

City of Robbinsdale
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
April 5, 2022
Meeting No. 7

CALL TO ORDER

1. Mayor William A. Blonigan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

2. Present: Selman, Backen, Kline, Mayor Blonigan
Absent: Webb
Staff: Marcia Glick, City Manager; Dustin Leslie, City Clerk; Richard McCoy, Public Works Director; Rick Pearson, Community Development Coordinator; Guy Dorholt, Fire Chief; Stephan Papiz, Forester.

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. Patrick Bothum – 4044 Perry Ave N: Resident stated Member Kline looks at his phone a lot during meetings and would like him to stop as it is disrespectful to the residents he represents.
5. Carol Kile – 3911 Welcome Ave N: Resident shared concerns about her high utility bill with Council members. Resident stated she received a \$1,100 bill for 52,000 units of water used from a water leak. Kile stated the employee who would send high usage emails was out of the office and she was not informed of high water usage in a timely manner. Resident also stated she received a credit toward the bill but wanted more done.
6. Regan Murphy – 4001 Orchard Ave N: Resident asked Member Kline to consider resignation and spoke about Brooklyn Park censuring one of their Council members and asked Robbinsdale City Council to do the same via resolution. Resident also asked for an update on the insurance claim against Member Kline for damaging a police vehicle. Resident finally stated that the recall petition process will begin soon as he has dropped off the petition at City Hall.
7. Charles Austinson – 4360 Robin Ave N: Resident stated he was involved in a car accident in the city in which the other person did not have insurance. Resident is a lawyer and stated the other person should have been charged with a misdemeanor but the officer chose not to charge them. Resident wanted Council to address the officer's behavior in not charging them.
8. Mayor Blonigan and Glick stated they would follow up with the Police Department and the Prosecutor's Office for Austinson.

9. In regards to Kile's utility issue, Glick stated she would follow up with Finance Department. Glick stated the City does have a system that reports water usage by the hour and normally letters are sent out more often. However, for a period of time, multiple staff members were out due to sickness which meant the usage could not be properly monitored.
10. In regards to Murphy's question on the insurance claim, the insurance company did forward the restitution letter to Member Kline and it is going through the process. As for the censuring, Glick stated the City is looking at updating their Code of Ethics policy and Standards of Behavior.
11. For Austinson, Glick spoke about the Hennepin County prosecution process and will look into the situation more and follow up with the resident.

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 5, 2022 MEETING AGENDA

12. Leslie reported the following changes to the agenda:
 - Updated license list for Consent Item C.
 - A copy of the Annual Fire Report for Council Members to follow along.
 - Voucher Report for Other Business B.
13. **Member Selman MOVED, seconded by Member Kline to approve the April 5, 2022 Agenda with the updates given to Council by the City Clerk. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried. Webb absent.**

CONSENT AGENDA

14. Mayor Blonigan removed items H and I from the consent agenda for further consideration.
15. **Member Selman MOVED, seconded by Member Backen to approve the remainder of the April 5, 2022 Consent Agenda as listed below. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried. Webb Absent.**
 - A. Motion to approve and order placed on file minutes of the City Council meeting:
 - City Council Meeting minutes on 3/22/22
 - Special City Council Assessor Work Session minutes on 3/22/22
 - Special City Council Work Session minutes on 3/22/22
 - Special City Council Work Session minutes on 3/23/22
 - B. Motion to receive advisory commission minutes:
 - Human Rights Commission meeting minutes on 2/24/22
 - Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Commission minutes on 2/22/22
 - C. Motion to approve issuance of licenses dated 4/5/22.

- D. 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 2022-2023 insurance renewal and not involve the purchase of excess liability coverage.
- E. Motion to acknowledge the Deputy Registrar's financial reports for the month of February 2022.
- F. Motion to acknowledge the Robbinsdale Wine & Spirits financial reports for the month of February 2022.
- G. Accept Quotes for Replacement of Dump Truck and Associated Equipment – City Project 8119.
 - 1. Motion to authorize the City Manager and Finance Director to issue a purchase order to Astleford International Trucks of Minneapolis, Minnesota for the purchase of a 2022 International HV507 SFA truck cab and chassis for the amount of \$101,324.20 + tax and license. The license shall be obtained from the Robbinsdale Deputy Registrar.
 - 2. Motion to authorize the City Manager and Finance Director to issue a purchase order to Crysteel Truck Equipment of Fridley, Minnesota for body and equipment for this truck for a net amount of \$103,096.00 which includes trading existing unit #141 for \$22,500.00.
- H. (Removed).
- I. (Removed).

**CONSENT ITEM H: APPROVAL OF TRAVAIL KITCHEN AND AMUSEMENT
PLANNED 2022 EVENTS**

- 16. Mayor Blonigan stated that since Travail is asking special permissions for parking, he would like to require their employees to park away from the business the day-before, the day-of, and the day-after each event. Mayor Blonigan stated this would help with the parking situation in the area.
- 17. **Mayor Blonigan MOVED, seconded by Member Selman, for discussion, to approve Travail Kitchen and Amusement planned 2022 events on their parking lot (Hubbard Avenue side) at 4131 West Broadway meeting conditions listed in the memo as well as requiring employees to park at the public parking lot at 42nd Ave and West Broadway with the planned dates listed in the memo.**
- 18. Member Selman stated Mayor Blonigan's additional ask was appropriate but was unsure because there would be no way to enforce the additional requirement.
- 19. Members Backen and Kline stated they would not support the measure but would be supportive of asking Travail employees to park at 42nd Ave and West Broadway.

20. A roll call was taken. Ayes: Selman, Mayor Blonigan; Nays: Backen, Kline; Absent: Webb. The vote was 2-2 and the motion failed.

21. Member Backen **MOVED**, seconded by Member Kline to approve Travail Kitchen and Amusement planned 2022 events on their parking lot (Hubbard Avenue side) at 4131 West Broadway meeting conditions listed in the memo with the planned dates listed in the memo. Staff is also directed to ask Travail to assume staff park further away preserving closer parking. A roll call was taken. Ayes: Selman, Backen, Kline; Nays: Mayor Blonigan; Absent: Webb. The vote was 3-1 and the motion passed.

CONSENT ITEM I: 4140 WEST BROADWAY – ACE HARDWARE SEASONAL GARDEN CENTER REQUEST

22. Mayor Blonigan stated the Council resolution appeared to not match the recommendation according to the Planning Commission minutes. Pearson stated a clause from the Planning Commission was accidentally omitted in the Council resolution. Glick noted errors in the draft Planning Commission minutes and also add the condition stating “handicapped parking must be maintained at the rear entrance” after the “Now, Therefore, Be It Further Resolved” clause. Glick also noted the “and” after the “Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved” clause.

23. Member Backen **MOVED**, seconded by Member Selman to waive the reading and order the adoption of Resolution #7963 “A RESOLUTION APPROVING VARIANCE REQUEST V22-1 TO ALLOW THE OUTDOOR STORAGE AND DISPLAY AREA TO EXCEED 25% OF THE GROSS FLOOR AREA OF THE PRINCIPAL USE BUILDING AND DISPLACE THREE PARKING SPACES AT 4140 AND 4142 WEST BROADWAY AND CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT REQUEST C22-1 OFF-SITE PARKING AT 4139 LAKELAND AVE N. IN SUPPORT OF 4140 AND 4142 WEST BROADWAY” with the corrections noted by Glick. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

PRESENTATION A: FORESTRY REPORT AND ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION

24. Papiz introduced himself to Council and gave report highlighting: Emerald Ash Borer infestations and treatment, tree pruning, tree removals, prairie raingardens, invasive and noxious weed removals, and tree planting. Papiz stated Robbinsdale has once again been declared a Tree City USA for the 43rd year in a row. Papiz also stated the City would be celebrating Arbor Day on April 30th at Lakeview Terrace Park near at the playground near the south parking lot.

25. Member Selman thanked Papiz for doing a great job in educating Council and the community about trees.

26. Member Selman asked Papiz to be mindful about trees that grow fast on the boulevard as the branches can grow over the sidewalks.

27. Member Backen thanked Papiz for his work and was happy Robbinsdale once again was proclaimed a Tree City USA.
28. Mayor Blonigan urged residents to consider treating their own trees for emerald ash borer.
29. **Member Backen MOVED, seconded by Member Kline to proclaim April 30th as Arbor Day in the City of Robbinsdale. A roll call was taken. Ayes: Selman, Backen, Kline, Mayor Blonigan; Nays: None; Absent: Webb. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

PRESENTATION B: ANNUAL FIRE CHIEF REPORT

30. Chief Dorholt introduced himself to Council and gave the report highlighting: major fire events, call volumes, call types, administrative tasks, education/training, and recruitment.
31. During the discussion about call volumes, Member Selman asked if COVID affected call volumes up or down. Dorholt stated call volumes went down in the first few months of COVID before going back up to normal levels. Mayor Blonigan and Dorholt also discussed how North Memorial works with the Police and Fire Departments.
32. During the discussion about equipment replacement, Member Selman asked if old parts were thrown away or donated when they are end-of-life. Dorholt stated that throughout the country, it is standard to discard parts that are end-of-life.
33. Dorholt gave the Council a save-the-date for the Police and Fire Public Safety Open House taking place on Saturday, August 13. Encouraged the Council and community to participate.
34. Member Selman thanked Dorholt and stated he was able to use lessons learned from a previous open house to help his neighbor.
35. Mayor Blonigan spoke about wages and benefits afforded to fire fighters.
36. Member Selman asked Dorholt if the department was recruiting women and people of color. Dorholt stated the department does reach out and recruit people from diverse backgrounds.
37. Dorholt wrapped up his presentation by thanking fire fighters and their families for their sacrifices as well as thanking staff and the community.
38. Mayor Blonigan thanked Dorholt for his service and congratulated him for having such a well-run Fire Department.
39. Member Kline thanked Dorholt for his service and stated he was excited to bring his son to the upcoming Public Safety Open House event.

40. Member Backen thanked Dorholt and stated his department is a model for nearby cities.

NEW BUSINESS A: AFFIRM CITY MANAGER FINALIST

41. Mayor Blonigan moved this item ahead of the public hearing due to the hiring consultant being in the audience.

42. Dr. Craig Waldron introduced himself as the City Manager search consultant who has been working with staff and council on the search. Waldron spoke about the recruitment and interview process. Waldron noted that the references for the finalist came back very strong.

43. Mayor Blonigan reviewed Dr. Waldron's credentials and thanked him for his services in the City Manager search. Mayor Blonigan named Tim Sandvik as the finalist and reviewed his experience.

44. Member Backen thanked Waldron for his help in the search. Member Backen stated he began the process unsure of the quality of candidates the city would receive due to the number of openings throughout the metro. Member Backen stated he was pleased with the group of candidates.

45. Member Selman MOVED, seconded by Member Backen to affirm that Tim Sandvik is the finalist for the City Manager position.

46. Mayor Blonigan spoke about the importance of the City Manager position and how it is the only position the City Council hires. Glick added that the background check for Sandvik was complete.

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

48. Glick stated two members of the Council are needed to serve on the City Manager Contract Review Committee. Member Selman and Mayor Blonigan both volunteered.

49. Member Backen MOVED, seconded by Member Kline to appoint Member Selman and Mayor Blonigan to the City Manager Contract Review Committee along with Consultant Dr. Craig Waldron. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried. Webb absent.

50. Waldron reviewed the next steps in the contract process and thanked Council.

PUBLIC HEARING A: IMPROVEMENT AND ASSESSMENT HEARING FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF REGENT AVENUE BETWEEN COUNTY ROAD 9 (42ND AVENUE) AND THE CUL-DE-SAC BY THE BNSF RAILROAD – CITY PROJECT 43922

51. McCoy gave the report highlighting: construction notes, connecting water main to new water treatment plant, installation of new trail, outreach efforts and community engagement, and funding sources.
52. Member Backen asked why two properties on the assessment roll and a zero-dollar assessment. McCoy stated one property is on West Broadway and not impacted by street work. The other is on the south side of County Road 9 and not impacted by street work.
53. Mayor Blonigan opened the public hearing. No one spoke.
54. **Member Backen MOVED, seconded by Member Kline to close the public hearing. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried. Webb absent.**
55. **Member Backen MOVED, seconded by Member Kline to waive the reading and order the adoption of Resolution #7964 “A RESOLUTION ORDERING THE IMPROVEMENT OF PORTIONS OF REGENT AVENUE INCLUDING PREPARATIONS OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE SAME – CITY PROJECT NO. 43922.” The vote was unanimous and the motion carried. Webb absent.**
56. **Member Backen MOVED, seconded by Member Kline to waive the reading and order the adoption of Resolution #7965 “A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR CITY PROJECT NO. 43922 – PORTIONS OF REGENT AVENUE.” The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS B: 1st READING – FIREWORKS UPDATE IN CITY CODE

57. Glick reviewed the changes requested and the background into the request. Mayor Blonigan distributed a list of changes to the Council which Glick reviewed. Glick stated most of the changes should be fine but would check with City Attorney on changing definitions as those may be identical to state statute.
58. Member Kline stated he was supportive of the changes and that fireworks are the number one concern he hears about during summer months.
59. **Mayor Blonigan MOVED, seconded by Member Kline to Hold the first reading of Ordinance #22-06 “AN ORDINANCE REPEALING SECTIONS 1150.01, 1150.03, AND 1150.05 OF THE ROBBINSDALE CITY CODE AND AMENDING SECTIONS 1150.06, 1150.07, AND 1150.09 RELATING TO FIREWORKS.” The vote was unanimous and the motion carried. Webb Absent.**

NEW BUSINESS C: PLAZA POLICY UPDATE

60. Glick reviewed the downtown plaza policy and gave background information into the request from The Birdhouse to use the space for outdoor dining. Glick also reviewed the process for amending the policy and asked Council for direction.
61. Member Backen stated he was in favor of updating the policy but did not yet know specific updates and requested staff to gather more information. Member Backen also spoke about a placemaking report which was done years ago regarding adding activities at the plaza.
62. Member Kline stated he agreed with Member Backen. Member Kline stated he wanted to help businesses but also be mindful of public parks. Both Council members agreed there should be a balance between the two.
63. Member Selman requested this issue be put on the agenda of the next regular work session. The Council came to a consensus to speak about this issue at the next regular work session.

OTHER BUSINESS A: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE 2023-2024 BUDGET CALENDAR

64. Member Selman asked for the August 16th meeting be moved to August 23rd. Other Council members agreed with that change.
65. Member Backen spoke briefly about the budget process and the timeline.
66. **Member Selman MOVED, seconded by Member Backen to adopt the proposed budget calendar with the August 16th date being changed to August 23rd. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried. Webb absent.**

OTHER BUSINESS B: DISBURSEMENT REQUESTS

67. **Member Selman MOVED, seconded by Member Backen to approve disbursement requests for period ending 4/5/2022. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

68. Leslie stated election season approaches and that the City will be advertising for election judges soon.
69. Glick stated the REDA will tour a newly constructed home on April 12th prior to the REDA meeting.
70. Glick wished Member Webb a speedy recovery.

COUNCIL GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

71. Member Selman wished Member Webb a speedy recovery.

72. Member Selman summarized comments from the Opportunity for the Public portion of the meeting.
73. Member Backen stated he was sending prayers to Member Webb for a fast recovery.
74. Member Kline spoke about the goals session with Council members and staff.
75. Member Kline spoke about a meeting of the Bottineau Steering Committee in which he attended.
76. Mayor Blonigan spoke about the competency of city staff and thanked them for their work.
77. Glick noted City Hall would be closed for an hour from noon-1pm on Wednesday, April 13 for an employee recognition event.

Adjournment:

- 78. Member Backen MOVED, seconded by Member Kline to adjourn the meeting at 9:52 p.m. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**


Dustin Leslie, City Clerk
William A. Blonigan, Mayor