

**City of Robbinsdale**  
**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**June 6, 2023**  
**Meeting No. 11**

**CALLED TO ORDER**

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

**ROLL CALL**

- |             |                                                                                                           |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2. Present: | Wagner, Murphy, Webb, Parisian, Mayor Blonigan                                                            |
| Absent:     | None                                                                                                      |
| Staff:      | Tim Sandvik, City Manager; Chase Peterson-Etem, City Clerk; Officers of the Robbinsdale Police Department |

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

3. Mayor Blonigan opened the floor to members of the public.
4. Brenda Remus, 3614 Abbott Ave N., thanked the City Manager and the Park and Rec team for responding to her request.

**APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 6, 2023 MEETING AGENDA**

5. Peterson-Etem noted there is one addition to the agenda tonight.
  - Addition to Other Business Item A adding the disbursement voucher report.
6. **Member Murphy MOVED, second by member Webb to approve the City Council agenda for June 6, 2023. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

7. **Member Wagner MOVED, second by member Parisian to approve the consent agenda. This 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 of May 16, 2023.
    - Work session meeting minutes of May 9, 2023.
    - Special work session meeting minutes of May 16, 2023.
  - B. Motion to receive advisory commission minutes:
    - Park & Recreation Commission meeting minutes of April 25, 2023.
    - Human Rights Commission meeting minutes of April 27, 2023.
  - C. Motion to approve issuance of licenses dated June 6, 2023.
  - D. Motion to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 23-08 "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 510.15 AND 515.01 OF THE CITY CODE MAKING SOLAR ENERGY DEVICES AN ACCESSORY USE ON PRINCIPAL AND ACCESSORY STRUCTURES AND IN REAR YARDS AND CREATING AN EXCEPTION TO HEIGHT LIMITATIONS"
  - E. Motion to approve the City Manager's evaluation, effective May 25, 2023, and

advance the salary from Step 2 to Step 4 of the established City Manager pay scale.

- F. Motion to approve request for Robbinsdale Whiz Bang Days activities and location from Thursday, July 6, to Sunday, July 9, 2023.
- G. Motion to acknowledge the Deputy Registrar's financial reports for the month of April, 2023.
- H. Motion to acknowledge the Robbinsdale Wine & Spirits' financial reports for the month of April, 2023.
- I. Motion to authorize the City of Robbinsdale to adopt the updated Safety Manual as prepared by the Employee Safety Committee.
- J. Motion to acknowledge the Investment Report for the quarter ended March 2023.

**PRESENTATION A: POLICE OFFICER SWEARING IN FOR CAPTAIN CHAD STENSrud**

- 8. Chief Foley recognized officers that had been previously sworn in at the police station before introduced Captain Chad Stensrud. He described Stensrud's background and requested the mayor officially swear in Captain Stensrud.
- 9. Mayor Blonigan administered the oath.

**PRESENTATION B: PROCLAMATION TO RECOGNIZE JUNE 19, 2023 AND JUNETEENTH FREEDOM DAY IN THE CITY OF ROBBINSDALE**

- 10. Sandvik stated this proclamation is something the City has observed the last few years and noted the council had comments prepared.
- 11. Mayor Blonigan summarized the proclamation.
- 12. **Member Webb MOVED, seconded by Parisian to Proclaim June 19, 2023 as Juneteenth Freedom Day in the City of Robbinsdale.**
- 13. Member Murphy stated he is happy to support this proclamation and is glad the City of Robbinsdale as well as the State are recognizing this as a Holiday. He noted this is one more step towards equity, but there is still more to be done.
- 14. Member Webb acknowledged that this proclamation validates that oppression is still in existence and we still have a lot of work left to do in this nation. She recognized that cities and states are starting to take accountability for the devastation that black people experienced in the country and reemphasized there is more work to be done.
- 15. Member Parisian stated she is happy and grateful to be in a community and on a council that is making this proclamation. She noted the City encourages all community members to become more knowledgeable of this recognition and to find ways to recognize and acknowledge Juneteenth here, and in our community.

16. A roll call was taken and the motion passed 5-0.

17. Ayes: Wagner, Murphy, Webb, Parisian, Mayor Blonigan.

18. Nays: None.

**PRESENTATION C: PROCLAMATION TO PROCLAIM JUNE AS LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, INTERSEX, ASEXUAL, AND THE COUNTLESS AFFIRMATIVE WAYS IN WHICH PEOPLE CHOOSE TO SELF-IDENTIFY (LGBTQIA+) PRIDE MONTH**

19. Sandvik noted staff is happy to bring this proclamation forward and recognizes this inclusionary work is an important part of DEI efforts the City is working towards.

20. Mayor Blonigan summarized the proclamation and stated he supports this.

21. Member Webb stated this proclamation, along with the Juneteenth proclamation both represent the diversity of humanity and noted it's important to respect people no matter what differences they have and that people should feel welcomed and safe no matter who they are. She added there is still work that is needed to be fully aligned with these proclamations.

22. Member Wagner mentioned his personal religious upbringing and how those values align with this proclamation as well as the Juneteenth proclamation and also noted work needs to be done to support this.

23. Member Murphy stated it's important to him that all Robbinsdale residents feel safe, proud, and happy where they live. He noted his support of this proclamation and added how Robbinsdale has always been a welcoming community and he hopes this continues.

24. Member Parisian stated she is happy and grateful to support this proclamation and appreciates the City taking steps to display the pride flag in June, and acknowledges the other councilmembers words and recognized the community members support around this.

25. Mayor Blonigan mentioned the City of Golden Valley is hosting a pride festival on Saturday, June 10, 2023.

26. A roll call was taken to proclaim June as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, and the countless affirmative ways in which people choose to self-identify (LGBTQIA+) Pride Month in Robbinsdale. This passed 5-0.

27. Ayes: Wagner, Murphy, Webb, Parisian, Mayor Blonigan.

28. Nays: None.

**PUBLIC HEARING A: CONSIDER A PERMIT FOR THE KEEPING OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS (CHICKENS) AT 3407 ZENITH AVE. N.**

29. Sandvik provided a brief overview noting all processes have been followed.
30. Mayor Blonigan opened the public hearing.
31. Luke Olson, 340 Abbott Ave. N., stated the owners take wonderful care of their current chickens and it's a great thing for the neighborhood.
32. Kristen Setien, 3407 Zenith Ave. N., stated their main purpose is for egg consumption and a general hobby. She noted there are many sustainability benefits to having chickens, including waste reduction and reducing their carbon footprint. Mayor Blonigan asked if staff has familiarized them with the expectations. Setien stated yes, they are aware of the guidelines.
33. **Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by member Murphy to close the public hearing. This vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**
34. **Member Webb MOVED, seconded by member Murphy to approve the permit for the keeping of eight (8) chickens at 3407 Zenith Ave. N., subject to the conditions. This vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

**OLD BUSINESS A: CONSIDER RENTAL LICENSE FOR 3683 HALIFAX AVE.**

35. Sandvik gave an overview related to this item and noted the council had discussed this rental license at two previous meetings. He mentioned the City has continued efforts to send communications to the license holder, but has not received any response back.
36. Mayor Blonigan clarified staff's recommendation would allow the rental license holder to continue leasing to the current residents and added there is an incentive for the landlord to do what the code requires in the way of fees. Sandvik stated that is correct and noted the fees are a way to get the attention of the license holder and if they continued to be unpaid the fees will be assessed to their property taxes.
37. Member Murphy asked staff to explain their recommendation and noted this is nuisance calls related to the renters and wanted to understand the suggestion of suspending versus revoking the license. Sandvik stated the suspension would be to try and correct the behaviors of the renters, and noted we don't want to force someone out of their home, but that would be a determination between the tenant and the landlord. He also noted that no additional nuisance calls have occurred during this process and reiterated any fees would be assessed to the property taxes if unpaid.
38. Mayor Blonigan stated he is not against revoking the license, but mentioned that no new nuisance calls have happened, and stated our real goal is to eliminate the nuisance calls. He noted fines could still be assessed with the current recommendation and that also doesn't take away the Council's ability to suspend or revoke this license in the future. Sandvik noted if nuisance calls continue to be a problem, staff's recommendation would be to revoke the license.
39. Member Webb encouraged landlords to have presence in the community and

educate their renters. She hopes to see more landlords take ownership of their community and the property they own in Robbinsdale.

40. Mayor Blonigan stated that since there hasn't been any new nuisance calls he is fine with moving forward with staff's recommendation.
41. Member Wagner asked about recovering the fees. Sandvik stated these administrative penalties qualify as special assessments and if unpaid they would be sent to Hennepin County and assessed to the property taxes, payable 2024.
42. Member Wagner stated he is fine moving forward with staff's recommendation, but noted he wouldn't have hesitancy revoking the license.
43. **Council followed staff's recommendation and took no action. The rental license will remain in effect for 3683 Halifax Ave.**

**NEW BUSINESS A: MOTION TO APPROVE FRIST READING OF AN ORDINANCE UPDATING SECTIONS OF THE ROBBINSDALE CITY CHARTER. ORDINANCE NO. 23-09 "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE ROBBINSDALE CITY CHARTER TO INCLUDE SECTIONS 3.06, 3.08, 5.05, 5.15, AND 6.05"**

44. Peterson-Etem presented the report. He stated the Charter Commission voted to recommend several changes to the City Charter, including Sections 3.06, 3.08, 5.05, 5.15, and 6.05. He noted Council was presented with these potential changes at their May 9, 2023 Work Session. Peterson-Etem stated additional changes had been discussed with the Charter Commission and Council, but further review would happen at the next Charter Commission meeting.
45. Mayor Blonigan stated he supports updating Sections 3.06, 3.08, and 6.05, however he believes Sections 5.05 and 5.15 need to be clarified more and asked additional questions about these sections, particularly about the period in which a petition can be filled.
46. Sandvik stated if the threshold of irregularities in the petition is not met, at the determination of the City Clerk, the committee has an additional ten days beyond the original 30 days to submit updated signatures.
47. Mayor Blonigan stated he understands the additional time to forty-five days, but is not in support of eliminating the additional ten days to correct the petition if it is found to not meet the threshold because of irregularities.
48. Member Murphy agreed and noted he also thinks there should be a period of time in which irregularities on the petition should be able to be corrected.
49. Mayor Blonigan stated those two sections of the ordinance should to be looked at more.
50. Sandvik suggested the Council make a motion to approve and give a second reading to the agreed upon sections of the ordinance, to include Section 3.06, 3.08, and 6.05



and to send Sections 5.05 and 5.15 back to the Charter Commission for further discussion.

51. **Member Webb MOVED, seconded by member Murphy to approve the first reading of an Ordinance updating sections of the City Charter to include Section 3.06, 3.08, and 6.05, but remove Sections 5.05 and 5.15 from this ordinance.**
52. Mayor Blonigan mentioned he would like to attend the next Charter Commission meeting. Sandvik noted that has happened in the past and suggested letting staff know if they plan on attending.
53. **A roll call was taken and the motion passed 5-0.**
54. Ayes: Wagner, Murphy, Webb, Parisian, Mayor Blonigan.
55. Nays: None.
56. **Member Wagner MOVED, second by member Murphy to set the second reading of the ordinance for July 18, 2023, and direct the City Clerk to publish a public hearing notice on June 15, 2023. This was unanimous and the motion carried.**

**NEW BUSINESS B: MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY OF ROBBINSDALE TO ADOPT JUNETEENTH AS A HOLIDAY AND TO UPDATE THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK TO REFLECT THE CHANGE**

57. Sandvik presented the staff report and noted Juneteenth is now recognized as a Holiday under state statute. He noted as a part of City operations we follow statute on Holidays in which public business can not be conducted and under this new statute we need to update our employee handbook to reflect this.
58. Mayor Blonigan asked if the Juneteenth Holiday will always be observed on June 19<sup>th</sup> or if it would change to a specified Monday, like other Holidays. Sandvik stated it will be recognized on June 19<sup>th</sup> every year, unless the statute changes.
59. **Member Webb MOVED, seconded by member Murphy to authorize the City of Robbinsdale to Adopt Juneteenth as a Holiday and to update the employee handbook to reflect the change.**
60. Member Wagner suggested adding language to the employee handbook encouraging staff to volunteer during this Holiday.
61. **This vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

**NEW BUSINESS C: MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY OF ROBBINSDALE TO ADOPT JUNETEENTH AS A CITY HOLIDAY AND TO HAVE IT REMOVED FROM BARGAINING NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2023**

62. Sandvik gave the staff report. He noted we are currently in negotiations with all five labor groups and are asking this be removed from bargaining negotiations as this

could be observed through current language that recognizes Holiday's through the employee handbook.

63. **Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by member Parisian to authorize the City of Robbinsdale to adopt Juneteenth as a City Holiday and to have it removed from the bargaining negotiations for the year 2023.**

64. Member Wagner stated a lot of labor unions have led the effort in getting this to be a Holiday and wanted to recognize that. He stated he is happy the City is doing this.

65. **The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

#### **OTHER BUSINESS A: MOTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT REQUESTS FOR PERIOD ENDING JUNE 6, 2023**

66. **Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by member Webb to approve disbursement requests for the period ending June 6, 2023. This vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

#### **OTHER BUSINESS B: ESTABLISH A DATE FOR A SPECIAL WORK SESSION TO DISCUSS DEI, AND DIRECT STAFF TO INVITE A FACILITATOR FOR A COUNCIL TRAINING**

67. Sandvik presented the report. He noted past discussions about DEI and detailed efforts that the City has been taking to promote this work and continue future education and training for Council and staff. He suggested scheduling a Special Work Session for July 18, 2023 and mentioned it could be done at 5 p.m., before the regular Council meeting.

68. It was the consensus of the Council to schedule a Special Work Session for July 18, at 5 p.m. and bring in Kiarra Zackery to conduct this training, dependent on availability.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

69. Peterson-Item noted the Manor Park Splash Pad is now open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. He also mentioned the City's Sustainability Committee will be doing a trash pick-up at City Hall on June 13, 2023 from noon to 1:30 p.m. and welcomed residents to join.

70. Sandvik stated over the next few months staff will be rolling out a lot of legislative recap items. He noted several items are still going through rules committees and staff will bring forward more information as it is received.

71. Sandvik stated the City is in full swing with Summer work, including construction on Hubbard Ave., utility work, fiber, etc. and noted information about this work can be found on our website and social media. He also mentioned the numerous events happening throughout the community, including Whiz Bang Days.

#### **COUNCIL GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS**

72. Member Wagner thanked staff and the police department for updates about two incidents that happening in the City as well as staff's work in keeping residents safe.

73. Member Murphy noted he does not need the disbursement report printed and an electronic version is fine. He stated he would like more information on the incidents that

took place this past weekend, specifically about the properties.

74. Member Webb stated she feels for all families and people impacted by violence and stated that is why it's important for us to have respect for one another. She encouraged people to attend the Robbinsdale Farmer's Market which takes place every Saturday at Lakeview Terrance Park. She also mentioned Hennepin Counties mental health crisis support and stated this support is in person for families and provided their phone number. 612-979-9511. She noted they are available from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

75. Mayor Blonigan noted several items.

- Encouraged people to attend the City of Robbinsdale farmer's market.
- Asked that Council look at discussing storm sewer assessments and problem properties at a later meeting.
- Noted Golden Valley Pride Festival is this upcoming weekend.
- Mentioned the Robbinsdale fire relief association performance.
- Provided updates about the Water Tower.
- Noted the City received a certificate for participating in Partners in Energy (PIE).

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

76. **Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by member Webb to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

  
Chase Peterson-Item, City Clerk

  
William A. Blonigan, Mayor