



## TOWN OF BEAUX ARTS VILLAGE

### TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

July 8, 2025

**PRESENT:** Mayor Aletha Howes, Councilmembers Paula Dix, James McCarthy, Stacy Saal, Tom Stowe, and Brad Wheeler.

**EXCUSED:** None

**STAFF:** Clerk/Treasurer Sue Ann Spens, Town Engineer/Planner Stacia Schroeder.

**GUESTS:** Town Marshal Jeff Jochums.

Mayor Howes called the meeting to order at 7pm.

**MINUTES:** Councilmember Stowe moved to approve the June 10, 2025 minutes as amended. Councilmember Wheeler seconded.

Vote: 5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstain. Motion carried.

**CLAIMS:** Councilmember Dix moved to approve the Final July 8, 2025 Claims Register for check numbers 16850 through 16866 in the amount of \$30,996.29. Councilmember Saal seconded.

Vote: 5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstain. Motion carried.

#### **CLERK'S REPORT:**

**BANKING / ONLINE BILLPAY QUESTIONS:** Clerk/Treasurer Spens reported that, at the Council's direction, she enrolled the Town in the Washington Federal bill-pay option that can be used to pay any vendor either by EFT, ACH, or online check, and offers five free transactions per month. Each transaction after that cost \$0.40 per transaction. She will begin using it in August to pay by ACH, though she will pay vendors that offer EFT payments through their websites, when possible, to keep fees to a minimum.

**MARSHAL'S REPORT:** Mayor Howes noted that the Town continues hearing complaints from residents about parking on the rights-of-way, particularly along SE 27<sup>th</sup> St. She remarked that many of the cars parked along the ROWs belong to resident's with larger families and multiple drivers in the family, so much of the problem will resolve itself as children leave home. She is hoping to work out a neighborly solution rather than alter our parking rules. Town Marshal Jeff Jochums stated that he is willing to chat with any resident that may be breaking our parking rules, but he will need details. Mayor Howes and Councilmember McCarthy are brainstorming ideas, including holding a "block party" to discuss the situation with neighbors living along SE 27<sup>th</sup> and work out solutions. They each now have copies of the Town's violation notice to place on cars.

**WATER REPORT:** No report.

**WABA REPORT:** WABA's Summer Picnic is scheduled for July 26<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Howes plans to invite a representative of the King County Sheriff's Office and possibly the Bellevue Fire Department.

**APPEARANCES:** None.

**PUBLIC HEARING: ORDINANCE NO. 481 ADOPTING THE CIP / TIP FOR 2026 - 2031:** Mayor Howes opened the public hearing at 7:20 pm and asked for public comments. As there were no public comments, she closed the public hearing at 7:21 pm.

On discussion, Councilmember McCarthy was asked to update date ranges for the final exhibit to the ordinance. He will distribute a final copy when it is ready.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Saal moved to pass Ordinance No. 481 adopting a CIP . TIP for 2026 through 2031, inclusive. Councilmember Stowe seconded.

Vote: 5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstain. Motion carried.

**STORMWATER SYSTEM CLEANING:** Town Engineer Schroeder provided information about two bids to complete this year's stormwater cleaning and camera work for this year's: one from Drain Pro for \$13,400.32 and the other from Pro-Vac for \$20,273.02. She is recommending that the work be awarded to Drain Pro. She is also asking the Council to authorize the Mayor to execute work orders totaling \$15,000 so that she can add one or more small catch-basin repairs.

Clerk/Treasurer Spens explained that we budgeted \$15,000 this year for this work and that the we were awarded \$19,350 in King County stormwater grant money, which more than covers the cost of the work.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Wheeler moved to authorize the expenditure of \$15,000 for storm drain cleaning and camera work and related catch-basin repairs and to authorize the Mayor to sign one or more work orders for this work. Councilmember McCarthy seconded. Vote: 5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstain. Motion carried.

**GLEN PATH PLANTINGS:** Mayor Howes opened the discussion by asking Councilmember Dix to offer her thoughts. Ms. Dix briefly described the additional plants proposed for the path, noting that she feels most should be evergreen to ensure year-round screening.

On discussion, Councilmembers comments that it would be helpful to have more information, such as the size of the plants to be installed and how quickly they grow, what sort of water needs the plants have, how much pruning they will need to encourage screening without growing too tall for the space, etc. Several Councilmembers mentioned that they would feel more comfortable about making the decision with more feedback from the immediate neighbors. Others commented that waiting until October will mean we can better assess relative to the Parks Levy money but wondered if the desired plants will still be available that late in the season.

It was the consensus of the Council that the planting plan should be finalized by September to allow planting no later than mid-October.

**BELLEVUE WATER LINE REPLACEMENT:** Councilmember Stowe recapped his correspondence with Ann Mari Soto, the attorney representing the Town in this negotiation noting that Bellevue expressed concerns about having to produce AutoCAD drawings in 30 days but made no mention of our proposed franchise fee.

Mayor Howes remarked that, if we receive a final draft of the agreement in mid-August, the Council can hold a virtual meeting for the first reading so that the franchise agreement can be approved at the regular September Council meeting.

**MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS:**

**AT&T/LUMEN FRANCHISE TRANSFER:** Councilmember Stowe reported that AT&T wants a franchise agreement, but Lumen has never had one with the Town. He has asked Town Attorney Linehan to approach AT&T and learn what they are really asking for before proceeding.

**WATER LOSS THROUGH BELLEVUE INTERTIE:** Councilmember Stowe reported that he is waiting for specific information from Water Superintendent Roger Lillejord before making a recommendation on how to proceed with a possible claim against Bellevue. Specifically, he wants to know what happened to allow the water to be drained from the tank through the intertie and how much water was lost. He feels the Town should seek payment for this water or a credit against future payments to Bellevue Water to compensate for the water. He also believes we should consider installing a backflow-prevention device and should negotiate a better agreement with Bellevue for the operation of this connection. He will present his findings for further discussion in September.

**CRITICAL AREAS ORDINANCE:** Councilmember Stowe reported that he is assisting the Planning Commission and Town Engineer Schroeder with the writing of this ordinance. He hopes to have something for Council review in the Fall.

**SIGN INSTALLED:** Councilmember Wheeler reported that the “No Left Turn” sign at 103<sup>rd</sup> and SE 27<sup>th</sup> Street has been installed.

**EMERGENCY PLANNING:** Councilmember Saal reported that emergency planning is underway.

**GREENSPACE WORK:** Councilmember Dix reported that 12 yards of mulch for Glen Path’s planted areas has been delivered. She also reported that Seattle Tree Care visited each of the cabled Town trees that were due for inspection per our watchlist and found no problems needing attention. She has asked them to produce a written report stating same.

**TREE CODE WEBINAR:** Councilmember Dix reported that she watched a webinar outlining the challenges to Tree Codes. The webinar pointed out that these codes must be

written in a very specific way in order to withstand constitutional challenges.

Mayor Howes added that the Council should start working on guidelines for the Planning Commission's review of the current Tree Code so that the guidelines are ready when the Planning Commission completes their current tasks.

**UNITED STATES 250<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY:** Mayor Howes asked the Council to consider if the Town wants to do anything special to commemorate this national milestone – perhaps planting a tree.

**BELLEVUE FIRE DEPARTMENT (BFD):** Mayor Howes reported that she met with the Interim Fire Marshal and has scheduled walk-throughs in the Village to help him become familiar with our unique layout. She noted that BFD has completed wildfire training, which is of particular benefit in light of our urban forest. They continue to test water pressure at our fire hydrants and are working on call-to-patient response times. They are also solidifying the Bellevue Cares program to ensure that if a Town resident needs help (welfare check, contact with social-worker, and such) the Fire Department can initiate a call to get the caller help.

**COMPLETE STREETS:** Mayor Howes reported on a mandatory state program intended to enable comfortable and convenient access to destinations for all people, including specific requirements for the pedestrian, bicyclist, and transit rider experience. She will review specifics about the legislation to learn what requirements apply to the Town, what ordinance may be necessary, and whether TIB funding will be available to meet the requirements.

**PACE SURVEY REVIEW:** Mayor Howes commented that PACE's survey of the SE quadrant of Town is complete, and she would like the Council to review and discuss it at the September meeting.

**2024 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE:** Mayor Howes noted that Futurewise has been reviewing Comprehensive Plans for compliance with state requirements. They have filed a complaint against Mercer Island with the Growth Management Board. Mercer Island is basing their defense on their uniqueness and limited City funding. A decision is anticipated in August or September. She noted that Clyde Hill is also being sued. She is monitoring.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday September 9, 2025 at Mayor Howes' house.

**ADJOURN:** Councilmember Wheeler moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm.

Councilmember McCarthy seconded.

Vote: 5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstain. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Ann Spens  
Clerk/Treasurer