

City of Robbinsdale
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
April 18, 2023
Meeting No. 8

CALL TO ORDER

1. Mayor William A. Blonigan called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

2. Present: Murphy, Webb, Parisian, Wagner, Mayor Blonigan
Staff: Tim Sandvik, City Manager; Kayla Kirtz, Assistant to City Manager – Communications

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. No one spoke and the forum was closed.

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 18, 2023 MEETING AGENDA

4. Sandvik reported the following updates to the agenda:
 - Addition of Consent Item I: Miller Concessions at Hy-Vee
 - Addition of Consent Item J: City Clerk Appointment
 - Addition of complete voucher report for Other Business B: Disbursement Requests
5. **Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Member Webb to approve the April 18, 2023 Agenda. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

CONSENT AGENDA

6. Member Blonigan removed item E from the Consent Agenda for further consideration.
7. Member Murphy removed item G from the Consent Agenda for further consideration.
8. **Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Member Webb to approve the April 18, 2023 Consent Agenda with the exception of items E and G which were pulled for further consideration. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**
 - A. Motion to approve and order placed on file minutes of the City Council meeting:
 - City Council Meeting minutes on 4/4/23
 - City Council Work Session meeting minutes on 4/11/23
 - B. Motion to receive advisory commission minutes:
 - Senior Commission Meeting minutes on 11/7/22
 - C. Motion to approve issuance of licenses dated 4/13/23

- D. Approval of Credit Card Charges and Payment – 2/11/23 through 3/10/23 for expense for City operations.
- E. (Removed).
- F. By motion, approve the submittal of non-binding grant application for the National Fitness Campaign fitness court.
- G. (Removed).
- H. By motion, waive the reading and adopt the resolution approving the final plat for Ridgcrest Marketplace and authorizing its execution by the Mayor and Clerk.

CONSENT ITEM E – AUTHORIZE MAYOR BLONIGAN AND CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AMENDMENT #1 TO JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT BETWEEN HENNEPIN COUNTY AND CITY OF ROBBINSDALE AND THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT

- 9. Blonigan provided grammatical changes to the amendment.
- 10. **Member Blonigan MOVED, seconded by Member Murphy to execute AMENDMENT #1 TO JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT BETWEEN HENNEPIN COUNTY AND CITY OF ROBBINSDALE AND THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT with the aforementioned grammatical changes.**

CONSENT ITEM G – APPROVE LUCAS HARRIS’ NOMINATION TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

- 11. Member Murphy thanked Lucas Harris for volunteering for the commission.
- 12. **Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Member Parisian to approve Lucas Harris’ nomination to the Planning Commission as the Ward 1 Commissioner effective immediately**

PRESENTATION A – GOAL SETTING SESSION

- 13. Sandvik summarized the results of the goal setting session.
- 14. Member Murphy noted adding the discussion of a community space under the “Complete facilities study” bullet point.
- 15. Member Webb stated that she liked the framework and simplicity of the goals sheet.
- 16. Mayor Blonigan noted that the facilitator was efficient.

17. Member Parisian suggested that the Council quarterly or annually review the goals in a formal manner. Mayor Blonigan noted that staff used to provide monthly updates on goals progress.
18. Member Wagner noted that staff and Council are already making efforts towards achieving the goals.
19. Mayor Blonigan clarified Council interest in adding a bullet point about the community space, and treating the goals sheet as a living document that is intended to be updated.
20. Member Murphy agreed that regular updates at work sessions would be helpful.

PUBLIC HEARING A – PERMIT - DUCKS, 4001 ORCHARD AVENUE N

21. Sandvik gave the report.
22. Mayor Blonigan noted that the Police Chief, Community Development Coordinator, Code Enforcement Official and Building Official recommend approval of the application and that the presented plans comply with zoning and city code requirements.
23. Member Murphy was not present at the dais for the public hearing.
24. Mayor Blonigan opened the public hearing.
25. Cormac Murphy – 4001 Orchard Avenue North: Murphy noted the two ducks he owns at the property already and the benefits of having two additional ducks.
26. Mayor Blonigan asked about protecting the ducks from predators. Murphy explained that he places the ducks in a coop at night to protect from predators.
27. Michael Lutz – 4000 Perry Avenue North: Lutz stated that he lives in the property across the alley from Murphy and he expressed his support for the permit. He likes the ducks and they do not cause any problems. Murphy takes good care of them.
28. **Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Member Parisian to close the public hearing. A roll call was taken and the motion passed 4 to 0.**
29. Ayes: Webb, Wagner, Parisian, Mayor Blonigan
30. Nays: None.
31. Member Murphy was not present at the dais for the vote.
32. **Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Member Webb to approve the request for four (4) magpie ducks at 4001 Orchard Avenue North subject to the conditions listed in the memo. A roll call was taken and the motion passed 4 to 0.**

- 33. Ayes: Webb, Parisian, Wagner, Blonigan
- 34. Nays: None.
- 35. Member Murphy was not present at the dais for the vote.

PUBLIC HEARING B – ROBBINSDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY MANUAL

- 36. Sandvik gave the report.
- 37. Mayor Blonigan opened the meeting for public comment.
- 38. Nicky Leingang – 2939 Ewing Avenue N: Resident stated that the policy should have narrower guidelines for use and accountability in signing off on drone usage.
- 39. Jane Montemayor – 2664 Meridian Drive: Resident expressed concern for warrantless use of drones and encouraged maintaining positive relationships with public safety.
- 40. Sandvik recognized the public comments and recommend that Council accept the policy as-is.
- 41. Member Murphy thanked the residents for attending the meeting and providing feedback, and explained the process of reviewing resident comments at a prior work session. Murphy expressed his support for the policy as written.
- 42. Member Wagner read two emails he received from residents about the policy.
- 43. Mayor Blonigan expressed his agreement with Member Murphy and noted safeguards written into the policy.
- 44. Member Webb asked staff to speak to the public about how the City would act if the policy were to be violated. Sandvik noted that the policy involves privacy concerns and data practices, and the seriousness of the policy will be handled accordingly, following laws and regulations.
- 45. Member Wagner noted that he does not support the language in the policy as-is, and suggested a broader Council discussion about outdated ordinances. Wagner would like to see the policy updated with concerns brought forth by residents.
- 46. Member Parisian asked about the Council's ability to amend the policy in the future. Sandvik clarified that state statute does not authorize Council to approve the policy. Council can only accept the policy.

47. Member Murphy asked what action Council can take to suspend the drone program. Sandvik noted that he would take direction from the City Attorney to determine that and will look into it.

48. Mayor Blonigan thanked the residents for speaking.

OTHER BUSINESS A – SCHEDULE SPECIAL WORK SESSION FOR 6 PM ON MAY 16, 2023 TO DISCUSS DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (DEI) EFFORTS

49. A Special Work Session was scheduled for 6 pm on May 16, 2023 at Robbinsdale City Hall to discuss DEI efforts.

OTHER BUSINESS B - DISBURSEMENT REQUESTS FOR PERIOD ENDING 4/18/2023

50. Member Parisian **MOVED**, seconded by Member Webb to approve disbursement requests for period ending 4/18/2023. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

51. Sandvik recapped the Charter Commission meeting from last week. The Commission scheduled another meeting on July 13 at 7:00 p.m.

52. Sandvik noted upcoming summer events, programming, and employment opportunities.

53. Sandvik noted the upcoming Human Rights Commission event on Sunday, April 23 at 2:00 pm in partnership with the Robbinsdale Historical Society.

COUNCIL GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

54. Member Murphy noted the Earth Day Trash Pick Up on Saturday April 22 at Robbinsdale Middle School and the Arbor Day Celebration on Saturday April 29 at Lee Park. Member Murphy noted that the City of Robbinsdale's 130th birthday is April 19, 2023.

55. Member Webb noted the Table Talk at The Birdhouse with Mayor Blonigan next Tuesday. Mayor Blonigan stated he would not be available for the event and that Member Webb will host the event alone.

56. Member Parisian highlighted the Robbinsdale Area Schools Art Crawl happening along downtown, and thanked the downtown businesses displaying local students art.

57. Member Wagner thanked the Robbinsdale Fire Department for the meeting and tour of the facility earlier in the evening, and thanked them for their service.

58. Mayor Blonigan recapped the final Partners in Energy meeting that occurred on April 6 and thanked the Energy Action Team members. Mayor Blonigan noted the draft plan that will be presented to Council soon.

59. Mayor Blonigan provided a legislature update.

60. Mayor Blonigan advertised the upcoming Human Rights Commission/Robbinsdale Historical Society event.

Adjournment:

61. **Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Member Wagner to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**


Chase Peterson-Etem, City Clerk


William A. Blonigan, Mayor