



The Common Council of the City of Bellevue, Idaho met at a Regular Meeting on Monday, October 27, 2025, 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 Giordani called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. (00:07:20 in video)

Roll Call:

Christina Giordani, Mayor – Present
Diane Shay, Council President – Present
Tammy E. Davis, Council Member – Present
Suzanne Wrede, Council Member – Present
Shaun Mahoney, Council Member – Present (*Via Zoom*)
Tom Bergin, Council Member – Present
Jessica Obenauf, Council Member – Present

Staff Present:

Chris Johnson, Public Works Director
Greg Beaver, Fire Chief
Brian Parker, Community Development Director
Carter Bullock, Planner
Kirtus Gaston, Marshal
Shelly Shoemaker, Treasurer
Rick Allington, Legal Counsel

Motion: Council Member Wrede moved, pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-2044 and the Bellevue City Council Rules of Procedure, to add an emergency agenda item titled *Discussion of Facts and Legal Issues Relating to Mayor Giordani's Campaign Publications Using Public Resources*. The motion requested a preliminary legal analysis by the City Attorney and immediate publication of the findings previously shared with the Council. Council Member Wrede stated the motion was based on the City Council's custodial duty to uphold the integrity of elections.

The motion did not receive a second and therefore failed.

1. Notice of Agenda Compliance: 00:10:00 in video)

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 *October 23, 2025*.

Motion: Council President Shay moved that the agenda notice was in compliance with Idaho Code §74-204. **Council Member Obenauf** seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

2. CALL FOR CONFLICT (AS OUTLINED IN IDAHO CODE §74-404): ACTION ITEM

No conflict was noted at this time.

3. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORT

(00:10:53 in video) Mayor Giordani opened her update by reminding the community about the Trunk-or-Treat Event on Thursday, October 30th.

Mayor Giordani then sought to address issues raised earlier in the meeting by reading a prepared statement. Council Member Wrede objected, stating that the statement constituted an additional communication beyond what had already occurred and asserting that such communication could not be newly created and disseminated. Mayor Giordani requested confirmation from the City Attorney regarding her ability to address the public. The City Attorney confirmed that the Mayor was permitted to proceed with her Mayor's Report and make the statement:

Mayor Giordani's Statement:

Good evening, members of the Council and fellow residents of Bellevue. I want to speak openly about a recent mistake on my part to take full responsibility and explain what I've done to address it.

Last Friday, October 24th, I approved language from my campaign for the official City of Bellevue newsletter, a message that ended up including a request for votes. I take full responsibility for the oversight. In the spirit of transparency, I want to offer background.

Like so many working parents, I was juggling a lot alone that day with an inconsolable baby and a very busy schedule. I let my desire to quickly complete a task override the careful consideration my position demands. While this wasn't intentional, I now expressly understand that using city resources for campaign purposes is against Idaho law, Idaho election law, and I want to be clear that I take this seriously. Upon realizing my error, I personally sent a follow-up email to all newsletter recipients affected the next morning to apologize. Today, I reported the incident to the Blaine County Prosecuting Attorney and the Idaho Secretary of State. I accept the reprimand I've received, and I'm committed to learning from this. To the residents of Bellevue, I apologize for the misstep. I am grateful for the opportunity to learn from it, improve how our city conducts its communications, and ensure this doesn't happen again. Looking forward, I'm proposing communications training for all elected officials and city staff. I welcome collaboration with our city governments and the Association of Idaho Cities so that we can learn from best practices. We all want to do right by our community and ensure the integrity of our processes. Thank you for understanding your engagement and the trust you place in us, and I want to make it clear that this does not require me to step down, or step away from my bid for Bellevue Mayor. I look forward to moving forward, moving ahead together and doing better each day. Thank you.

Mayor Giordani opened up for other Council updates.

Council Member Davis reported attending the Día de los Muertos event at the Hunger Coalition in Bellevue and noted it was well attended despite the rain. She expressed appreciation for the event and

suggested it could be beneficial to include broader city representation in future years. She also raised a future policy consideration regarding use of city rights-of-way, particularly issues with parking, dumpsters, and construction activity encroaching on the roadway. She suggested the City explore proactive outreach—such as a general informational letter—to contractors and service providers working in Bellevue to clarify permit and authorization requirements for work in the right-of-way, with the goal of supporting residents and improving compliance.

Council Member Wrede thanked Shelly and Diane for the layout and setup of Pizza and Politics, noting it had a significant positive impact on attendee engagement and participation. She also reported receiving numerous emails and inquiries over the weekend regarding the use of the City Newsletter. She stated that residents expected the Council to discuss the related facts and legal issues, request a preliminary legal analysis from the City Attorney, and publish the findings for transparency, and noted that these actions did not proceed.

Council Member Bergin expressed appreciation to Chris Johnson for providing a tour of the wastewater treatment plant, noting it was his first exposure to the facility. He described the visit as informative and shared his hope that needed repairs would be completed and the plant fully operational in the coming weeks.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT: FOR ITEMS OF CONCERN NOT ON THE AGENDA – (COMMENTS ARE LIMITED TO 3 MINUTES)
(00:18:25 in video)

Debbie Fox – 211 Melrose

As resident of the Chantrell subdivision Debbie expressed concerns about the Karl Malone Ford dealership north of town, citing a lack of landscaping—particularly on the west side adjacent to her neighborhood—and excessive lighting. She stated that the lighting is disruptive to nearby homes, especially two-story residences, and suggested that improved berm landscaping, reduced lighting, or use of motion-sensor lights could mitigate impacts. She also noted visible trash behind the property and encouraged the City to consider code compliance measures such as fencing and landscaping to better reflect Bellevue’s character and quality of life.

John Kurtz, 412 South 7th Street

John Kurtz commented on the prior meeting’s discussion of rights-of-ways, stating that rights-of-ways issues are one of Bellevue’s most significant challenges, particularly in older parts of town. He encouraged the Council to work with planners to clarify and update city codes so staff can better address enforcement in the future. He emphasized the importance of beginning this process now, noting that while change may take time, establishing clear rules would allow the City to take meaningful action as early as next spring.

No other comments were made at this time.

(00:23:01 in video) Mayor Giordani introduced an emergency agenda item regarding the functional reclassification of certain city streets, as outlined in a packet provided to Council. She explained that the reclassification aligns with the City’s transportation plan and is necessary to remain eligible for upcoming state and federal infrastructure grants. Due to an administrative oversight, the item was not placed on the agenda earlier, and the City now faces an Idaho Transportation Department deadline of October 31 to submit the changes. She emphasized that

the action does not commit the City to spending funds or undertaking projects, but positions Bellevue to apply for future grants, and requested Council consider adding the item to the agenda to meet the deadline.

Council Member Wrede stated that based on prior experience she understood agenda amendments were not allowed at that point.

Rick Allington, Legal Council explained that he was ok with it as long as the rules stay consistent and that a motion was needed to proceed to take action on the item.

Motion: (00:26:39 in video) **Council Member Davis** motioned to amend the agenda to include the attached resolution number 25-035 supporting the application for a change in the functional classification of streets. **Council Member Obenauf** seconded the motion. Council Members Voting Aye: Council President Shay, Council Member Bergin, Council Member Mahoney, Council Member Obenauf, Council Member Davis. Council Members Voting Nay: Council Member Wrede. **The Motion Passed.**

Mayor Giordani noted that Mariah Fowler and Steven Yearsley with Forsgren Associates were present via zoom to answer any questions.

Mayor Giordani asked Mariah Fowler to clarify the proposed street reclassifications. Mariah explained that the item involves reclassifying certain roads, as previously presented in the transportation plan and at public meetings, to make them eligible for state and federal grants. She emphasized that the reclassification does not cost the City money or commit it to projects, but positions Bellevue to pursue funding, including a small urban grant due in January. She noted that if the Council did not act that evening, the reclassification could still occur through a longer, more time-consuming process that could jeopardize upcoming grant opportunities.

Council Member Davis asked whether reclassifying a street, such as 5th Street, could have any negative impacts. Ms. Fowler responded that there is no downside to reclassification itself; rather, the negative impact comes from not reclassifying, as local roads are ineligible for certain grants, limiting the City's ability to seek outside funding for road improvements.

Council Member Obenauf questioned why the Cedar-to-Slaughterhouse Road segment remains classified as a major collector despite part of the road being closed, and asked whether that classification could allow future grants to address the steep grade or other improvements.

Mariah Fowler explained that the classification was intentionally retained following discussion during Transportation Advisory Committee meetings. Keeping the major collector designation preserves future eligibility for grants that could fund roadway reconstruction, grade adjustments, or other improvements. Carter added that grant-funded reconstruction could also support pedestrian, bicycle, or sidewalk improvements, even if full vehicle access is not restored.

In response to a follow-up question about the longer alternative process, Steven Yearsley of Forsgren Associates explained that the City is currently within an open ITD and FHWA application window that is more streamlined and receives less scrutiny. If the City misses this window, reclassification would require a longer process, greater review, and additional cost, and could limit eligibility for near-term grant opportunities.

Council Member Bergin asked whether the open application timeframe for functional street classification changes was ending or just beginning. Steven Yearsley responded that applications must be submitted by November 1. No further questions were raised, and it was noted that while the resolution itself was new, the underlying work had been previously reviewed as part of ongoing transportation planning.

Motion: (00:37:04 in video) **Council Member Davis motioned** to adopt resolution no. 25-35 supporting an application to the Idaho Transportation Department for the update of the functional classification of the City of Bellevue Roads. **Council Member Mahoney seconded** the motion. Council Members Voting Aye: Council President Shay, Council Member Bergin, Council Member Mahoney, Council Member Obenauf, Council Member Davis. Council Members Voting Nay: Council Member Wrede, Council Member Bergin. **The Motion Passed.**

Council Member Wrede clarified that she opposed the motion because she felt it was inappropriate to attempt to process a large and complex issue in such a short time, especially given that the item was added to the agenda late. She did not support the manner in which it was introduced.

Council Member Bergin indicated that he would be open to supporting the item if it included a limited timeframe or expiration so the City could revisit and further consider the classifications. He felt the issue deserved more review than it would receive that evening, and he found the information provided (functional classifications/maps) to be insufficient.

5. CONSENT AGENDA: ACTION ITEMS

- a. Approval of July 23, 2025, Regular Council Meeting: Amy Phelps, Clerk
- b. Approval of Claims: October 15, through October 27, 2025: Shelly Shoemaker, Treasurer

Council Member Wrede asked for clarification on how the claims relate specifically to the wastewater project, and whether the claim reports could be broken down by project or initiative rather than just by department and general expense categories. She emphasized the need to tie costs directly to specific project work—especially in light of newly disclosed unexpected expenses—to better understand where funds are being spent.

Treasurer Shelly Shoemaker explained that the current claims report shows details by department (example: “300” for wastewater), including vendor, invoice description, date, cost, and budget category. She acknowledged that the report does not currently link costs directly to specific project items, and agreed it would be helpful to move toward that level of project-based tracking, though it may not be feasible to do in the current meeting.

Motion: (00:41:38 in video) **Council Member Obenauf motioned** to approve the consent agenda. **Council member Bergin seconded** the motion. Council Members Voting Aye: Council President Shay, Council Member Bergin, Council Member Wrede, Council Member Mahoney, Council Member Obenauf, Council Member Davis. Council Members Voting Nay: none. **The Motion Passed.**

6. WASTEWATER PROJECT UPDATE: Andrew Kimmel, Great West Engineering (00:23:12 in video)

Andrew Kimmel noted that he intended to address questions raised at the previous Council meeting before presenting the remainder of the report.

Mr. Kimmel reported that the wastewater treatment plant is not operational and will not be operational by the end of the year. This is due to issues identified during the most recent cleaning and testing cycle. He stated that all components that could be made operational have been addressed, but the membranes were found to be unacceptable by Veolia. Veolia conducted testing and determined the membranes cannot achieve the required design flow of 80–90 percent. As a result, the plant would be at risk of exceeding hydraulic capacity during high inflow events, such as spring runoff, and could experience another failure. Veolia did not recommend continuing the cleaning process because it would require significant expense with no assurance of success.

Mr. Kimmel explained that the current membranes are approximately 15 years old, which is at the end of their typical 10–15 year lifecycle. He added that there is no record of the full cleaning process being completed within the past five years. Veolia recommended replacing the membranes, with two options presented. The first option is to replace the 32 existing membrane cassettes with the same model (ZW500D), which would restore the plant to its pre-failure capacity. The estimated cost for this option is approximately \$532,000. Kimmel noted that this model is being phased out and may no longer be available in 8–13 years, meaning a future replacement would require a facility upgrade.

The second option is to upgrade to the newer membrane model (ZW500E / LEAP MBR), which would require modifications to piping and airline connections due to different configuration requirements. Mr. Kimmel explained that the newer membranes are more efficient, requiring less aeration and fewer cleaning cycles, and could increase treatment capacity slightly. However, this option would require a longer lead time for delivery and would cost approximately \$40,000 more than the current model. He confirmed that both quotes include Veolia's onsite assistance with installation, oversight, and training, but do not include repiping work.

Mr. Kimmel advised that the plant will likely need to operate through part of the winter using lagoons while membranes are ordered and installed. He stated that the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has been informed of the delay and that the City remains in compliance under the existing agreement.

Mr. Kimmel further noted that this presents an opportunity for the City to consider a broader, long-term upgrade rather than a piecemeal approach. He referenced additional needed improvements, including repairs to the headworks channel, and discussed options such as filling all 52 cassette slots and implementing solids dewatering. He also highlighted potential funding opportunities through State Revolving Fund (SRF), Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), and other grant programs, and indicated that DEQ is open to considering a comprehensive upgrade plan.

Mr. Kimmel concluded by stating that until the membranes are replaced, the project remains incomplete and he anticipated questions from the Council.

Mayor Giordani asked Andrew Kimmel to clarify whether it would be feasible to return the current membranes to operation—despite achieving only 75–80% flow—and simultaneously wait for the new membranes to arrive, in order to take the plant off lagoon operation. Kimmel confirmed that it is technically feasible, but explained that Veolia is not comfortable with this approach because the current membranes cannot reliably handle peak inflow events. He described the risk that a sudden surge could overload the plant overnight, causing failure before staff could manually bypass the system to the lagoons. Kimmel emphasized that there is no automated emergency bypass, and the concern is that the plant would not have an adequate failsafe if the membranes are operating below design capacity.

Mayor Giordani also confirmed that this limitation was not known until the recent cleaning and testing process. Kimmel explained that Veolia initially began the cleaning process, and once the City was able to get the pumps running and complete the cleaning, the results were provided to Veolia. At that point, Veolia determined the membranes could not achieve the necessary flow and therefore could not be relied upon to return to operation.

Council Member Wrede expressed that the new \$75,000 business item is a significant development and that it would be in everyone's best interest to hold a study session where all related information is presented together. She noted that concerns about the membranes had been raised earlier in the year and that the current situation is not unexpected. Council Member Wrede emphasized the need to step back, develop a clear plan, and avoid making a decision that evening, suggesting that a separate meeting focused on the issue is more appropriate.

Mr. Kimmel agreed that a workshop or study session would be useful and explained that discussions about potentially modifying the treatment system began in 2023–2024, before the city proceeded with the current approach. He stated that even with the cost of new membranes, staying with the existing membrane bioreactor (MBR) system remains the lowest-cost long-term option, especially because the insurance would not cover new membranes. He also offered to take the Council on a tour of the plant to better explain the system, its current condition, and the potential upgrades needed for a longer-term life cycle.

Council agreed that a plant tour would be valuable and suggested reaching out to local experts for additional perspective on potential paths forward. The discussion emphasized focusing on current and future options rather than dwelling on past decisions. Concerns were raised about the age and lack of documented maintenance of the existing membranes, and whether the Council had been overly optimistic about their condition. Additional hesitation was expressed about purchasing new membranes given that the current manufacturer will no longer produce that model and because membranes are not covered by insurance. It was noted that more input and information are needed to determine the best option moving forward.

Andrew Kimmel advised that funding applications to DEQ are due in early January and recommended scheduling a tour and workshop within the next two to three weeks, ideally before winter weather, to allow sufficient time to assemble information if the Council chooses to seek funding.

Council Member Obenauf asked whether Veolia is the only manufacturer compatible with the existing plant configuration. Mr. Kimmel explained that the plant was manufactured by Veolia and that switching to a different membrane manufacturer would require significant modifications to the plant, constituting a substantial remodel. He noted that Veolia is a long-standing manufacturer of these systems. He also explained that Veolia did not have maintenance records for the existing membranes and that upon inspection they found the membranes to be in poor condition, and that the membranes are outdated due to their age.

Council Member Wrede clarified that the concern was not to disparage Veolia, but to emphasize that project management requires making decisions based on available information, including the age of the membranes and lack of maintenance records. She stated that the Council should rely on known facts and not on optimism. Mayor Giordani confirmed that the Council would have more time to review the report and that a workshop would be scheduled.

Council Member Davis requested that the Council consider and document alternative treatment options, including retrofit possibilities and cost ranges, to ensure transparency and to address potential public questions about whether other options were reviewed.

Council President Shay asked Mr. Kimmel to explain what “re-piping” entails. Mr. Kimmel described that the current membrane modules have two air pipes per cassette, whereas the updated configuration uses a single air pipe with a separate exhaust. He explained that the piping layout in the basins would need to be reworked, requiring dewatering the basins and physically modifying the PVC piping. He noted that material costs are minor but the work is time-consuming and requires careful measurement. He stated that Veolia provides updated layout instructions for the modifications and that the work is straightforward if the instructions are followed.

The Mayor asked whether continued operation of the plant as currently configured would affect the insurance claim. Mr. Kimmel said he was not certain and that the City would need to consult iCrimp. He recommended not turning the plant back on and instead informing iCrimp of the newly discovered issue and the need to secure funding, noting that the insurance claim was filed because the City did not have funds available to cover major repairs.

The Mayor explained that the City had previously submitted and finalized the insurance claim, receiving approximately \$400,000 for repairs, and that membranes were specifically excluded from coverage. She noted that the plant failure in 2023 occurred due to electrical failure from water exposure, and that all submerged components had been replaced except for the membranes and blowers. She stated that the City had been planning membrane replacement in phases due to high cost, and that the current discussion includes considering an updated membrane model and replacement plan to avoid higher future costs.

Council members agreed to schedule the workshop promptly and noted that seasonal weather could impact the timing of work. The Mayor indicated that the workshop would be scheduled and asked Mr. Kimmel to coordinate with staff. The Council then proceeded to the new business section of the agenda with Mr. Kimmel remaining available for questions.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Request for Funds for the purchase of Headworks Channel Lining for the Waste Water Treatment Plant:
Chris Johnson, Public Works Director | **ACTION ITEM**

(01:18:48 in video) Chris Johnson, Public Works Director, explained that the proposed work at the wastewater treatment plant is not a single large project but a series of necessary, incremental upgrades. He reviewed the history of ongoing repairs over the past two years, noting that the City has been systematically assessing and replacing failing components as issues arise, rather than rebuilding the entire plant. The current item focuses specifically on the headworks, where normal wear and tear over 15–20 years—primarily corrosion caused by hydrogen sulfide in incoming wastewater—has deteriorated concrete below the water line.

Mr. Johnson described the proposed scope of work: cleaning and pressure-washing the affected areas, repairing the concrete, and installing a protective liner system. He noted that this portion of the plant was not damaged by the prior system failure but requires attention now to prevent further deterioration. Three contractor quotes were received, ranging roughly from the mid-\$30,000s to about \$77,000, reflecting different repair methods. Staff recommended a contractor the City has successfully used before, citing product performance, durability, and the benefit of a highly visible coating for future inspections. The work is expected to take one to two days, with manageable considerations for winter operations, including heated truck storage if needed. Mr. Johnson also confirmed that the liner thickness would not materially affect plant hydraulics.

Andrew Kimmel of Great West Engineering concurred with the assessment and emphasized that the headworks lining and repair is unavoidable—it must be done now or later, but it must be done. He underscored that completing the work before the plant comes fully back online is far more efficient and cost-effective. If delayed until after startup, the plant would need to be taken offline again, significantly increasing time, complexity, and cost. Both speakers clarified that this work is a separate, necessary maintenance project and not part of the larger plant failure or overall replacement effort.

Council discussed the three bids received for the wastewater headworks lining project and confirmed that the recommended contractor submitted the lowest bid. Staff noted the City has successfully used this liner system previously at lift stations, where it has performed well over approximately 3–5 years, and that the product includes a 10-year warranty.

Council considered whether completing the work now would support future membrane upgrades and agreed that proceeding would resolve a known issue and remove one major component from the list of required improvements. Staff explained that while additional screening or membrane-related work may still be evaluated later, this project is a standalone repair that would be necessary regardless of future system decisions.

Discussion addressed timing and budgeting. Staff indicated that the low bid represents roughly half of the annual wastewater plant maintenance and upgrade budget and clarified that the work is best categorized as a capital improvement due to its long-term nature. Funding availability and potential savings were discussed, with staff indicating additional budget details would be reviewed during an upcoming workshop.

Council asked about the implications of delaying the project. Staff advised there is little benefit to waiting and that completing the work now would allow the City to focus on other priorities, including

lagoon operations and future membrane planning. The contractor indicated they could mobilize with two to three weeks' notice, and winter conditions would not be a barrier, as the work is indoors and temperature requirements can be met with heated storage for equipment.

Council discussed whether to take action immediately or defer a decision until a workshop to review the wastewater system holistically and confirm project prioritization. It was clarified that while the plant could technically operate without the repair, deterioration would continue and lead to higher future costs.

Motion: (01:31:58 in video) **Council President motioned** to hold off and include this discussion about Headworks and Channel lining with the Wastewater Workshop at a later date. **Council Member Obenauf seconded** the motion. Council Members Voting Aye: Council President Shay, Council Member Bergin, Council Member Mahoney, Council Member Obenauf, Council Member Davis. Council Members Voting Nay: Council Member Wrede. **The Motion Passed.**

- b. Approval of Resolution No. 25-33 Relating to Surplus Personal Property; declaring certain personal Property of the City to be surplus; authorizing and directing the disposal of the Surplus Property; and providing an effective Date: Casey McGehee, City Assets Manager | **ACTION ITEM**

Casey McGehee, City Assets Manager, presented Agenda Item 6B, requesting approval of Resolution No. 2533 to declare certain City personal property as surplus and authorize its disposal.

He explained that the City's existing motor grader, a 1987 John Deere 670B, is 38 years old, has extensive hours, and has reached the end of its useful life for the City of Bellevue. The grader requires significant repairs, particularly a full rebuild of the moldboard assembly, with estimated costs of \$10,000–\$15,000, not including additional concerns related to aging hydraulics and overall wear. Staff noted that the City has already received a new grader, which is ready for service, making the older unit no longer necessary.

Under City code, the sale, donation, or disposal of City-owned personal property requires authorization by City Council via resolution. Resolution No. 2533 would provide that authority.

Mr. McGehee further recommended that, rather than selling the grader, the City donate it to West Magic, noting the City has previously benefited from donated equipment and this would allow Bellevue to "pay it forward." While the grader is no longer reliable or cost-effective for Bellevue's needs, staff stated it could still be useful to West Magic, particularly for maintaining and rebuilding gravel roads during warmer months.

Motion: (01:39:56 in video) **Council President Shay motioned** to approve resolution no. 25-33 relating to surplus personal property declaring certain personal property of the City to be surplus, authorizing and directing the disposal of the surplus property and providing for an effective date. **Council Member Mahoney seconded** the motion. Council Members Voting Aye: Council President Shay, Council Member Bergin, Council Member Mahoney, Council Member Obenauf, Council Member Davis. Council Members Voting Nay: Council Member Wrede. **The Motion Passed**

- c. Approval of Resolution No. 25-34 authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract with Fredrick Allington for Prosecution services for Fiscal Year 2026 in an amount not to exceed \$22,908.00 | **ACTION ITEM**

Mayor Giordani presented the proposed annual contract with Frederick Rick Allington to provide prosecution services for state traffic infractions, state misdemeanors, and violations of City ordinances occurring within Bellevue city limits, as required by Idaho Code § 50-208.

The proposed fiscal year 2026 contract maintains the same scope of services and terms as the prior year. The only change is a 3% increase in compensation, approximately \$55 per month, resulting in a total annual contract amount of \$22,908, payable in 12 monthly installments of \$1,909. Staff recommended approval of the contract.

During discussion, Mr. Allington noted he has provided prosecution services for the City for approximately 30 years.

Motion: (01:42:45 in video) **Council Member Davis** motioned to approve resolution 25-34 authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract with Fredrick Allington for Prosecution services for Fiscal Year 2026 in an amount not to exceed \$22,908.00. **Council Member Mahoney** seconded the motion. Council Members Voting Aye: Council President Shay, Council Member Bergin, Council Member Mahoney, Council Member Obenauf, Council Member Davis. Council Members Voting Nay: Council Member Wrede. **The Motion Passed**

8. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Community Project Grant Recommendation and Presentation: Carter Bullock, Planner

Mayor Giordani introduced the agenda item, and Carter Bullock presented a staff recommendation regarding the use of the \$85,000 Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health grant awarded to the City of Bellevue in March.

Carter Bullock, Planner provided background on the grant, which is intended to improve community health, increase social connection, and support use of public space. He explained that extensive community engagement was conducted, including online surveys (132 responses, approximately 5% of the population), in-person outreach with Spanish-language support, youth engagement activities, and review of prior Parks Committee survey data from 2019–2020, summarized in a 2024 report. Feedback from all sources consistently identified Memorial Park as the most used and highest-priority park.

Based on the combined community survey results, Parks Committee priorities, and Blue Cross guidance, staff identified a clear common theme: the need for more versatile, multi-use recreational space that serves a broader range of ages and interests. Pickleball and multi-use court options were frequently cited, along with the need to maintain and improve existing facilities.

Mr. Bullock recommended resurfacing and restoring the existing play courts at Memorial Park, repairing fencing and gates, and restriping one basketball court to accommodate three pickleball courts. The proposal focuses on maintaining existing infrastructure rather than adding major new facilities. Staff noted the basketball courts are in need of resurfacing and that delaying repairs could

lead to significant deterioration and higher future costs. A prior estimate for resurfacing alone ranged from \$45,000 to \$50,000.

The presentation also addressed potential noise concerns associated with court use. Staff outlined possible mitigation measures, including landscaping, fencing enhancements, and sound-dampening features, which could be incorporated into the project using grant funds.

The item was presented for Council discussion only and was not an action item. Staff emphasized that the grant requires the project to be completed by next year, making the current planning window critical for securing bids, finalizing design elements, and preparing for construction in the spring, with the goal of opening the improved facilities by summer.

Council discussion focused primarily on concerns related to pickleball, particularly noise impacts, cost, and feasibility within Memorial Park's residential setting. Council members cited experiences in Elkhorn, Boise, and Valley Club where pickleball courts generated significant neighborhood complaints, required restricted hours of play, or were shut down due to litigation. Several members emphasized that sound mitigation is expensive, complex, and often underestimated, and cautioned that the \$85,000 grant may be insufficient to address resurfacing, striping, fencing, and adequate noise mitigation.

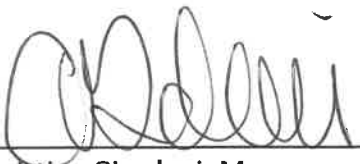
Questions were raised about whether other recreational uses—such as volleyball courts—were considered, noting community demand, particularly within the Hispanic community. Staff responded that the recommendation was driven by the Blue Cross grant process, extensive survey data, and alignment with Parks Committee priorities, which identified multi-use courts as one of the top four recommended projects. Staff emphasized this was one project among many needed park improvements.

Council also discussed the importance of maintaining existing facilities, with some members questioning whether simply resurfacing the basketball courts and adding trees, shade, and seating might provide greater benefit with fewer impacts. Staff explained that the grant requires funds to be used within a defined timeframe and is intended to create a new or enhanced community asset rather than routine maintenance.

Additional discussion included the relative return on investment between court improvements and alternative options such as upgrades to the soundstage, noting that soundstage improvements would exceed available funding. Council expressed interest in further public engagement, including visual plans, an open house, or additional public comment before moving forward.

Staff concluded by acknowledging the concerns raised, committing to develop a more detailed project plan with potential alternatives, and bringing the item back to Council for further discussion and public input.

Adjournment: (02:15:38 in Video) With no further business coming before the Common Council at this time, Council Member Davis moved to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Obenauf seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 08:43 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.


Christina Giordani, Mayor

Attest:


Amy Phelps, City Clerk



**CITY OF BELLEVUE, IDAHO
COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
Monday February 9, 2026**

Name (Please Print)	Address	Phone Number (optional)
Tommy Evans	MT. EXPRESS	
Mary Floyd	120 N 6th St	919-448-1144
Tom + Hannah Blum	33 Lower Broadway	
Melanie Dahl	S. 2nd St.	
Kristin Fisher	200 N 4th	

