

City of Robbinsdale
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
June 20, 2023
Meeting No. 12

CALLED TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

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| 2. Present: | Murphy, Webb, Parisian, Wagner, Mayor Blonigan |
| Absent: | None |
| Staff: | Tim Sandvik, City Manager; Chase Peterson-Etem, City Clerk; Richard McCoy, City Engineer/Public Works Director; Diaa Tahoun, Finance Director. |

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. Katie Swanson 3607 Zenith Ave N., discussed traffic speed on Zenith Ave. N. and stated her concern. She asked the council to take action and do something.
5. Member Webb stated other constituents have reached out to her on this issue as well.
6. Mayor Blonigan encouraged her write to Ann Rest and Mike Freiberg as legislation had been passed that would possibly allow photos of speeding cars to be taken.
7. Member Murphy stated he has experienced people speeding in the City and thinks enough requests have come in to revisit this.
8. Ryan Lee, 3611 Zenith Ave. N., asked about residential speed limits in the area.
9. Sandvik mentioned this was discussed last year and stated residential speeds can be reduced to 25 mph and we could bring this back to a work session to discuss.

APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 6, 2023 MEETING AGENDA

10. Peterson-Etem noted there are two additions to the agenda tonight.
 - Addition to Consent Agenda – Accept Donation from Robbinsdale Beautification Committee.
 - Addition to Other Business Item A adding the disbursement voucher report.
11. **Member Wagner MOVED, second by member Parisian to approve the City Council agenda for June 20, 2023. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

CONSENT AGENDA

12. Member Wagner removed item C from the Consent Agenda for further consideration.
13. Mayor Blonigan removed items H and J from the Consent Agenda for further consideration.
14. **Member Wagner MOVED, second by member Webb 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 June 6, 2023.
 - Works Session meeting minutes of June 13, 2023.
- B. Motion to approve issuance of licenses dated June 20, 2023.
- C. (Removed).
- D. Motion to approve the Robbin Art Gallery, 4915 42nd Avenue North, event to be held on Saturday, July 8, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the grass area of the property, along with complying with parking restrictions at all times, and the parking of the food truck as recommended by staff.
- E. Motion to adopt Resolution No. 8042, "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF ROBBINSDALE TO CONSIDER THE PROCESS FOR AN OUTDOOR FITNESS COURT AS PART OF THE 2024 NATIONAL FITNESS CAMPAIGN."
- F. Motion to approve the Faith Lilac Way Lutheran Church Event.
- Approve the request for the Faith Lilac Way Lutheran Church, 5530 42nd Avenue North, event on Wednesday, August 23, 2023, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m., with music ending at 9:00 p.m.
 - Approve the temporary liquor license.
- G. Motion to adopt Resolution No. 8043 "A RESOLUTION APPROVING A CHANGE TO THE BY-LAWS OF THE ROBBINSDALE FIRE DEPARTMENT RELIEF ASSOCIATION INCREASING THE PENSION LUMP SUM DISTRIBUTION."
- H. (Removed).
- I. Motion to authorize the City Manager and Finance Director to issue a Purchase Order to CDW Government, Inc. for the purchase of 10 squad laptops MDC, nine squad laptop docks, and extended warranty in accordance with the estimate dated May 3rd, 2023 for a net price of \$50,000.00.
- J. (Removed).

CONSENT ITEM C: MOTION TO APPROVE DANIEL HICKMAN TO THE PARKS, RECREATION, AND FORESTRY COMMISSION AS AN AT-LARGE COMMISSIONER, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

15. Member Wagner thanked Daniel Hickman for volunteering to be on the commission and noted he has been an advocate for urban forest and open spaces as well as equity and inclusion and has unique experience and passion that will make him a great candidate.

16. **Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by member Parisian to approve Daniel Hickman to the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Commission, effective immediately. This vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

CONSENT ITEM H: MOTION TO ACCEPT DONATIONS TO HELP SUPPORT COMMUNITY EVENTS IN ROBBINSDALE.

17. Mayor Blonigan acknowledged and thanked Crystal-New Hope-Robbinsdale Rotary Club, The Bird House Restaurant, and Robin Wellness for their donations.
18. **Mayor Blonigan MOVED, seconded by member Webb to accept donations to help support community events in Robbinsdale. This vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

CONSENT ITEM J: ACCEPT A DONATION OF \$1,850 FROM THE ROBBINSDALE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE.

19. Mayor Blonigan acknowledged and thanked the Robbinsdale Beautification Committee for their donation.
20. **Member Webb MOVED, seconded by member Wagner to accept a donation of \$1,850 from the Robbinsdale Beautification Committee. This vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

PUBLIC HEARING A: CONSIDER A PERMIT FOR THE KEEPING OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS (CHICKENS) AT 3831 HUBBARD AVENUE NORTH.

21. Sandvik presented the staff report.
22. Peterson-Etem noted the Clerk's office received a phone call supporting this permit request.
23. Mayor Blonigan opened the public hearing.
24. Laconia Koerner, 3831 Hubbard Ave N., stated their neighbors on either side are supportive and they want chickens for the eggs, but also to be more connected to nature.
25. Mayor Blonigan asked if they are comfortable with the required conditions. Koerner stated yes, and noted a secure enclosure and water source.
26. **Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by member Wagner to close the public hearing. This vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**
27. **Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by member Wagner to approve a permit for up to six (6) chickens at 3831 Hubbard Avenue North, subject to the conditions. This vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

OLD BUSINESS A: MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 8044, "A RESOLUTION DECLARING ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF STATE PERFORMANCE MEASURES."

28. Sandvik presented the staff report and stated this is a baseline measure the city can

use year to year, but also can be looked at side-by-side with other communities. He noted Robbinsdale has participated in this over the last several years and highlighted the response from residents was increased this year due to staff efforts.

29. Member Murphy stated it is nice to see the increase, but he would like to see even more participation and asked if this could be sent via USPS. He also asked about changing the questions to be more relevant to what is happening in Robbinsdale now.
30. Mayor Blonigan read the questions that were asked in the survey.
31. Member Webb wondered if the questions could be more precise and also if there are alternate questions we should be asking. She agreed with member Murphy that the questions could be more relevant.
32. Member Wagner also stated his support for updating the questions and noted it saves money to host the questions on our website instead of spending money to mail it out.
33. Mayor Blonigan mentioned a previous council was given the opportunity to adjust the questions in the past and noted the council needs to be mindful about the time spent on the survey.
34. Sandvik stated there is framework through the program and some of the questions are asked year-over-year to set a benchmark. He also noted staff is looking at putting out a community survey and staff will look to council for direction on that.
35. **Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by member Parisian to adopt Resolution No. 8044 “A RESOLUTION DECLARING ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF STATE PERFORMANCE MEASURES.” This vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS A: MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 8045, “A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2023A, IN THE PROPOSED AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$6,945,000.

36. Tahoun presented the staff report and stated the City hasn’t issued bonds for the last two years, but with the Hubbard Ave. project, these bonds would be beneficial for the City at this time.
37. Chris Hogan, Baker Tilly, stated the resolution will authorize Baker Tilly to take bids on behalf of the city for the issuance of bonds. She mentioned what the next steps would be and also talked about the current interest rate environment. She noted it is a favorable environment to sell tax exempt bonds and they will continue to monitor the market.
38. Mayor Blonigan noted the structure of the bonds and asked if the City would hold its AA+ rating. Hogan stated, yes, and noted that would be part of the official statement.

39. Mayor Blonigan asked about the cost of issuance. Hogan confirmed it was for work performed by the agencies involved. Mayor Blonigan also asked about an item called total underwriters discount. Hogan stated it's easier to understand if you think of it as underwriter's compensation and noted this current number is an estimate. Mayor Blonigan asked if it affects the true interest rate. Hogan stated the underwriter's compensation does not, but the cost of issuance does.
40. Member Wagner asked about the requirements for the bidding process. Hogan stated it is industry standard to award based on the true interest cost.
41. **Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by member Murphy to adopt Resolution No. 8045 "A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2023A, IN THE PROPOSED AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$6,945,000."**
42. **A roll call was taken and the motion passed 5-0.**
43. Ayes: Murphy, Webb, Parisian, Wagner, Mayor Blonigan.
44. Nays: None

NEW BUSINESS B: MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER AND FINANCE DIRECTOR TO PROCEED WITH THE THREE FIBER PROJECTS IDENTIFIED IN THE REPORT THROUGH LOGIS AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$291,791.50.

45. McCoy presented the report. He stated the installation of fiber routes between city assets is the communication method we want to move towards and it will be a vast improvement to what is currently being used. He noted several areas throughout the City where they hope to install fiber in the next few years. McCoy asked the council to review the three routes proposed for this year.
46. Member Webb asked about the maintenance involved. McCoy stated generally there is no maintenance on the fiber routes themselves, and that LOGIS will do the locates if someone does need to dig in the area.
47. Mayor Blonigan asked if the fiber would be installed in a conduit. McCoy stated that is correct.
48. McCoy discussed the price for each route and where the funds would be coming from. He also mentioned future fiber projects would be presented in a yearly feasibility report.
49. Member Wagner asked if the timeline for installation would correlate with already planned reconstruction. McCoy stated that would be ideal, but isn't always possible. Member Wagner asked what the process is when there isn't reconstruction already happening. McCoy noted they would bore a hole through the ground instead of tearing up roadways.

50. Mayor Blonigan asked if conduit is buried during construction projects for future fiber to be installed. McCoy noted it wouldn't be done in every construction project.

51. **Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by member Webb to authorize the City Manager and Finance Director to proceed with the three fiber projects identified in the report through LOGIS at an estimated cost of \$291,791.50. This vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

OTHER BUSINESS A: MOTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT REQUESTS FOR PERIOD ENDING JUNE 20, 2023

52. **Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by member Parisian to approve disbursement requests for the period ending Jun 20, 2023. This vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

OTHER BUSINESS B: MOTION TO SCHEDULE A SPECIAL WORK SESSION TO DISCUSS DEI TRAINING ON TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2023 AT 5:00 P.M.

53. Sandvik stated the council previously discussed scheduling this, but didn't formally make a motion and staff is asking council to formally set the Work Session.

54. **Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by member Webb to schedule a Special Work Session to discuss DEI training on Tuesday, July 18, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. This vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

OTHER BUSINESS C: MOTION TO SCHEDULE A SPECIAL WORK SESSION TO DISCUSS THE 2024 BUDGET ON MONDAY, JULY 31, 2023 AT 5:00 P.M.

55. Sandvik asked council to formally set this Special Work Session as was discussed at a previous work session.

56. Member Murphy stated he has a conflict with this and asked what would be presented at this meeting. Sandvik noted some components would be at a high level and some would be more dialed in.

57. Mayor Blonigan asked about the additional monies from the state legislature and noted he wanted to give some percentage to taxpayer relief. Sandvik mentioned Local Government Aid (LGA) as well as the public safety bill and stated the rules committee will have specific ways the funds can be used. He noted once staff has that information we will provide council with updates.

58. **Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by member Murphy to schedule a Special Work Session to discuss the 2024 budget on Monday, July 31, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. This vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

59. Sandvik noted it is construction season and the City appreciate people's patience around that. He also mentioned Whiz Bang Day's which is taking place July 6-9.

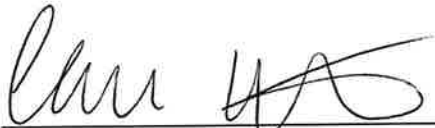
60. Peterson-Etem noted people interested in having a block party for National Night Out need to register for that by July 7, 2023.

COUNCIL GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

61. Member Murphy mentioned the Crystal Community Center's pool is leaking and wondered if that is something the council should be concerned about.
62. Member Webb acknowledged Juneteenth and appreciates that people are recognizing history. She encouraged people to attend the Robbinsdale Farmer's Market. Member Webb also addressed mental health and encouraged people to use the resources available to them. She also gave her condolences for the 5 young women who tragically lost their lives this past weekend.
63. Member Parisian hoped people found a meaningful way to reflect, celebrate, and learn about Juneteenth this year. She also mentioned Whiz Bang Day's and wanted to thank the volunteers, sponsors, and all who help make it possible.
64. Member Wagner echoed his support for the other council members statements.
65. Mayor Blonigan also encouraged people to attend the Robbinsdale Farmer's Market and noted he was able to attend one of the Juneteenth events around the Twin Cities and hoped others were also able to attend. He stated he has received many positive comments about the new water tower.
66. Mayor Blonigan mentioned people have inquired about the landscaping at the water treatment plant. McCoy stated staff is waiting for the contractor to let the City know they are done so that staff can take over the site and start landscaping.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by member Wagner to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.


Chase Peterson-Etem, City Clerk


William A. Blonigan, Mayor