

**City of Robbinsdale
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
March 16, 2021
Meeting No. 6**

CALL TO ORDER

1. Mayor William A. Blonigan called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

ROLL CALL

2. Present: Webb, Selman, Backen, Kline, Mayor Blonigan
Absent: None
Staff: Marcia Glick, City Manager; Dustin Leslie, City Clerk; Rick Pearson, Community Development Director; Richard McCoy, Public Works Director; Harper Steinbach, Community Engagement Coordinator

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

3. Mayor Blonigan opened the floor to anyone wishing to speak on any items not on the agenda.
4. Mary Donovan, 4313 Beard Ave. N: Donovan voiced support in replacing basketball hoops at Manor Park. Donovan stated a basketball hoop was taken down due to neighbor complaints regarding noise and kids who didn't live in the city playing there.
5. Member Backen stated that the hoop was taken down due to roughhousing and bad language from older kids who were near the playground.
6. Member Webb stated that discomfort is a reality and that kids should have an opportunity to play basketball in the park, regardless of where they live.
7. Steinbach stated there has been a lot of support from people in the community about adding more basketball hoops.
8. Member Selman stated the hoop was taken down due to excessive profanity and trash on the ground and was a unanimous decision by council years ago.
9. Glick stated it could be moved to a different location in the park away from the playground.
10. Mayor Blonigan said more discussion would be needed on this item in the future.

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 16, 2021 MEETING AGENDA

11. Leslie announced there would be five additions to the agenda:
 - Updated resolution language in New Business 2 item.

- Additional information added to Public Hearing B.
 - Additional information added to Public Hearing C.
 - Voucher report information.
 - Amended agenda to add additional item to Other Business: Appointment of Council Members to Bottineau Steering Committee.
12. **Member Selman MOVED, seconded by Member Kline to approve the March 16, 2021 Agenda with the updates made by the City Clerk. A roll call was taken: Ayes: Webb, Selman, Backen, Kline, Mayor Blonigan; Nays: None. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

CONSENT AGENDA

13. **Member Selman MOVED, seconded by Member Kline to approve the March 16, 2021 Consent Agenda. A roll call was taken: Ayes: Webb, Selman, Backen, Kline, Mayor Blonigan; Nays: None. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**
- A. Motion to approve and order placed on file minutes of the City Council meeting:
 - Council Meeting Minutes on 3/2/2021
 - Special Work Session Minutes on 3/2/2021
 - Regular Work Session Minutes on 3/2/2021
 - B. Motion to receive advisory commission minutes:
 - Senior Commission Minutes on 2/1/2021
 - C. Motion to acknowledge the Deputy Registrar's financial reports for the month of January 2021.
 - D. Motion to acknowledge the Robbinsdale Wine & Spirits' financial reports for the month of January 2021.
 - E. Motion to approve issuance of licenses dated 3/16/21.
 - F. Motion to submit application for the Public Park: Public Art grant and direct staff to submit the application to the Minnesota Park and Recreation Foundation.
 - G. Motion to schedule a work session with the City Attorney on April 6, 2021 at 6:15 p.m. to discuss next steps for City parking lot adjacent to Beach South.
 - H. Approve a motion to direct the City Manager to execute the appropriate

documents WAIVING the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by Minnesota Statutes 466.04 for the City of Robbinsdale relating to the 2021-2022 insurance renewal and not involve the purchase of excess liability coverage.

- I. Motion to authorize the City Manager and Finance Director to issue a Purchase Order to St. Croix recreation of Stillwater, MN for the purchase of new playground equipment for Lakeview Terrace Park, including borders, surfacing and installation for the amount of \$160,323.10.

Presentation From Interim Superintendent – Robbinsdale Area Schools: Stephanie Burrage

14. Burrage introduced herself and stated she supports Robbinsdale and is there to answer questions if council members had any.
15. Member Webb thanked Burrage for coming to the meeting.
16. Mayor Blonigan stated his appreciation for Robbinsdale area schools and praised programs in the area.

Public Hearing A: On-Sale 3.2% Malt Beverage w/ Sunday Sales License for Mama Lupita's Tacqueria Café & Grill

17. Leslie gave the background information into the license request.
18. Mayor Blonigan opened the public hearing. No one spoke.
19. **Member Backen MOVED, and Mayor Blonigan seconded to close the public hearing. A roll call was taken. Ayes: Webb, Selman, Backen, Kline, Mayor Blonigan; Nays: None. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**
20. Jeovani Gomez, owner of Mama Lupita's thanked the council for consideration.
21. Mayor Blonigan stated he appreciated Gomez being an owner of two restaurants in the community and invited Gomez to speak about his businesses.
22. Gomez stated he is also the owner of El Toro Restaurant and has been a business owner in the area for a long time. Went over restaurant offerings and hours of operation.
23. **Member Kline MOVED, and Member Selman seconded to approve the issuance of the On-Sale 3.2% Malt Beverage w/ Sunday Sales license to Jeovani Alkiviadis dba Mama Lupita's Tacqueria Café & Grill. A roll call was taken. Ayes: Webb, Selman, Backen, Kline, Mayor Blonigan; Nays: None. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

Public Hearing B: Permit – Chickens – 3925 Scott Avenue North

24. Leslie gave the report on the license request.
25. Mayor Blonigan opened the public hearing.
26. Resident Heidi Miller reviewed how they learned to keep chickens as they previously had 2 and are now ready to try more.
27. **Member Kline MOVED, and Member Webb seconded to close the public hearing. A roll call was taken. Ayes: Webb, Selman, Backen, Kline, Mayor Blonigan; Nays: None. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**
28. Member Kline inquired into the amount of chicken permits in the city.
29. Glick stated there are a handful of residents in the city with chickens. Licenses are only needed for households with more than two chickens.
30. **Member Selman MOVED, and Member Webb seconded to approve the request for 6 chickens at 3925 Scott Avenue North with the conditions listed in the report. A roll call was taken. Ayes: Webb, Selman, Backen, Kline, Mayor Blonigan; Nays: None. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

Public Hearing C: Improvement and Assessment Hearing for the Reconstruction of Lee Avenue between 36th Avenue and Railroad Avenue, Railroad Avenue between Lee Avenue and 39 ½ Avenue and 37th Avenue between Lee Avenue and Major Avenue – City Project 38121

31. McCoy gave the report on the assessment process along with the notification process and the consultation timeline. McCoy stated a small amount of residents had concerns mostly regarding parking issues. McCoy and staff worked with residents on solutions to these issues. McCoy reviewed lot sizes and recommended reduced assessment amounts for triangular lots.
32. Member Selman thanked McCoy for email response to resident over various concerns.
33. Mayor Blonigan asked McCoy if this project is being done early due to closeness to water treatment plant.
34. McCoy responded all streets need to be done due to aging infrastructure throughout the city. The work needs to be done before failure in order to avoid higher costs in the future.
35. Mayor Blonigan opened the public hearing.
36. Kara Brown, 3611 Lee Avenue: Brown had three questions for McCoy:

- What was the initial outreach and where was the messaging posted?
 - How were assessment costs estimated and what was the max assessment amount?
 - When the work is being done and water meters are being worked on, will there be surprise costs associated during the overall work?
37. Carol Larson & Joe Capistrant, 3711 Lee Avenue: Larson stated concerns over loss of trees in the area due to the reconstruction. Larson also stated the baseball field nearby is highly used and it is not fair the costs are only being passed onto residents of Lee Avenue. Larson's final comment was that the Lee Square area seemed to have a small assessment amount.
38. Capistrant brought up the concern that only Lee Avenue is being assessed at the moment and that only above ground work is being assessed. Capistrant was concerned that there may be additional homeowner costs due to proximity of the water treatment plant and homes. Also had additional parking concerns.
39. McCoy reviewed the outreach plans and community engagement process as well as the assessment estimate process. McCoy further stated the plan for the water meters will be to bill residents their meter report actual cost. McCoy also stated that homes near the plant will not have a significantly different water chemistry and the water will go to a main feed before coming back to the homes.
40. McCoy acknowledged the loss of trees in the area being unavoidable due to safety issues when digging deep into the ground. There will be research done into re-vegetating the area. McCoy further stated the city will use the same standardized formula for future frontages. McCoy also indicated that the utility enterprise funds fund the underground elements of the project.
41. **Member Selman MOVED, and Member Webb seconded to close the public hearing. A roll call was taken. Ayes: Webb, Selman, Backen, Kline, Mayor Blonigan; Nays: None. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**
42. **Member Selman MOVED, and Mayor Blonigan seconded to approve the resolution ordering the improvements of Lee Avenue. A roll call was taken. Ayes: Webb, Selman, Backen, Kline, Mayor Blonigan; Nays: None. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**
43. **Member Selman MOVED, and Mayor Blonigan seconded to approve the resolution certifying assessments for Lee Avenue with a 10% reduction in fees for residents.**
44. Member Selman asked the council to approve the reduction of costs by 10% to Lee Avenue residents. Member Selman he is making this request because the residents around this area have put up with a lot of maintenance in recent years.

45. Mayor Blonigan indicated that he would not support this because he did not want to compare suffering between neighborhoods. Further stated that there is value to sticking with precedent. Mayor Blonigan offered a compromise of delaying payments for a year since it may not be finished in 2021.
46. Member Kline indicated that reducing the fees would set a bad precedence and could affect future budgets.
47. Member Webb empathized with residents but stated it's hard to measure inconvenience.
48. **A roll call was taken. Ayes: Selman Nays: Webb, Backen, Kline, Mayor Blonigan. The motion failed.**
49. **Mayor Blonigan MOVED, and Member Webb seconded to approve the resolution certifying assessments for Lee Avenue including adjustments for the three lots discussed in the staff report and adding one year to the dates in the resolution to allow more time for payment and start of interest. A roll call was taken. Ayes: Webb, Backen, Kline, Mayor Blonigan; Nays: Selman. The motion carried.**

New Business A: Community Garden Relocation

50. Steinbach gave the report.
51. Member Selman recommended tabling the discussion until they are able to analyze any potential flooding issues in the area. Member Selman was concerned an unsightly community garden in a highly visible area would not be good for the city.
52. Steinbach stated if the discussion were to be tabled, she would prefer a specific date.
53. Member Selman suggested first meeting in September.
54. Member Webb asked what kind of community feedback was given.
55. Steinbach stated she reached out to past gardeners and the positive feedback was overwhelming to bring back the community garden.
56. Member Backen stated that the Bunny Store was often flooded with water and was concerned it could happen again.
57. Mayor Blonigan suggested to approve this now and get a report in September on progress and water issues.
58. Member Webb suggested to approve it now making the council able to make adjustments later.

59. Member Kline stated the area is unsightly now as a vacant lot and a community garden would be a big improvement. Member Kline stated it would make sense to start now.
60. Member Selman reiterated he would be more comfortable waiting until September because it would give the council more time for analysis and feedback.
61. Glick suggested gardeners could plant flowers around the edges to make the garden less unsightly.
62. McCoy reviewed drainage information for the area.
63. Steinbach gave insight into how the garden would help the community and who would benefit from it. Steinbach also talked about her commitment to upkeep with the garden.
64. Member Selman requested further plans and details. Wants to know if this would be the best location.
65. Glick went over options for possible future community garden locations. Recommends that the council budget this move for the 2022 budget.
66. **Member Kline MOVED, and Member Backen seconded to include the move of the Community Garden from Mickle Park to 3606 Lake Drive as a budget discussion item for 2022. A roll call was taken. Ayes: Webb, Selman, Backen, Kline, Mayor Blonigan; Nays: None. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

**New Business B: Request to Approve Demolition of Commercial Structure:
Former Royal Pet – 3933 West Broadway**

67. Pearson gave the report.
68. Member Kline requested Pearson explain the reasoning behind revoking the resolution and changing city code.
69. Pearson stated that in order to make future changes, any resolution needs attributed to an address needs to be revoked. Pearson further indicated the city code change would make it so council would not need to review demolitions in the future and would be up to city staff.
70. It was recommended to combine all three actions into one motion.
71. **Member Selman MOVED, and Member Kline seconded to waive the reading and approve the resolution shown in Exhibit 1 APPROVING DEMOLITION OF THE BUILDING AT 3933 WEST BROADWAY. The motion always waives the reading and approves the resolution shown in Exhibit 2 REVOKING RESOLUTION 4640. The motion also directs staff to initiate the ordinance amendment process with the Planning Commission to repeal City Code section 400.01, Subd. 4. A roll call was**

taken. Ayes: Webb, Selman, Backen, Kline, Mayor Blonigan; Nays: None. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS A: Motion to Approve Disbursement Requests for Period Ending 3/16/2021

72. Moved by Selman second by Webb to approve the disbursement requests for period ending 3/16/2021. A roll call was taken: Ayes: Webb, Selman, Backen, Kline, Blonigan; Nays: None. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS B: Appointment of Council Members to Bottineau Steering Committee

73. Glick explained the purpose of the Bottineau Steering Committee and asked who on the council would want to volunteer. Member Backen and member Kline offer to volunteer.
74. Mayor Blonigan MOVED, and Member Selman seconded to appoint Members Backen and Kline to the Bottineau Steering Committee. A roll call was taken: Ayes: Webb, Selman, Backen, Kline, Blonigan; Nays: None. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Administrative Reports:

75. Glick requested the council to direct residents to the Blue Line website if they want to give any feedback about the Blue Line plans: www.bluelineext.org. Glick stressed that community feedback is an important part of the process.

Council General Communications:

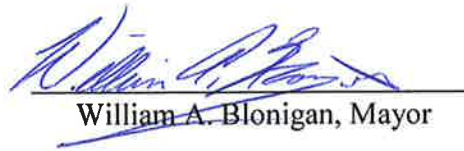
76. Member Selman emphasized the importance of the community weighing in on the light rail line going down Bottineau Boulevard, essentially splitting the city in half. Member Selman stated he is getting his first vaccine dose and encourages residents to get theirs when it is their turn in line. Member Selman also stated he had his water meter replaced and was happy with how smooth the process was.
77. Mayor Blonigan thanked staff for suggesting the Public Art Grant. Mayor Blonigan also thanked the Parks and Recreation Commission for finding a way to save money on the upcoming new playground that was approved.

Adjournment

78. Member Selman MOVED, seconded by Member Kline to adjourn the meeting at 10 p.m. A roll call was taken: Ayes: Webb, Selman, Backen, Kline, Mayor Blonigan; Nays: None. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.



Dustin Leslie, City Clerk



William A. Blonigan, Mayor