



The Common Council of the City of Bellevue, Idaho, met in a Regular Meeting, on, Monday, July 8, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the City of Bellevue Offices, located at 115 E. Pine Street, Bellevue, ID 83313.

Call to Order: Mayor Johnson called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present

Chris Johnson, Mayor
Christina Giordani, Council President
Robin Leahy, Council Member
John Carreiro, Council Member
Diane Shay, Council Member
Shaun Mahoney, Council Member

Excused

Jessica Obenauf, Council Member

Roll Call was conducted; all Members were present with the exception of Council Member Obenauf.

Staff Present:

Rick Allington, City Legal Representative
Greg Beaver, Fire Chief
Kirt Gaston, Marshal
Casey McGehee, Streets
Shelly Shoemaker, City Treasurer
Bryson Ellsworth, Contractor Wastewater – *via Zoom*
Shane Garrison, Contractor Water – *via Zoom*
Michelle Snarr, City Clerk

Others in Attendance: Tony Evans, iPad (31), – *via Zoom*, Hershel Deckard, *via Zoom*, Jan Pepper, *via Zoom*, Suzanne Wrede, *via Zoom*

1. Notice of Agenda Compliance:

The posting of this regular meeting agenda complied with Idaho Code §74-204. The regular meeting agenda was posted within forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting at the Bellevue City Hall, Post Office, and on the city website on *July 3, 2024*.

Motion: President Giordani moved the notice agenda was in compliance with Idaho Code §74-204. Council Member Carreiro seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Call for Conflict as Outline in Idaho Code §74-404:

Mayor Johnson called for conflict from any Council Member or staff member with any agenda item. No conflict was noted.

3. Public Comment: (for Items of Concern Not on the Agenda):

Mayor Johnson opened the meeting for public comment at 5:33 p.m.

Mayor Johnson noted that Council Member Obenauf's father passed away, and he wanted to let her know the city's thoughts with her and her family and wanted to wish her the best.

Mayor Johnson apologized to the residents for the distribution of the city utility mailing list. An individual in the community is attempting to show that they work with the city; however, they do not. The site bellevue.works is

not the city's website, and it is being used by another system that portrays it is the city and continues to misrepresent the city. The city is working through the issue.

Mayor Johnson stated that bulk water is by a permit only. No one is authorized to use the city's hydrants without a permit. He said he would like to look at creating an ordinance for the matter. The only authorize bulk water filling is from the hydrant located at the lift station and the one at the fire station.

It was announced that the recycle binds are gone, and the city would like to look into a franchise. There were compliance issues, and it was costing the city twice as much as it should.

Mayor Johnson addressed the Slaughterhouse Canyon Park. He asked everyone to please try to walk in the designated parking area and keep the roadways open. It impedes traffic and emergency personnel. The city hopes to improve it with some shaded areas and other improvements.

Public Comment closed at 5:40 p.m.

4. **Consent Agenda:**

- a. Approval of Common Council Meeting Minutes | April 22, 2024, Regular Council Meeting Minutes
- b. Approval of Claims: June 25, 2024, through July 8, 2024

Motion: Council Member Shay moved to approve the consent agenda. President Giordani seconded the motion. Council Members voting aye: Members Carreiro, Shay, Leahy, Mahoney and Giordani. Members voting nay: None. The motion passed unanimously. Council Member Obenauf was not present for the vote.

5. **New Business:** None

6. **Budget Workshop:** Consideration of Discussion and Direction Regarding the Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2025 – *July 8, 2024 Documents*

Ms. Shoemaker indicated there is an additional \$6,000 for Idaho Coalition that is not in the budget. She was not aware of the item. Currently, it's \$175 per month and it raised up to \$500 per month. Mayor Johnson indicated his understanding is the city is supposed to be at a substantial lower amount. He said he would double check the amount. The water budget shows an expense and revenue of \$3,917,541. However, The 3.3-million dollar water grant is reflected in the overall amount. So, it is a 3.3 million-dollar revenue and a 3.3-million-dollar expense. The entire budget is lower than the previous year. Ms. Shoemaker noted she evaluated the rough numbers for Administration, and the budget is down from the previous year. Council Member Mahoney inquired how the city would apply the grants. Ms. Shoemaker indicated the city will have have the 3.3-million dollars of grant funds coming into the account, and it going back out under capital construction and improvement.

Mayor Johnson said the city has been operating with extra ARPA funding, and they do not want to reduce the funds or resources; however, the city needs to work within its means because of the funds and carry over from previous years. Ms. Shoemaker said the city is working with its actual budget with items that are not coming into the city.

There wasn't any current information available for insurance premiums for FY25; therefore, Ms. Shoemaker accounted for a 5-percent increase. Merit raises for the Marshal's Office and Ms. Gearhart, Library Director, were discussed. Marshal Gaston said whatever number the Council decided for his department was okay. However, he would like the merit raise across the board, and he would like to determine the percentage per officer if that was okay with the Council. Mayor Johnson indicated they would see what they could work with.

Marshal Gaston said he needed to rework the Marshal's Office payroll. Review Income/Operating. Mayor Johnson said he believed the city was getting close to a fifth officer in the Marshal's office. It was noted that

overtime would need to be accounted for with the proposed additional officer. Ms. Shoemaker indicated that she tried; however, she has to come up with an additional \$78,000.

Ms. Shoemaker indicated the Community Development numbers would change. She put some significant numbers in for building permits. The numbers have got better than June 30th compared to what they were the last meeting. She added there are a few large projects looming in the near future that will affect FY25. Council Member Shay inquired if Ms. Shoemaker was confident with the figures in Community Development. Ms. Shoemaker indicated that she was, especially with the text amendment.

Mayor Johnson indicated that he believes the Planning and Zoning Commission and Council are in agreement that development is going to happen. The city can look at raising development impact fees, and if the city doesn't get in discussions with potential development, it will go to the county. If the city wants to keep ownership, they need to develop smartly and need to work with a consultant for them to tell the city how they will be able to do it.

Mayor Johnson addressed the proposed amendment to the Business District. He received quite a few emails and some are in support of it. He added that Bellevue should not be the crutch for the County in its downtown core. He said mixed use is a thing right now, and there are businesses with residential units above the business. The concept is not new; the city has been working on this since 2019. They can grow Bellevue the way they want it to go and not have it dictated to the city by developers and the county. Mayor Johnson wants Bellevue to be responsive, but they can do better and hopefully they will.

Issues regarding water were discussed. It was said there is the potential of cross-connection when using the city's hydrants. If individuals don't know how to properly open and seal the hydrants, it would cost the city \$50,000 to \$60,000. There will be two built stations, one located on the east side of town and one on the west side. Mayor Johnson said he spoke with Mr. Andrew Kimmel and he informed him that the City of Council did a bulk station and it cost approximately \$98,000. However, theirs is located in a shed and winterized. Mayor Johnson said that taking the city water from the hydrants, without a permit, is water theft. People need to pay for the amount they use so the city can cover the cost of treatment.

Discussion regarding the Streets Division covered increased revenue since the LOT tax was increased; Ms. Shoemaker entered \$100,000 including some grant funds. Mayor Johnson indicated there were some staffing issues as well, and he would like to get some additional staff onboard to start developing in-house water and sewer. It was noted that the city's LOT tax is two (2) to three (3) times lower than what other cities are utilizing. The new account for Street Construction was briefly discussed. Ms. Shoemaker created it; it is a new account. However, she could move it back to street improvements.

Mr. Shane Garrison discussed city water rate increases. He informed the Council that he believed it went back to last year, and they had a rate study conducted. If the city wants to be on target with its operating expenses, it needs to happen in order for them to stay on course. The water rate increases have nothing to do with the bond. He went on to say, they discussed the number of connections, and he helped come up with the fee. He would rather use a conservative number. He doesn't want to count on something that they don't know for sure.

It was said the meter expense is for the maintenance of old meters that can't be read. When there is a new connection, the city charges the customer. The budget should come down significantly from what it was before, and the line item does not include any new items; it is a pass-through amount. Mayor Johnson expressed it was ridiculous that the city has had meters in place for 15 years, and they are still not metering the water. He stated he wants to go live with meter readings on April 1, 2025. He explained the city will change a flat rate after April 1, 2025; in addition, there will be a tiered rate based on water usage. People will have to start paying for what they use.

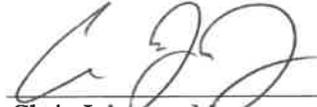
Discussion followed regarding the fees associated with people using their credit cards. Ms. Shoemaker indicated she has been working on it. Mayor Johnson said it comes down to the city being able to access everything they

need in QuickBooks. The merchant fees will be going to the consumers, and each transaction is 3.5-percent, and it adds up fast. It was noted that when a customer pays online, and goes through Pay Port Idaho, the fee goes to the customer, and Caselle is going to fix that.

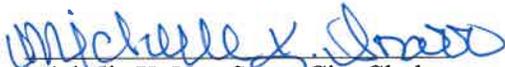
Mayor Johnson heard back from Idaho Coalition and the city currently owes \$175 and the total fee for the next 12 months is \$500. He requested the expense to be placed in administration expenses.

7. Adjournment:

With no further business coming before the Common Council at this time, Council Member Carrerio moved to adjourn the meeting. President Giordani seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.



Chris Johnson, Mayor



Michelle K. Vest Snarr, City Clerk