



The Common Council of the City of Bellevue, Idaho met at a regularly scheduled Meeting on Monday, February 23, 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 5:31 p.m. (00:04:42 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
Tom Bergin, Council Member – Present
Jessica Obenauf, Council Member – Excused

Staff Present:

Amy Phelps, City Clerk
Brian Parker, Community Development Director
Carter Bullock, Planner
Shelly Shoemaker, Treasurer
Greg Beaver, Fire Chief
Rick Allington, Legal Counsel
Kristin Gearhart, Library Director
Mike Shelamer, Marshal's Office

1. Notice of Agenda Compliance: (00:07:17 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 *February 19, 2026*.

Motion: Council Member Shay moved that the agenda notice was in compliance with Idaho Code §74-204. Council Member Davis 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 (00:05:53 in video)

Mayor Giordani reported that the headworks channel repair has been completed, with additional details to be included in an upcoming wastewater update. She also highlighted available transportation services through Mountain Rides, including ADA paratransit (curb-to-curb service within the Wood River Valley) and Community Health Transportation services providing trips to Twin Falls. She

emphasized the importance of increasing community awareness of these accessible and affordable transportation options.

Council President Diane Shay noted that the lot south of Sun Valley Garden Center had been graded and expressed her approval of the progress. She added that the council has been holding planning meetings regarding the city's dead-end rights-of-way, including one earlier today and another last week. She noted that they are still strategizing and working to develop an effective process for notifying residents and securing community support for the project.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT: FOR ITEMS OF CONCERN NOT ON THE AGENDA – (COMMENTS ARE LIMITED TO 3-5 MINUTES)
No public comment was made.

5. FIRE DEPARTMENT AWARDS: Greg Beaver, Fire Chief

Fire Chief Beaver presented the fire department awards. He explained that the volunteers voted for these awards at the Christmas Party.

- Firefighter of the Year and ten (10) years of service award: Scott Beaver
- Five (5) Years of Service Award: Armando Hurtado
- "Catch-up" Award (Coveted Internal Award) and 10 years of Service Award: Nick Schell
- Fifteen (15) years of service Award: Amberle Molyneux
- Officer of the Year Award: Anson Credle

Mayor Giordani thanked the firefighters for their service.

6. CONSENT AGENDA: ACTION ITEMS

- a. Approval of Minutes: January 7, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes: Amy Phelps, City Clerk
- b. Approval of Claims: February 10 through February 23, 2026: Shelly Shoemaker, Treasurer

Council Member Davis asked about the rugged laptop that was listed in claims. Treasurer Shelly Shoemaker explained that it was for Casey in Streets. The Marshal received a desktop computer, and both computers were budgeted for. Council Member Davis asked if the laptop went with Casey or stayed at the shop. Ms. Shoemaker confirmed it went with Casey day to day in the City Vehicle, which is why he needed the rugged laptop.

Motion: (00:18:52 in Video) **Council Member Davis** moved to approve the consent agenda. **Council President Shay** seconded. Council Members Voting Aye: Council Member Bergin, Council Member Shay, Council Member Ard, Council Member Davis. Council Members Voting No: Council Member Wrede. **The Motion Passed.**

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Consideration of approval of Resolution No. 26-08 confirming appointment of a Library Liaison member from the Common Council: **ACTION ITEM**

Mayor Giordani invited Council discussion to identify an appropriate member to serve as a point of communication, coordination, and information sharing between the Council and the Library Board.

Library Director Kristin Gearhart explained that the liaison role has historically existed to facilitate communication between the two bodies. The liaison would not have voting authority, but would attend meetings, share information, and support transparency, particularly as library district planning efforts progress. The position has been vacant for some time.

Council Member Wrede stated she would be delighted to be the Library Board liaison as she used to work quite a bit with the library.

Motion: (00:22:08 in Video) **Council President Shay** moved to approve Resolution No. 26-08 confirming appointment of Council Member Wrede as Library Liaison. **Council Member Bergin** seconded. Council Members Voting Aye: Council Member Bergin, Council Member Shay, Council Member Ard, Council Member Davis, Council Member Wrede. Council Members Voting No: none. **The Motion Passed.**

- b. Consideration of Resolution No. 26-07 Confirming appointment of new library board member, Lauren Levig as advised by the library director, Kristin Gearhart | **ACTION ITEM**

Library Director Kristin Gearhart briefly introduced Ms. Levig, highlighting her role as a local business owner and parent, and expressed support for her appointment to fill the open position. Lauren Levig shared her appreciation for the library's impact on her family, noting her children's participation in programs, and expressed interest in supporting expanded programming and volunteer involvement.

The Mayor and Council thanked Ms. Levig for her willingness to serve and welcomed her perspective and ideas as a new member of the community.

Motion: (00:24:40 in Video) **Council Member Davis** moved to approve Resolution No. 26-07 Confirming appointment of new library board member, Lauren Levig as advised by the library director, Kristin Gearhart. **Council President Shay** seconded. Council Members Voting Aye: Council Member Bergin, Council Member Shay, Council Member Ard, Council Member Davis, Council Member Wrede. Council Members Voting No: none. **The Motion Passed.**

- c. Consideration of Resolution No. 26-09 a Resolution of the City of Bellevue, Idaho, suspending park reservations for the Howard Preserve until an updated Howard Preserve Management Plan is adopted: **ACTION ITEM**

Mayor Christina Giordani introduced Resolution No. 26-09 to temporarily suspend park reservations at the Howard Preserve until an updated management plan is adopted. She further explained the proposal follows recent discussions regarding fees and public comment from community stakeholders, including Friends of the Howard Preserve and the Wood River Land Trust. She stated the intent is to pause reservations while the City reviews and potentially updates the 2017 management plan through a collaborative process with involved parties.

Council discussed the proposed suspension of park reservations at the Howard Preserve, focusing primarily on establishing a clear timeline for completing the management plan update. Council

President Shay and Council Member Davis emphasized the importance of setting a defined timeframe to ensure progress, with suggestions ranging from three months to a maximum of six months.

Clarification was provided that the suspension would apply only to special event reservations and would not restrict general public access or typical recreational use of the preserve. Council also discussed thresholds for organized events and the need to ensure policies are applied fairly and without favoritism among user groups.

The City Clerk noted that reservations have been minimal in recent years. Community Development Director Brian Parker outlined potential updates to the management plan, including event use, fire safety, landscaping standards, and coordination with partner organizations. Florence Blanchard representing the Friends of the Howard Preserve explained that upcoming processes, including coordination with external entities and potential land additions, may impact the timeline.

Council President Shay questioned why the addition of property would affect the timeline for updating the management plan. She acknowledged the added land as a positive asset and emphasized that the original intent of the Howard family was for public enjoyment. She noted that the reservation/application process helps ensure the Preserve is managed effectively.

Motion: (00:38:39 in Video) **Council President Shay** approve Resolution No. 26-09 suspending park reservations for the Howard Preserve until an updated Howard Preserve Management Plan is adopted with the duration of suspension to be shortened to three months. **Council Member Bergin** seconded. Council Members Voting Aye: Council Member Bergin, Council Member Shay, Council Member Ard, Council Member Davis, Council Member Wrede. Council Members Voting No: none. **The Motion Passed.**

8. PUBLIC HEARING - CONTINUED FROM JANUARY 26, 2026

- a. Fee schedule update and consideration to adopt Resolution No. 26-02 Amending the fee schedule for The City of Bellevue: Department Heads | **ACTION ITEM**

(00:40:14 in video) Council President Shay started off by asking to hear from Community Development Director, Brian Parker regarding the departments proposed fees.

Mr. Parker explained that the proposed fee schedule revisions are straightforward and were refined following discussions with Council Members Shay and Bergen. He noted Council concerns that some fees had increased too sharply between tiers, and adjustments were made to create more gradual, incremental changes and the updated recommendations reflect those revisions.

Council President Shay emphasized the importance of regularly reviewing the City's master fee schedule, ideally on an annual basis, to prevent large, sudden increases like those recently encountered. She noted this should be treated as a standard planning practice, similar to the annual budget process, to ensure the City's costs are appropriately recovered. She also suggested that even moderate increases could be phased in over multiple years to provide better predictability.

Councilmember Bergin noted the value of clearly communicating fee changes so applicants understand expectations and can adapt accordingly. He suggested that some flexibility in how fees are applied may be appropriate depending on circumstances. He also pointed out a potential inconsistency in one line of the fee schedule line items prompting clarification and correction by staff.

Council Member Davis expressed support for reviewing and adjusting fees to better reflect actual costs. She emphasized that taxpayers should not be subsidizing development-related services, particularly for larger projects such as subdivisions. She supported structuring fees in a way that ensures the Community Development Department is appropriately funded by application fees rather than relying heavily on general tax dollars.

At (00:47:08 in video) Mayor Giordani opened up the meeting to public comment.

John Kurtz, 412 S 7th Street

John Kurtz expressed support for the originally proposed, higher fee schedule and noted concern that the revised fees were reduced. He emphasized that development applications require significant staff time and that costs should be borne by applicants rather than subsidized by the general fund. He acknowledged full cost recovery may be difficult but encouraged setting fees as high as reasonably appropriate, especially given inflation. He also supported annual fee reviews to help maintain the City's financial stability and reduce the need for future budget cuts.

With no further comment at this time, Mayor Giordani closed public comment at (00:49:34 in video)

Council Member Ard expressed agreement with John Kurtz. Council Member Wrede said she had no comment on the subject at this time.

Council Member Bergin expressed appreciation for staff work, particularly Brian Parker's efforts in reviewing and refining the fee schedule. He supported the modifications made and emphasized the importance of continuing annual reviews to ensure fees remain aligned with actual costs and staff time.

Motion: (00:50:50 in Video) **Council Member Bergin** moved to approve adopt Resolution No. 26-02 Amending the fee schedule for The City of Bellevue as amended, effective upon adoption. **Council President Shay** seconded. Council Members Voting Aye: Council Member Davis, Council Member Bergin, Council President Shay, Council Member Ard. Council Members Voting No: Council Member Wrede. **The Motion Passed.**

(00:52:22 in video) The Library District Steering Committee explained that a few of their members were finishing up a presentation in Hailey at their City Council Meeting and asked to be pushed to the end of the meeting. Mayor Giordani proposed amending the agenda by reordering the executive session to come before the Library District Presentation.

Motion: **Council Member Davis** moved amend the agenda by reordering the executive session to come before the Library Presentation. **Council Member Ard** seconded. **The Motion Passed Unanimously.**

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206(1)(f)

To communicate with legal counsel regarding pending or imminently likely litigation.

Motion: (00:53:08 in Video) **Council Member Davis** moved to enter into executive session pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206(1)(f). **Council President Shay** seconded. Council Members Voting Aye: Council Member Davis, Council Member Bergin, Council President Shay, Council Member Ard. Council Members Voting No: Council Member Wrede. **The Motion Passed.**

(01:51:53 in video) At 7:15 PM with a Motion from Council President Shay and a second from Council Member Bergin, the Council exited executive session to return to regular session.

10. PRESENTATION

- a. Library Districting Presentation: Tim Keirn, Amanda Karst Suwanrit, Library District Steering Committee

Tim Keirn, Chair of the Library District Steering Committee, presented an overview of the proposed Library District, explaining it would replace city-based funding with a voter-approved levy to expand and improve library services across the region. He noted strong community support, with over 2,400 petition signatures, including significant participation from Bellevue residents.

He outlined benefits of forming a district, including expanded hours, increased staffing, improved access to materials and technology, enhanced programming, and better service to rural areas. He emphasized that most Idaho libraries already operate as districts and that the proposal would create efficiencies, equitable access, and long-term financial stability.

Mr. Keirn also highlighted population growth and current service limitations as key drivers for change, and explained the proposed funding structure, stating the levy would remain below the allowable maximum. He concluded by emphasizing accountability to voters and the goal of sustaining and improving library services without needing future supplemental levies.

Council engaged in a detailed discussion with Tim Keirn regarding the proposed library district, focusing largely on financial impacts, governance, and community implications.

Council asked how shifting to a district model would affect current City funding and what the City might do with any resulting budget savings. Questions were also raised about long-term planning, including facility needs, capital reserves, and whether a higher levy should be considered to support future improvements.

Council Member Wrede expressed concern about the financial burden on property owners, noting that the proposed levy would shift library funding primarily to taxpayers rather than individual users. Council Member Ard raised questions about fairness, particularly regarding renters' access versus property owners' costs, and whether alternative user-based fees could be considered.

Mayor Giordani sought clarification on the petition process, including whether financial details were shared with signers, and confirmed that levy amounts would be determined and communicated prior to the vote. Additional questions addressed service levels, such as potential expanded hours and operational details under a district model.

Broader concerns were brought up about competing funding priorities within the community, emphasizing the need to balance library funding with other essential services like roads and infrastructure. Others acknowledged the value of library services and expressed appreciation for the proposal, while requesting more detailed information—particularly regarding service enhancements—to better evaluate the proposal.

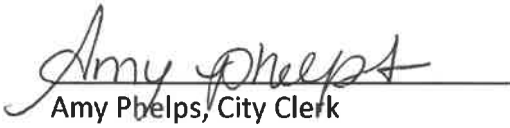
11. ADJOURNMENT: Action Item

With no further business coming before the Common Council at this time, Council Member Davis moved to adjourn the meeting. Council President Shay seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 08:05 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.



Christina Giordani, Mayor

Attest:



Amy Phelps, City Clerk