

City of Robbinsdale
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
July 18, 2023
Meeting No. 14

CALLED TO ORDER

1. Mayor Blonigan called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

2. Present: Parisian, Wagner, Murphy, Webb, Mayor Blonigan
Absent: None
Staff: Tim Sandvik, City Manager; Chase Peterson-Etem, City Clerk; 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. No members of the public spoke.

APPROVAL OF THE JULY 18, 2023 MEETING AGENDA

4. Peterson-Etem noted the Council received the disbursement Voucher Report for Other Business Item A via email earlier today, and a printed copy was also available for them.
5. Mayor Blonigan noted that Sheriff Witt Might be running late, so the order of items may be adjusted as needed.
6. **Member Murphy MOVED, second by member Parisian to approve the City Council agenda for July 18, 2023. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

CONSENT AGENDA

7. Member Wagner removed item G from the Consent Agenda for further consideration.
8. **Member Wagner MOVED, second by member Murphy 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 20, 2023.
 - B. Motion to receive advisory commission minutes:
 - Human Rights Commission meeting minutes of May 25, 2023.
 - C. Motion to approve issuance of licenses dated July 18, 2023.
 - D. Motion to approve the May 2023 payment for City credit card charges.
 - E. Motion to acknowledge the Deputy Registrar's financial reports for the month of May 2023.
 - F. Motion to acknowledge the Robbinsdale Wine & Spirits' financial reports for

the month of May 2023.

- G. (Removed).
- H. Motion to authorize the City Manager to adjust wages for Fire Department Personnel, effective August 1, 2023.
- I. Motion to approve the requested block parties listed on Attachment 1 subject to the conditions, if any, listed.
- J. Motion to authorize the City Manager and Finance Director to enter into an agreement with Intertek PSI for the performing of soil borings for City Projects 44123, 44024, and 45124 for the amount of \$50,850.00.
- K. Motion to authorize the City Manager and Finance Director to enter into an agreement with JR Contracting for sidewalk replacement in Zone 2 of the City – City Project 39923 for the amount of \$91,000.00.
- L. Motion to approve a THC sales license for Robbinsdale Wine & Spirits, 3501 Bottineau Boulevard, subject to zoning conditions, and completion of requirements as directed by City Code, noted in this memo.
- M. Motion to waive the reading and concur with the Planning Commission by holding the First Reading of the Ordinance shown in Exhibit 3 approving amendments to the ordinance. “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE ZONING SECTIONS 505.09 DEFINITIONS, 510.11 ACCESSORY STRUCTURES, 510.17 OFF-STREET PARKING, AND 515.01 R-1 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL ACCESSORY USES.
- N. Motion to authorize an amendment to the Professional Service Contract with AE2S for the additional work associated with the Centralized Water Treatment Plant not to exceed \$375,000.00.
- O. Motion to acknowledge the Investment Report for the quarter ended June 2023.
- P. Motion to approve the June 2023 payment for City credit card charges.

CONSENT ITEM G: MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND CITY MANAGER TO SIGN THE SRO AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 281 AND THE CITY OF ROBBINSDALE FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR.

- 9. Member Wagner stated he received feedback from residents and wanted to get Council’s perspective as well as history from staff on this as he understands there is differing opinions about having school resource officers in schools.
- 10. Mayor Blonigan summarized several reasons there is debate over this and stated there is a monetary component to this as well.
- 11. Sandvik noted the City would not be dedicating additional budgetary dollars towards this.

12. Member Webb asked staff to explain what the duties of an SRO are and noted there are concerns around community and policing and wondered what parents can expect from this. Sandvik explained this is a relationship the City and School District have been apart of since the early 1990's. He noted the School District requests these positions and that the City looks for officers that want to not only offer safety, but who also want to make relationships in the community and at the schools. He continued the right officer is important to have and that this position can provide another outlet for students.
13. Member Webb questioned if the amount of tickets increases while there is a police officer at schools and how are incidents handled.
14. Mayor Blonigan asked for additional information, but noted since the School Board is asking for this, he is inclined to vote in favor of this.
15. Member Parisian stated she has been curious about this and agreed that data or community feedback would be useful.
16. Member Wagner stated he would support this, but wants the conversation to remain open and allow community members to provide feedback. He also wanted to know what the students think about this.
17. Member Webb stated information should include the positive things that would be happening and what relationships the officer would be building.
18. **Member Wagner Moved, seconded by mayor Blonigan to direct the Mayor and City Manager to sign the SRO agreement between the Independent School District 281 and the City of Robbinsdale for the 2023-24 school year and direct staff to come back to the City Council outlining the answers to the questions the City Council has raised.**
19. **A roll call was taken and the motion passed 5-0.**
20. Ayes: Parisian, Wagner, Murphy, Webb, Mayor Blonigan.
21. Nays: None.

**PRESENTATION A: CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR EXCELLENCE
IN FINANCIAL REPORTING.**

22. Tahoun noted this certificate is for the year ending December 31, 2021 and that it takes time to receive this. He stated there is specific criteria that needs to be met and the City is doing a good job in financial reporting.
23. The Council congratulated Mr. Tahoun and the City of Robbinsdale's Finance Department.

PRESENTATION B: SHERIFF WITT PRESENTATION.

24. Sheriff Witt provided an overview of several items related to the Sheriff's office:
- Background on Sheriff Witt
 - Background on Sheriff's Office
 - Strategic Priorities
 - Legislative Priorities
 - Robbinsdale Information
25. The Council thanked Sheriff Witt for coming to Robbinsdale and look forward to working together in the future.

PUBLIC HEARING A: SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE NO. 23-09 "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE ROBBINSDALE CITY CHARTER TO INCLUDE SECTIONS 3.06, 3.08, AND 6.05."

26. Peterson-Em presented the report. He noted this City Charter Amendment Ordinance was brought to Council in June and Council had directed staff to move forward with 3 of the 5 proposed changes, specifically Sections 3.06, 3.08 and 6.05 of the Robbinsdale City Charter.
27. Mayor Blonigan opened the public hearing. No members of the public were present.
28. **Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by member Webb to close the public hearing. This vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**
29. **Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by member Wagner to adopt Ordinance No. 23-09 "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE ROBBINSDALE CITY CHARTER TO INCLUDE SECTIONS 3.06, 3.08, AND 6.05." This vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

OLD BUSINESS A: CONSIDERATION OF RENTAL LICENSE AT 3683 HALIFAX AVE.

30. Sandvik stated the Council has previously discussed and considered options related to this Rental License and the many nuisance calls the City has received. He noted the City has tried contacting the license holder several times, however no response has been received and suspension of the license was recommended at the last Council meeting. He did note that the nuisance calls have ceased, but mentioned that does not remove the concerns staff has, and staff recommend revocation of the Rental License and to continue assessing fees pursuant to the City Fee Schedule.
31. Mayor Blonigan stated the Council did hold a hearing in which the license holder did not appear in writing or in person. He also offered an additional opportunity for anyone in the public that want's to be heard on this issue.
32. No members of the public were present.
33. **Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by member Murphy to revoke the Rental License, and authorize staff to assess continuing violation fees every month**

without resolution, as defined by the City Fee Schedule. This vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS A: CITY OF ROBBINSDALE COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2022.

34. Aaron Nielsen, MMKR Certified Public Accountants, presented the results of the 2022 Comprehensive Annual Financial Audit.

35. Member Murphy **MOVED**, seconded by member Parisian to acknowledge the receipt of the City's Audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ended December 31, 2022, 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 reports to other agencies as required. This vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS A: MOTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT REQUESTS FOR PERIOD ENDING JULY 18, 2023

36. Member Parisian **MOVED**, seconded by member Webb to approve disbursement requests for the period ending July 18, 2023. This vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

37. Sandvik thanked the Mr. Tahoun and the Robbinsdale Finance Department as well as the City Council for their work on the audit and the budget in general. He also thanked the volunteers who helped with another successful Robbinsdale Whiz Bang Day's event.

38. Sandvik mentioned the Joint Community Police Partnership (JCPP) and noted they are soliciting for people to join their Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC) and information is available.

39. Sandvik also noted the City Council will be meeting on Monday July 31, instead of Tuesday, August 1, due to National Night Out.

COUNCIL GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

40. Member Parisian echoed the success of Whiz Bang Day's and looks forward to next year. She thanked Kiarra Zackery-Walker for leading the Council through a DEI session and noted her excitement to continue DEI work.

41. Member Wagner stated he attended the Northwest Suburban Fire Academy graduation where four new Robbinsdale Fire Fighters graduated from. He congratulated and thanked them for their service and getting through the program. He noted a discussion the Council had on speed limits and encouraged Council, staff, and residents to obey the speed limits. He mentioned he would like to see youth be more involved in Robbinsdale and would like to see youth members on commissions. Lastly, member Wagner wanted to read a statement from Daniel Hickman who was appointed to the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Commission at the June 20 Council meeting.

"I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve on the parks, rec, and forestry commission. I have always been passionate about green space, open space, and accessibility. I know the impact that trees, parks, activities, and green space can have on a community and I want to

have a hand (however large or small) in shaping the direction of this commission and, in turn, our wonderful community. I want to make sure that our parks, rec, and forestry commission has a strong voice and advocate for equity in our community and that we are actively involved in making Robbinsdale a better place for all of our residents.”

42. Member Murphy requested either a work session be scheduled or feedback from staff on how they can address neighborhood traffic issues.

43. Member Webb mentioned the DEI training Council and staff attended and noted how each person respected each other and acknowledged Kiarra Zackary-Walker and thanked her for leading the training and her guidance. She also thanked Sheriff Witt for coming to Robbinsdale and appreciated her time and work.

44. Mayor Blonigan thanked the volunteers of Whiz Bang Day's and also mentioned the DEI training Council attended and the ideas that formulated from it.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by member Wagner to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.


Chase Peterson-Etem, City Clerk
William A. Blonigan, Mayor