The Common Council of the City of Bellevue, Idaho met at a Special Meeting on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, 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 5:30 p.m. (00:00:15 in video)

Roll Call:

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

Staff Present:
Amy Phelps, City Clerk
Brian Parker, Community Development Director
Carter Bullock, Planner

1. **Notice of Agenda Compliance**: *00:01:16 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 9, 2025.*

Motion: **Council Member 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. **OATH OF OFFICE: ACTION ITEM**

Swearing in of Newly Elected Officials: Amy Phelps, City Clerk

Amy Phelps, City Clerk, conducted the oath of office for Mayor Christina Giordani, Alderman Anders Ard, Alderman, Tom Bergin and, Alder(wo)man Diane Shay

4. **NEW BUSINESS**
   a. Approval of Resolution No. 26-01 supporting the submittal of an application for a Local Federal-aid STBG-Small Urban Program grant for the reconstruction of Pine Street: Brian Parker, Community Development Director | **ACTION ITEM**

Community Development Director Brian Parker explained that staff have been working closely with Forsgren to prepare the application for the federal grant, which is administered through the state. The grant requires a 7.34% local match. While the full match funding has not yet been finalized, staff believe options are available to meet the requirement.
Parker stated that Pine Street has been selected as the proposed project location because it is classified as a collector roadway. The proposed reconstruction would include installation of curb, gutter, sidewalk, and a bike pathway.

Council Member Shay asked if Mr. Parker conducted a rating system in terms of which streets to consider for the project. Mr. Parker responded explaining that the grant is only for collector, arterial roadways currently identified in the transportation master plan as Pine, Cedar, and Second Street. Council Member Shay asked for confirmation that Cottonwood Street did not fall under that category. Mr. Parker confirmed that it did not identify as a collector road. Council Members Obenauf and Shay reiterated that Cottonwood was in rough shape likely because of school buses traveling that way.

Mayor Giordani asked Brian Parker to address the level of support from other jurisdictions for Bellevue's grant application. Mr. Parker explained that the Small Urban funding pool accepts only one applicant from the smaller area that includes Bellevue and Hailey. Hailey agreed to allow Bellevue to move forward as the applicant this cycle.

He also noted that the project was presented at the Blaine County Regional Transportation meeting, where it was ranked at the top of the priority list. Mr. Parker emphasized that the project has strong support from the County and neighboring cities, highlighting the collaborative relationship among the jurisdictions and their shared recognition of Bellevue's needs. He stated that the regional backing and Hailey's willingness to support Bellevue's application were significant and meaningful.

Council Member Obenauf asked where the $272,000 match would come from. Brian Parker explained that some funds are available within the current Streets budget, and expenditures would occur in FY27, allowing the City to budget for the local match in the next fiscal cycle. He stated that grant award notification is anticipated approximately three months after submission.

Council Member Bergin asked about the eligibility criteria referencing urban areas with populations greater than 5,000. Mr. Parker clarified that Bellevue qualifies as part of the Small Urban statistical area in combination with Hailey. Bergin also inquired about county support and letters of support from other jurisdictions. Mr. Parker responded that the project is listed on the Blaine County Transportation Master Project list; however, the County Commissioners will not be submitting a formal letter of support. He indicated he would inquire whether a supplemental letter could be provided. Council Member Shay noted that letters of support from neighboring jurisdictions would be beneficial.

Discussion followed regarding the project limits and design. Mr. Parker clarified the project would extend from Main Street to Quarter Horse Drive, with current cost estimates ending improvements at Ridge View and transitioning to a two-lane road beyond that point. The proposed design includes two travel lanes, parking lanes, curb, gutter, and sidewalk.
Council Member Bergin expressed concern that the design may be overbuilt and suggested prioritizing improvements on streets closer to Main Street with higher traffic volumes and greater sidewalk and

parking needs. Mayor Giordani responded that the current transportation plan limits eligible collector routes, but the forthcoming plan update will identify additional collector roads and expand future funding opportunities. Mr. Parker added that an earlier concept included portions of Pine Street and a chunk of Cedar Street; however, cost estimates made it more practical to complete one full street. Council Member Davis emphasized that Pine Street serves a large portion of Bellevue residents and runs through the core of the city, whereas Broadford Road primarily serves regional traffic for Hailey and the County and extends only a short distance within city limits. Council Member Bergin also referenced prior Safe Routes to School funding near Cedar Street and the school area.
Council discussion concluded with questions regarding when a full street reconstruction was last completed in Bellevue. Council Member Shay noted that aside from Main Street and a portion of the Broadford hill completed in coordination with the County around 2016, no recent full street reconstructions were recalled. Council Members commented on the importance of investing in infrastructure to address deteriorating road conditions, pedestrian safety, and the City's continued growth.

Motion: Council Member Shay moved to approve Resolution No. 26-01 supporting the submittal of an application for a Local Federal-aid STBG-Small Urban Program grant for the reconstruction of Pine Street. **Council Member Obenauf** seconded. Council Members Voting Aye: Council Member Obenauf, Council Member Bergin, Council Member Shay, Council Member Ard, Council Member Davis. Council Members Voting No: None. **The Motion Passed.**

Council Member Davis emphasized that pursuing this project represents a significant step forward for the City and demonstrates progress on a major infrastructure improvement. She stated that completing the project would enhance the downtown core of the City and provide a visible accomplishment that residents could take pride in.

5. STRATEGIC PLANNING WORK SESSION

a. Meeting Preferences & Housekeeping (00:24:47 in video)

Mayor Giordani opened a brief discussion on Council meeting preferences and general housekeeping matters. She invited Council Members to share comments or suggestions regarding agenda formatting, item placement, scheduling preferences, and any other ideas to improve the effectiveness of Council meetings.

Council discussed meeting length, agenda management, and preparation of Council packets. Council Member Obenauf asked to limit meetings to two hours or provide scheduled breaks for longer meetings, noting that extended meetings make it difficult to remain focused and effective. Mayor Giordani acknowledged the concern but noted that the City currently has a significant workload, and shorter meetings could affect the pace of completing projects and City business.

Council Member Davis emphasized the importance of strategic planning, clear goals, and focused agendas to avoid overloading meetings. She suggested that receiving materials further in advance would allow Council to better prepare and ask informed questions, leading to more effective meetings. Council Member Shay agreed and highlighted the need for earlier and more consistent deadlines for agenda packets. She explained that last-minute submissions create challenges and recommended that

materials be finalized by Wednesday at noon to allow sufficient time for packet assembly, public notice, and Council review, ultimately improving meeting efficiency and preparedness.

Council continued discussion on meeting logistics, focusing on packet timing, meeting length, and start times. Tony Evans from the Idaho Mountain Express and several Council Members emphasized the importance of receiving agenda packets by Wednesday to allow adequate time for review, media coverage, and questions to staff. Mayor Giordani agreed to prioritize Wednesday deadlines and noted that late materials may be postponed to future meetings. Council members generally supported aiming for two-hour meetings with flexibility as needed, including check-ins and breaks during longer sessions and the option of occasional additional meetings. Discussion also included possibly providing food during extended meetings. Council shared varying views on meeting start times, balancing public accessibility with staff and Council schedules. Mayor Giordani thanked Council for the feedback and encouraged further suggestions.

b. 2025 Achievements & Updates to Ongoing Projects (00:44:50 in video)

Mayor Giordani introduced the agenda item as a review of the City's 2025 achievements and updates on ongoing projects, describing it as an internal annual review prepared with Brian Parker. She explained that Council would have an opportunity to add comments or note any missed items following the presentation. The Mayor stated that the City's recent strategic planning and focus on key priority areas helped guide the Council and staff, resulting in significant accomplishments in 2025, particularly foundational improvements that position the City for future major projects.

Community Development Director, Brian Parker provided an overview of key accomplishments organized around the City's strategic goal categories established the previous year. He highlighted progress in accountability and communications, including launching a city newsletter, updating the website, adopting a communications playbook, and working toward an online permitting portal to make applications easier for the public.

He described significant foundational planning work, such as advancing the comprehensive and transportation plans, collaborating with housing and regional partners, and pursuing community project grants to improve public spaces and support future growth. He also noted operational improvements like moving permitting processes online and adopting a council code of conduct.

Mr. Parker emphasized infrastructure and maintenance efforts, including work at the water and sewer plants, extensive street patching, park maintenance, recruitment of volunteer firefighters, and major progress restoring nonfunctioning streetlights. He then outlined enhancement projects such as park improvements, consultant work on west Main Street planning, formation of an events committee, museum repair grants, and upgrades to the City's financial systems. He concluded by noting increased regional collaboration with the county and other agencies and invited Council to add any additional accomplishments or notes to the record.

Council expressed support for the 2025 achievements report and praised the City's progress over the past year. Council Member Shay commended the document and emphasized that the Council successfully laid long-needed foundational groundwork, crediting the Mayor and Brian Parker for

moving that work forward. Council Member Davis echoed that sentiment, stating that the current governance structure and the Mayor's leadership have elevated the City and created momentum for the future. She also recognized Casey McGehee and the Streets Department for providing exceptional service and leadership despite limited resources, a point the Mayor reinforced by highlighting Casey's effectiveness and collaboration.

Council Member Bergin noted the evolution of the City's website and suggested exploring a public dashboard to showcase accomplishments. He also mentioned that while the local option tax did not pass, staff deserved recognition for their work preparing and presenting it, and he encouraged revisiting the effort. Council Member Ard remarked that it has been encouraging to see visible progress and added that the recent PUD code amendment enabling residential development in commercial areas was a noteworthy achievement related to housing. Council Member Obenauf reflected that the Council's second year showed markedly greater progress under the Mayor's leadership and improved collaboration with other local leaders. She added that while the PUD change was a step forward, market-rate housing alone does not guarantee affordability, prompting brief discussion about the importance of deed-restricted and workforce housing.

c. 2026 Goals & Priorities (01:07:35 in video)

The Mayor summarized her strategic priorities and explained that the worksheet, incorporating formatting ideas from Council Member Davis, is designed to better connect strategic planning with future budgeting. She explained the goal is to use this framework to align Council priorities with the fiscal year 2027 budget and improve how resources are allocated.
She outlined four draft priority areas. The first, strengthening infrastructure, focuses on addressing deferred maintenance and ensuring long-term sustainability of water, sewer, and street systems through increased investment, grants, and phased project work. Measures of success include progress on major water and wastewater projects, transportation planning, roadway grants, and potentially revisiting the local option tax.
The second priority, balanced growth, centers on managing development while protecting Bellevue's character, improving public spaces, and advancing zoning updates, including consideration of workforce and affordable housing. Success would include zoning code updates, park and downtown improvements, and continued work on planning initiatives already underway.
The third priority, enhanced public safety, emphasizes pedestrian safety, downtown vitality, and stabilizing funding and staffing for public safety departments. Key goals include lighting and sidewalk improvements, updated street standards, and coordinated planning with state partners.
The fourth priority, collaborative leadership and communication, focuses on building public trust through stronger engagement, improved communications tools, and partnerships with businesses and regional organizations. A major objective is developing a public-facing project tracking or dashboard feature on the City's website to increase transparency. Council discussed the importance of investing in professional website support to protect the City's interests and improve public access to information.

The Mayor clarified that her four priorities were examples and that the Council will ultimately identify six shared priorities.

d. Next Steps

Council Member Davis emphasized the importance of keeping the City's work public-facing and ensuring decisions align with long-term goals for Bellevue. She encouraged the Council to use the strategic planning process to guide actions and budgeting with a 20-year vision for the city. The Mayor added that council Members bring diverse experiences and connections to different parts of the community and encouraged them to incorporate feedback from their networks when developing priorities.

Council discussed how priorities can include both broad goals and specific, achievable projects that serve as measures of success, and how those projects should connect to current and future budgeting. Staff are developing coordinated work plans to align with Council priorities. The group agreed to continue the process at a future work session, with council Members submitting completed worksheets in advance.

There was also discussion about expectations for full Council participation, the importance of representing all community voices—including dissenting perspectives—and inviting public input. The Council confirmed that public comment will be welcomed at the next work session and discussed creating a public survey to gather community feedback on priorities.

6. ADJOURNMENT: Action Item

With no further business coming before the Common Council at this time, Council Member Obenauf moved to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Shay seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 07:20 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Christina Giordani, Mayor

Attest:

Amy Phelps, City Clerk

CITY OF BELLEVUE SEAL BLAINE COUNTY IDAHO