

City of Robbinsdale
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
July 20, 2021
Meeting No. 14

CALL TO ORDER

1. Mayor William A. Blonigan called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

ROLL CALL

2. Present: Webb, Selman, Kline, Mayor Blonigan
Absent: Backen
Staff: Marcia Glick, City Manager; Dustin Leslie, City Clerk; Richard McCoy, Public Works Director; Rick Pearson, Community Development Coordinator; Jeff Zuba, Finance Director

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.
4. Pete Souhleris – 4135 York Ave N: Solaris spoke to Council regarding the proposed Blue Line Extension that would run down County Road 81. Solaris told Council he did not support the extension because it would take away the small town feel of Robbinsdale. He also stated that Robbinsdale would not benefit from expansion from the light rail and that it would add traffic congestion.

APPROVAL OF THE JULY 20, 2021 MEETING AGENDA

5. Leslie reported the following changes to the agenda:
 - The voucher report for Other Business A was added to the packet.
 - The Mayor made minor revisions to the Resolution in Old Business A.
 - Council Member Selman added line 7 to the 7/6/21 Work Session minutes.
6. **Member Selman MOVED, seconded by Member Webb to approve the July 20, 2021 Agenda with the updates given to Council by the City Clerk. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Motion to approve and order placed on file minutes of the City Council meeting:
 - Council Meeting Minutes on 7/6/21
 - Regular Work Session Minutes on 7/6/21
 - Regular Work Session Minutes on 7/13/21
- B. Motion to receive advisory commission minutes:
 - Planning Commission Minutes on 6/17/21
- C. Motion to approve the June 2021 payment for City credit card charges.
- D. Water Treatment Plant – Change Order 7 – Recarbonation Tank Adjustments, Alterations to the Lighting and Inverter System and Update on Unit Price Items – City Project 53217.
 - 1. Motion to authorize Change Order 7 consisting of recarbonation tank adjustments and adjustments to the lighting and inverter system for the Water Treatment Plant – Project 53217 for an increase of \$60,652.00.
 - 2. Motion to receive and note the update on unit price items and the additional \$424,300 of cost to address unforeseen soil conditions for the building foundations and storm water pond.
- E. Motion to approve the issuance of licenses dated 7/20/21.
- F. Motion to approve the requested block parties listed the agenda packet with the conditions and recommendations listed in the analysis by the Public Works Director/City Engineer.
- G. Motion to waive the reading and order the adoption of the Resolution #7907 AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A MASTER TAX-EXEMPT LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT, AND RELATED INSTRUMENTS, AND DETERMINING OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.
- H. Motion to acknowledge the financial reports for the quarter ended June 2021.

7. Member Selman MOVED, seconded by Member Kline to approve the July 20, 2021 Consent Agenda. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Public Hearing A: VAC 21-1 Vacation of Easements for Drainage, Stormwater Treatment and Flood Storage at 4600 Lake Road

8. Pearson gave the report and background for the request using a diagram to show Council members why the change is needed.
9. Mayor Blonigan asked Pearson if the revised flood plain would have the same amount of water storage. Pearson stated there would be no decrease in storm water storage with the changes and may actually increase storage capacity.
10. Mayor Blonigan opened the floor for public comment. No one spoke.
11. **Member Kline MOVED, seconded by Member Webb to close the public hearing. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**
12. Mayor Blonigan noted that this project will improve the quality of discharged water going into the lake.
13. **Member Selman MOVED, seconded by Member Webb to hold the second reading of the ordinance #21-06 VACATING EASEMENTS FOR DRAINAGE, STORMWATER TREATMENT AND FLOOD STORAGE AT 4600 LAKE ROAD IN ROBBINSDALE, MINNESOTA. The Mayor called a roll call. Ayes: Webb, Kline, Selman, Mayor Blonigan; Nays: None; Absent: Backen. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

Old Business A: Authorization to Resubmit the Robbinsdale 2040 Comprehensive Plan to the Metropolitan Council

14. Pearson gave the report, the submittal timeline, and highlighted reasons why the City was asked to re-submit the 2040 plan to the Metropolitan Council. Pearson stated the original plan submitted in December 2018 was sent back from the Metropolitan Council with an incomplete letter and staff had been in discussion regarding additional language over the past two years including delayed responses.
15. Member Selman asked if there was a due date for the plan to be resubmitted to the Metropolitan Council. Pearson said there was not a submission deadline but that the Plan would need to be approved by the Metropolitan County by November to requalify for Livable Communities Demonstration Account (LCDA) grants.
16. Member Selman requested to table the approval of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan to the next meeting in order to finish reading the full report and because Member Backen was absent from the meeting and could not give his feedback.
17. Member Selman also requested to strike the following sentence from page 52 of the plan: "Instead, maintenance of the existing system along with regional transit improvements such as light rail and bus rapid transit (BRT) express bus corridors are the primary means of accommodating the transportation needs of an increasing population." Member

Selman stated he wanted this line taken out because the Council currently does not support light rail expansion in the City.

18. Member Kline agreed with tabling the approval to the next meeting but did not agree with striking the line from the report. Mayor Blonigan stated the Council did not have to agree on the language now and could wait until the next Council meeting. Council members agreed to delaying the language change discussion.
19. Member Webb asked who determines income levels and what qualifies as affordable housing? Pearson stated that HUD generally comes up with thresholds for income levels and that it differs from place to place. The Metropolitan Council and HUD generally determine what affordable housing is regionally and that residents paying over 30% of their total income places them as overburdened. Member Webb stated her concerns with only counting Section 8 and subsidized housing as affordable or low income when many renters are overburdened.
20. Glick stated she would reach out to Hennepin County Housing to present at an upcoming work session.
21. **Member Selman MOVED, seconded by Member Kline to table the approval of resubmitting the Robbinsdale 2040 Comprehensive Plan to the August 2nd Regular City Council meeting. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

Other Business A: Schedule Work Session

22. **Member Selman MOVED, seconded by Member Webb to schedule a work session on August 10, 2021 at 6:00 pm with the Human Rights Commission to present to the Council on the topic of Racism is a Health Crisis/Racial Equity. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

Other Business B: Disbursement Requests

23. **Member Selman MOVED, seconded by Member Kline to approve disbursement requests for period ending 7/20/21. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

Administrative Reports

24. Glick stated there will be construction on County Road 81 on the 21st and 22nd to resurface the road. Glick recommending traveling other routes as there would be delays. Mayor Blonigan asked what goes into resurfacing. McCoy stated resurfacing is seal coating on top of the road and generally takes a few days to complete.
25. Glick stated that cities are being asked to watch water usages due to drought conditions. Glick stated the city is checking its water irrigation uses and cut the hours of operation for the splash pad in Manor Park from 9-7 to 12-7 every day. Further restrictions will be looked at if drought conditions get worse.

26. Mayor Blonigan asked about putting lawn watering restrictions in place for the City. Glick stated restrictions already exist year round and that residents cannot water lawns between 11am and 6pm. The only exception is for new sod and plants. Glick stated this is due to the watering resulting in more evaporating vs benefit.
27. Mayor Blonigan asked city staff to create social media messaging around water restrictions and usage.

Council General Communications

28. Member Webb stated she would be hosting a Blue Line Extension Driveway talk Thursday, July 22nd at Sanborn Park from 6-8pm. Encouraged people to attend as it will be an opportunity to ask questions and get more information about the project.
29. Member Webb stated she was contacted by Robbins Landing with a request for security cameras and guards on nights and weekends. Glick stated the City could look into grants but that this is something the City would generally not fund.
30. Member Selman inquired about openings on the Planning Commission. Glick stated Ward 1 is currently looking for a new commissioner and Member Kline has been reaching out.
31. Member Selman congratulated the new Whiz Bang Ambassadors and wished the best to the previous ambassadors who served for two years due to COVID-19.
32. Member Kline stated there is an opening for Ward 1 Planning Commissioner and encouraged residents to apply if interested.
33. Mayor Blonigan had visited Manor Park due to complaints being made. Mayor Blonigan stated he saw residents enjoying the park without any issues. However, he did speak with residents near the diagonal parking lot whose cars have been getting hit by vehicles backing out of the spots. Mayor Blonigan inquired about cameras being added in that location. Glick stated there are cameras and it could be further discussed at a work session. Mayor Blonigan encouraged residents to call him if anything problematic was going on at Manor Park – stated his phone number was listed on the Robbinsdale website.
34. Mayor Blonigan summarized various events he attended put on by Recreation Services including the reading session at South Halifax and the public art event at Manor Park. Mayor Blonigan gave kudos to recreation staff for good events and that attendee lists have been growing with each month.

Adjournment:

**Member Webb MOVED, seconded by Member Kline to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 pm.
The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dustin Leslie", written over a horizontal line.

Dustin Leslie, City Clerk

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William A. Blonigan", written over a horizontal line.

William A. Blonigan, Mayor