Sound Transit Board in part due to the limited right-of-way available throughout the metropolitan area. Monorail technology was relatively quickly found to be problematic in terms of incompatibility with existing tunnels and Sound Transit's Link system. The Skytrain option is also incompatible with the existing system.

Rail-convertible bus rapid transit operates in a dedicated right-of-way and stops only at stations. Future conversion to light rail requires significant expenditure and the shutting down of the system. Sound Transit's analysis projects lower ridership and slower travel times with RC-BRT compared to light rail. Light rail transit is slightly more expensive than BRT but avoids the later transition to rail. Light rail provides the fastest travel times and ridership. Mr. Sparrman reviewed a cost comparison of light rail and rail-convertible BRT.

Sound Transit staff released funding scenario options to the Sound Transit Board last week, which represent varying levels of sales tax rates. Mr. Sparrman described the alternative with the lowest tax rate (1/10th cent sales tax increase) known as the Bus/Sounder Emphasis. It involves improving the existing regional express service system and adding more Park and Ride facilities and direct access ramps. The second option, Bus/Rail Emphasis, reflects a 3/10th cent sales tax to provide high capacity transit (rail) from Seattle to downtown Bellevue, a maintenance facility, and maintaining existing Regional Express services. Mr. Sparrman noted he is describing the Eastside investments of each alternative for purposes of this meeting.

The third alternative has a Fixed Guideway Emphasis and a 4/10th cent sales tax increase. Eastside investments include high capacity transit from Seattle to downtown Bellevue via a tunnel and to Overlake, a maintenance facility, and bus facilities improvements. The fourth alternative has a 5/10th cent sales tax to provide high capacity transit from downtown Seattle to the Overlake Park and Ride lot with a downtown Bellevue tunnel (and to Redmond if a downtown Bellevue aerial system instead of tunnel), as well as items mentioned under the third alternative.

Mr. Sparrman reviewed next steps in the process. On June 19, City and Sound Transit staff will present a detailed discussion regarding the scope of work that Sound Transit is initiating this week. Sound Transit will work with the community to identify potential transit alignments to be evaluated in the future EIS (environmental impact statement) process. Staff will continue to keep the Council updated on the process. The Sound Transit Board is scheduled to make a

decision on East Corridor technology and the draft Sound Transit Phase 2 package on July 13. A combined Sound Transit 2 and RTID package is anticipated to be presented to voters in November 2007.

Councilmember Noble commented that the alternative packages considered by the Eastside Transportation Partnership (ETP) were intended to stimulate discussion regarding policy issues, including the desired level of sales tax increase, for Sound Transit Phase 2. Councilmember Marshall confirmed Mr. Noble's understanding and suggested that a final alternative will likely combine elements of two or more draft packages.

Dr. Davidson suggested Council hold a public hearing regarding Sound Transit Phase 2 planning.

Councilmember Balducci concurred. She suggested a letter to the Sound Transit Board clearly stating Bellevue's interests: 1) High capacity transit should have stops in downtown Bellevue and not merely pass through, 2) Transit must be built using a dedicated right-of-way, 3) Environmental and neighborhood impacts will need to be mitigated, and 4) Funding should be provided for a study regarding future transit on SR 520.

Mayor Degginger suggested scheduling the public hearing for the June 26 meeting, and Council concurred. Mrs. Marshall asked staff to provide relevant information on the City's web site for people to read and study prior to the public hearing.

- (e) Resolution No. 7376 authorizing expansion of a Settlement and Release Agreement with SRG, Lexington Insurance Company, ACE American Insurance Company, Magnusson Klemencic Associates, Keen Engineering Inc., Abacus, and Phillips Farevaag Smallemberg in settlement of certain claims arising from construction of the New City Hall.

Planning and Community Development Director Matt Terry opened discussion regarding the proposed settlement agreement with SRG (City Hall architects) and additional parties, as described in Resolution No. 7376.

Deputy City Attorney Kate Berens explained that the settlement applies to design of the new City Hall project. She recalled that Council previously approved a settlement regarding construction of the project. The proposed settlement provides \$5.2 million from SRG's insurers to help cover construction cost increases and resolves all known claims and disputes between the design team and the City.

Councilmember Noble noted the Council has previously had extensive discussion about this matter.

Dr. Davidson expressed support for the settlement.

- ➡ Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to approve Resolution No. 7376, and Mrs. Marshall seconded the motion.

Mr. Chelminiak thanked Mayor Degginger and Mr. Noble for their scrutiny and analysis of this matter and in the development of the settlement agreement.

➡ The motion to approve Resolution No. 7376 carried by a vote of 7-0.

(f) Millennium Digital Media Request for Franchise Transfer

David Kerr, Franchise Manager, explained that Millennium Digital Media, which serves 400-500 customers in Bellevue, is selling its operation to WaveDivision Holdings (Wave Broadband). State law requires City Council approval of any modifications to a franchise and the issue must be presented at two meetings – once for discussion and a second time for Council action.

Responding to Councilmember Balducci, Mr. Kerr said customers will experience no change in service or rates.

Mayor Degginger noted Council consensus to direct staff to bring the issue back for action on June 19.

At 8:30 p.m., Mayor Degginger declared a break. The meeting resumed at 8:38 p.m.

(g) Critical Areas Update – Public Hearing Comments

Mr. Sarkozy noted ongoing Council discussion for the past nine months regarding the Critical Areas Ordinance Update, which is required by state law.

Ms. Berens reviewed Attachment 1 beginning on page 3-43 of the Council packet providing responses to public comments received during the May 15 public hearing. Bellevue Chamber of Commerce asked the City to provide additional explanation regarding the link between the 2005 best available science review and draft Critical Areas Ordinance provisions for stream-regulated buffers and building setbacks. Staff's proposed solution is to revise the ordinance to make a distinction between developed and undeveloped properties and to change the stream typing system.

A second recommended change is to add parking lots to the list of allowed transportation/access improvements in Bellevue City Code 20.25H.055.B. Staff further agrees with a suggestion to clarify the critical areas report process as it relates to requests to reduce the regulated setback/buffer area and provide guidance for the report process.

Councilmember Balducci clarified for the public that the critical areas report process is intended to allow property owners to protect critical areas in alternate ways and often above and beyond the City's standard regulations.

Mayor Degginger noted Council support of the recommended revisions presented so far.

Ms. Berens reviewed a recommendation to consider defining the minimum steam buffer (25 to 30 feet) allowed under the critical areas report process.

Responding to Deputy Mayor Chelminiak, Ms. Berens said the ordinance will specify minimum stream buffers for each stream type.

Mr. Chelminiak noted a comment from a citizen [Page 3-47] suggesting it could cost \$20,000 or more to meet critical areas objectives on his property. Ms. Berens said staff's experience indicates an estimated cost of \$1,000 to \$2,500 to establish a vegetation management plan for the property.

Ms. Berens directed Council to page 3-52 of the packet and reviewed suggestions from Equity Office Properties. Staff recommends the code should be revised to allow construction staging on paved areas (parking lots and driveways) within a critical areas buffer and to clarify restoration requirements. Council concurred with this revision to the code.

Turning to page 3-56, Ms. Berens noted a citizen's comment regarding the reasonable use exception. Staff recommends the flexibility to allow an exception when a slight increase in the disturbance of property will result in better overall protection of the critical area. Mayor Degginger noted Council concurrence with this revision.

Ms. Berens requested Council consideration of a proposed Whereas clause provided in Attachment 4 [Page 3-144 of packet].

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak said this proposed clause originated from a Council discussion in May regarding the consideration of neighborhood covenants protecting views in the application of critical areas regulations.

Responding to Ms. Balducci, Ms. Berens acknowledged that the clause says the PCD Director will consider neighborhood covenants. However, it does not direct a specific outcome of the Director's review.

Councilmember Marshall expressed support for residents' requests regarding neighborhood covenants.

Mr. Noble agreed with Ms. Balducci that the paragraph is not a Whereas clause but a directive clause. Mr. Chelminiak suggested moving the directive sentence to the body of the ordinance. Mayor Degginger noted Council consensus to direct staff to revise the language.

Mayor Degginger commended Ms. Berens for an outstanding job of working with Council, the Planning Commission, community, and staff over many months to draft the Critical Areas Ordinance. Dr. Davidson noted the regulations represent a thorough response to public input.

Mr. Terry referred to Attachment 3 [Page 3-143] summarizing the environmental stewardship/programmatic alternative approach to critical areas regulations. This is one of four areas of emphasis in the City Manager's preliminary proposed 2007-2008 operating budget. Attachment 3 presents numerous ideas, including market-based incentives, for ensuring environmental stewardship.

Dr. Davidson expressed support for continued work on a programmatic approach. Mrs. Marshall concurred and suggested adding relevant regional activities to the education and community involvement items.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak feels Bellevue's critical areas regulations will likely serve as a model ordinance for urban areas. Mayor Degginger commented that Bellevue citizens are interested in protecting the environment and natural habitats.

(h) Convention Center Parcel Purchase

Mr. Sarkozy opened discussion regarding whether the City should close on the purchase of the Convention Center expansion parcel.

Mr. Terry recalled that last year Council authorized the City Manager to exercise the City's option to purchase the Convention Center expansion parcel. With that action, \$250,000 was placed in escrow toward the purchase price, which was specified in the option agreement as \$1.79 million.

Mr. Terry said a July 1 closing date is anticipated if action is approved by Council. Additional actions necessary for closing are: 1) Authorize the Bellevue Convention Center Authority (BCCA) to operate and manage the property, 2) Amend convention center documents to include the new expansion parcel in the property description reflected in the documents, and 3) City Manager or City Council must approve sublease actions by the BCCA Board. Staff recommends the Council authorize the City Manager to approve a sublease that the BCCA has negotiated with Schnitzer Northwest to use the expansion parcel for construction staging for 24 months. The revenue generated by this lease pays for 25 percent of the parcel acquisition cost.

Mayor Degginger noted a consensus to direct staff to bring this item back for Council approval.

(i) Fire Department Budget Discussion

Fire Chief Mario Trevino described the Fire Department's mission to protect Bellevue and contract communities from loss of life and property, provide basic emergency medical care and paramedic services, provide emergency preparedness services and planning for the City and community, and provide fire and life safety code compliance inspections.

Chief Trevino reviewed a revenue and expenditure comparison for the period of 2003-2008. He noted that 81 percent of the operating budget is dedicated to salaries and benefits. The Fire Department generates revenue approaching 37 percent of its General Fund operating budget. Since 2003, the department has received \$1.2 million in grants and support staff has been reduced 22 percent. Maintenance and operating budgets have not kept up with the increased cost of supplies and services. To increase cost effectiveness, the Fire Department is working toward a purchasing consortium with other cities and an ambulance contract to assist with the basic life support (BLS) transport workload. Staffing levels have remained constant since 2003 with 221.6 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees.

Chief Trevino reviewed performance measures for the Fire Department and noted an average response time of 6 minutes 31 seconds in 2005. The department handled 13,156 EMS incidents in 2005 and 3,550 fire incidents in 2005. That year 90 percent of all fires were contained to the room of origin, and 50 percent of cardiac arrest patients were resuscitated. There were 3,820 BLS transports in 2005. Chief Trevino said the public's perception of the importance and quality of Fire Department services remains high. However, there has been a slight decrease in the perception that the Fire Department will continue to be able to respond quickly and take appropriate action. Through the department's efforts, the community is better prepared for emergency events and 25 percent more citizens have obtained designated emergency kits.

Proposed 2007-2008 budget items include: 1) Implementation of the Zone 1 station alerting and paging system (which will help reduce response times), 2) Continued emergency preparedness education to the community and City departments, 3) Evaluation of the Medical Transport Model, 4) Participation in Resuscitation Outcomes Consortium (ROC) study, and 5) Evaluation of the DECCAN move-up module for the Eastside Communications Center.

Chief Trevino introduced the following key issues for discussion:

- 2007 King County EMS Levy – City Council approval is required to place the issue on the ballot. The levy supports 100 percent of advanced life support (ALS) services and provides some funding for BLS services.
- Aging work force and succession planning with 33 percent of the department eligible for retirement over the next five years. This will result in increased costs associated with recruitment, staffing vacancies, specialized training, and professional development.
- Increased community risk with lengthening response times, increasing urban density, and an aging community.
- Workload challenges include maintaining compliance with Homeland Security directives, increased demand and expectations for emergency preparedness training, and increased code enforcement responsibilities.

Dr. Davidson recalled discussion within the region several years ago about the possibility of eventually phasing out the EMS levy. Chief Trevino said he has not heard anything to that effect and he noted Bellevue receives nearly \$7 million from the levy.

Responding to Deputy Mayor Chelminiak, Chief Trevino said the elements of response time currently measured are: 1) Dispatch time, 2) Call turnout time (for fire fighters to put on appropriate clothing/gear and leave station/other location), and 3) Travel time. An additional element to be measured is vertical response time, which is the time that elapses from arrival to a scene and actual contact with a patient (in the case of an EMS call). Chief Trevino said a recent study indicates that a typical vertical response time is two minutes, and three minutes and 19 seconds in the case of high-rise buildings.

Councilmember Lee feels emergency medical responses should be budgeted as a basic service. Mr. Sarkozy spoke to the benefits of having a regional coordinated system for EMS response.

Mr. Lee asked whether personnel costs will decrease as retiring fire fighters are replaced with a younger work force. Chief Trevino conceded this is a possibility. In further response, Chief Trevino said the department is not proposing any new programs in the 2007-2008 budget but will continue to refine existing programs. Mr. Sarkozy said the City has experienced a tight budget and expenditure constraints over the past few years, which increasingly will affect fire inspection services as well as fire operations. He noted the potential need for a downtown fire station in the future. The primary budget challenge of a new station would be staffing costs.

Mr. Noble expressed concern about information indicating that the City of Redmond is being forced to reduce its Fire Department budget and close a fire station in the Overlake area. He questioned the impact on Bellevue's Fire Department which will be required to respond more frequently to incidents within Redmond.

Chief Trevino said staff has been closely monitoring this situation. He explained that Redmond is utilizing rotating brownouts in which certain units around the community are closed temporarily. Bellevue has experienced an average increase of approximately a dozen calls into Redmond on a monthly basis. Chief Trevino feels this is reasonable within the mutual aid agreement.

Councilmember Balducci noted that the primary budget issues relate to staffing. She is pleased that the Fire Department is currently considered a lean organization by the Chief, but acknowledges that continued development increases demand for services.

Chief Trevino said the Fire Department continues to work the City Manager's Office and the Budget Office to monitor performance measures for service levels. He confirmed, however, that it is becoming more difficult to maintain the current level of service with the growth in the community. Ms. Balducci would like to be able to review and evaluate alternatives for addressing future workload demands.

☞ Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to extend the meeting to 10:30 p.m., and Ms. Balducci seconded the motion.

☞ The motion to extend the meeting to 10:30 p.m. carried by a vote of 7-0.

(j) Police Department Budget Discussion

Police Chief Jim Montgomery explained that while crime is not the sole indicator of a Police Department's effectiveness or the safety of a community, Bellevue Police Department continues to decrease its crime rate year to year. The Police Department provides fire and police dispatch services throughout the region and continues to work with neighboring jurisdictions to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of dispatch services. Chief Montgomery said the department is seeing an increase in white collar crime including fraud. Domestic violence continues to be challenge as well as the use of the Internet for various crimes.

The Police Department budget has increased slightly since 2003, consistent with increases in the cost of living. Approximately 80 percent of the budget represents personnel costs. Staffing

levels have remained steady since 2003 with a slight decrease during the past four years. Violent crimes decreased 1.1 percent (to 172 incidents) and property crimes decreased 3.7 percent (to 4,711 incidents) in 2005.

Chief Montgomery said the last citizen study of performance measures indicated that 98 percent of respondents feel safe alone in their neighborhood during the day and 96 percent feel safe alone in downtown Bellevue during the day. The Police Department will continue to work with businesses and community groups to focus on public safety.

Chief Montgomery noted the challenges associated with an increase in the number and scope of community events, increased density in the downtown core, increased participation with regional information sharing partners, and the use of technology for crime reduction.

Chief Montgomery commented on the department's recommendation to discontinue the DARE program which has been provided in partnership with the Bellevue School District. Staff further recommends that resources be transferred to the middle school program. Since appearing with Chief Montgomery before the Council in recent weeks, Superintendent Riley met with concerned parents who expressed an interest in a replacement program addressing life skills and alcohol and drug use but not necessarily a continuation of the DARE program. Parents want a continued police presence in elementary schools as well. Dr. Riley has directed that the school district incorporate these themes into a curriculum to be presented this fall. The Police Department and BSD are prepared to have a police presence in elementary schools beginning in the fall.

Chief Montgomery said it is important for the Council to provide direction regarding staff's recommendation to discontinue the DARE program in order for the Police Department to continue its planning and budget processes.

Councilmember Balducci expressed support for the Police Department's regional involvement in information sharing and cooperation.

At 10:19 p.m., Mayor Degginger declared the meeting adjourned.

Myrna L. Basich
City Clerk

kaw