

City of Robbinsdale
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
JUNE 16, 2020
Meeting No. 12

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

2. Present: Blonigan, Rogan, Selman, Backen, Mayor Murphy
Staff: Marcia Glick, City Manager; Richard McCoy, Public Works Director; Jeff Zuba, Finance Director; John Tingley, Assistant to City Manager/City Clerk.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC

3. Mayor Murphy opened the floor to anyone wishing to speak on any items not on the agenda.
4. Brad Sutton, 3801 Crystal Lake Boulevard, Robbinsdale, expressed frustration with the amount light coming from Birdtown Flats during the night time. The light reflecting off the lake is impacting his family negatively. He asked the Council to work with the neighborhood and Birdtown Flats on reducing the amount of light reflecting off the lake.
5. Paul Greene, 3825 Crystal Lake Boulevard, Robbinsdale, discussed similar frustration with the lighting of Birdtown Flats impacts his property directly across the lake and also requested council to step in and intervene on the situation.
6. Melanie Sedqi, 3403 26 ½ Avenue North, Robbinsdale, asked the council to take action on racial covenants that may exist on property deeds in Robbinsdale. Racial covenants were used in the early 20th century to restrict minority home-ownership in communities. Racial covenants have been illegal to enforce for decades.
7. Council agreed the racial covenants issue should be addressed and stated the issue had been previously forwarded to the Human Rights Commission.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

8. Member Selman **MOVED**, seconded by Member Backen to approve the June 16th meeting agenda. **A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Blonigan, Rogan, Selman, Backen, Mayor Murphy. Nays: None. The motion carried.**

CONSENT AGENDA

9. Member Selman removed Consent Item A.
10. Member Rogan **MOVED**, seconded by Member Blonigan to approve the balance of the consent agenda. **A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Blonigan, Rogan, Selman, Backen, Mayor Murphy. Nays: None. The motion carried.**

A. **Removed by Member Selman**

B. **Motion to approve issuance of licenses dated June 16, 2020.**

- C. Motion to approve the May 2020 payment for City credit card charges.
- D. Motion to waive the reading and order the adoption of Resolution No. 7818," A RESOLUTION ADOPTING AN ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER POLICY FOR THE CITY OF ROBBINSDALE."

Removed Consent Item A:

11. Member Selman amended line 44 of the 06/02/20 Council meeting minutes to say he also mentions he knows residents in Robbinsdale who suffer from PTSD and fireworks can be troubling to them.
12. Member Selman **MOVED**, seconded by Member Blonigan to approve and order placed on file minutes of the City Council meetings with Member Selman's amendment:
- City Council Minutes on 6/2/20;
 - Work Session minutes on 6/2/20; and
 - Special Work Session minutes on 6/9/20.

A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Blonigan, Rogan, Selman, Backen, Mayor Murphy. Nays: None. The motion carried.

PRESENTATION A: Human Rights Commission Community Discussion Next Steps

13. Glick provided an update on the discussions related to the development of a community forum hosted by the Human Rights Commission. The Human Rights Commission will continue planning the event at the June 18th Special Human Rights Commission meeting.
14. Shelia Webb, Human Rights Commission Chair, announced the community forum will be moderated by Lissa Jones-Lofgren at CCX Media Studios on Wednesday, June 24th. The Human Rights Commission will finalize plans at the June 18th Special Human Rights Commission meeting.
15. Mayor Murphy and Webb discussed promoting the event to the public on Social Media and through other channels.
16. Glick thanked Commissioner Webb and the Human Rights Commission for organizing this event within a short amount of time.
17. Member Blonigan discussed racial covenants that were brought up earlier in the community and requested the Human Rights Commission to continue looking into the issue.
18. Glick stated that staff will work with the Human Rights Commission on this at the July Human Rights Commission meeting.

Presentation B: Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for 2019

19. Jeff Zuba introduced Aaron Neilson of Malloy, Montague, Karnowski, Radosevich & Co. who provided a presentation of the City of Robbinsdale's 2019 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. The city continues to be in strong fiscal position
20. Blonigan asked staff's process for keeping amounts of funds meant for use in the short-term that maximizes interest earned.
21. Zuba discussed how staff maximizes interest earned on city bank accounts.
22. Member Rogan **MOVED**, seconded by Member Backen to acknowledge the receipt of the City's Audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ended December 31, 2019, Auditor's Management Report, and Special Purpose Audit Reports as submitted by Malloy, Montague, Karnowski, Radosevich & Co., P.A. and direct staff to distribute the report to other agencies as required. **A roll call vote was taken on the motion. Ayes: Blonigan, Rogan, Selman, Backen, Mayor Murphy. Nays: None. The motion carried.**

PRESENTATION C: Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

23. Zuba presented the staff report and award to the Mayor.
24. Council congratulated finance staff and Glick for their hard work in receiving the award for the 40th consecutive year.

OLD BUSINESS A: Award Bid for Reconstruction Project – Beard Avenue and Chowen Avenue between 43rd Avenue and 45th Avenue (County Road 9) – City Projects 38318 and 43820

25. McCoy presented the staff report and recommended moving forward with low bidder even though bids came in higher than estimated. Beard Avenue is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2020 and Chowen Avenue by end of 2021.
26. Rogan asked about stormwater pumping into Ryan Lake and if the Lake's outflow would have capacity to handle. He also asked about how pumping is impacting lake level on Ryan Lake.
27. McCoy stated he and Member Selman met with Ryan Lake residents earlier in the day. Staff will be approaching Canadian Pacific Railway about gaining access to the outflow area to clean out cattails. Staff previously went out to bid for cattail removal for a separate portion of the Twin Lake/Ryan Lake watershed and received no bidders. So far, there has not been a need in 2020 to use the Crystal Lake supplemental pump that drains into Ryan Lake. Staff will setup an email group to communicate with home owners on Ryan Lake about lake levels and pumping. Lake level data is also on the website.
28. Rogan asked what project categories drove the price of the project over the project estimate.
29. Blonigan stated that the bid was 28% over the estimated cost.
30. McCoy said that all three bidders had high mobilization rates. The project itself is very tricky and encompasses elements that aren't always necessary for projects in Robbinsdale

which increased difficulty in coming up with an estimate. He believes that the prices received are not out of line for this type of work.

31. Selman discussed the meeting with residents from earlier in the day and thanked McCoy for discussing the issue with them. He would like to renew conversations with Minneapolis about stormwater treatment capacity. He reiterated the need for council to give residents the opportunity to speak on projects.

32. Member Backen **MOVED**, seconded by Member Rogan to waive the reading and order the adoption of Resolution No. 7819, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BIDS AND AWARDED CONTRACT FOR RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT – BEARD AVENUE AND CHOWEN AVENUE BETWEEN 43rd AVENUE and 45TH AVENUE (COUNTY ROAD 9) – CITY PROJECTS 38318 AND 43820” awarding project to S.M. Henteges of Jordan, Minnesota. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. Ayes: Blonigan, Rogan, Selman, Backen, Mayor Murphy. Nays: None. The motion carried.

33. Backen asked when project work is scheduled to begin.

34. McCoy estimated that project work on Beard Avenue will begin shortly after July 4th holiday.

NEW BUSINESS A: Performance Measurement Survey Results and Feedback on Community Building Concept

35. Tingley presented the staff report.

36. Mayor Murphy expressed frustration with low amount of responses to the online survey.

37. Selman suggested placing the survey in the utility bill in the future.

38. Glick noted difficulty in tabulating paper surveys and an alternative would be to use a firm to complete a statistically significant survey.

39. Member Selman **MOVED**, seconded by Member Blonigan to approve Resolution No. 7820, A RESOLUTION DECLARING ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF STATE PERFORMANCE MEASURES.” A roll call vote was taken on the motion. Ayes: Blonigan, Rogan, Selman, Backen, Mayor Murphy. Nays: None. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS B: COVID-19 Preparedness Plan Requirement for Cities

40. Glick presented the staff report.

41. Selman asked what the penalty would be if the city did not submit the plan on time. He stated his belief that more things are important right now than submitting the report. He thanked staff for the great job during this difficult time.

42. Glick responded that the plan is required by the Governor.

43. Rogan asked if any issues have been raised by staff that need policy direction in the plan.

44. Glick explained that staff that have needed to work from home so far have been able to do so. Staff has been very good with following up on guidelines.
45. Member Rogan **MOVED**, seconded by Member Blonigan to authorize the City Manager to prepare and submit a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan for city facilities with required elements by the June 29th Deadline. **A roll call vote was taken on the motion. Ayes: Blonigan, Rogan, Selman, Backen, Mayor Murphy. Nays: None. The motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS C: Ordinance 20-XX Amending Section 915 Animals

46. Tingley and Glick presented the staff report and the ordinance draft.
47. Selman suggested he's in favor of not allowing roosters at all. He has also heard about residents accepting miniature goats as pets.
48. Rogan and Glick discussed animals that were eliminated under the draft ordinance and discussed adding language to affirm intent that the particular animals removed from ordinance would not be allowed to be kept outdoors.
49. Backen stated it should be very clear about what animals would be allowed to be kept outdoors and not allowed.
50. Glick stated staff will make edits and bring it back for another first reading.

OTHER BUSINESS A – Voucher Request Pending Approval for Disbursement

51. Member Backen **MOVED**, seconded by Member Rogan to approve disbursement requests for period ending 06/16/20. **A roll call vote was taken on the motion. Ayes: Blonigan, Rogan, Selman, Backen, Mayor Murphy. Nays: None. The motion carried.**

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

52. Glick reminded residents that the Human Rights Commission meeting can be watched online at CCX Media or Channel 16 in Robbinsdale if you have cable. The Community Forum on the 24th will be broadcast on the CCX Media website. Details will be sent out to the public when finalized.

COUNCIL GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

53. Blonigan pointed out that Robbinsdale Wine & Spirits is now open again on Sundays. He encouraged residents to shop at the store and support Robbinsdale Parks and Recreation. Profits from Robbinsdale Wine & Spirits go towards Parks and Recreation programs in Robbinsdale.
54. Selman mentioned that David Bjorkquist is now home.
55. Rogan thanked staff and Human Rights Commission members for putting together the community forum quickly. He also mentioned that he did reach out to Bill Beard with Birdtown Flats on Friday and will follow up with the residents who spoke during the

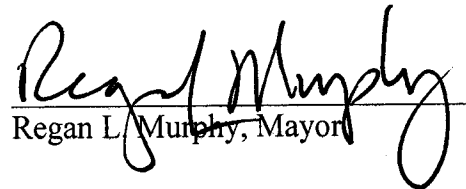
opportunity for the public. Mr. Beard has spent about \$10,000 on lighting changes to accommodate the complaints and that there is no easy answer. He will follow up with Mayor Murphy as well.

56. Backen was very happy to hear that David Bjorkquist is home and is looking forward to the community forum hosted by the Human Rights Commission on June 24th.

ADJOURNMENT

57. Member Blonigan **MOVED**, seconded by Member Selman to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. **A roll call vote was taken on the motion. Ayes: Blonigan, Rogan, Selman, Backen Mayor Murphy. Nays: None. The motion carried.**


John Tingley, City Clerk


Regan L. Murphy, Mayor