

City of Robbinsdale
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
July 31, 2023
Meeting No. 15

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; Kayla Kirtz, Assistant to City Manager – Communications; Abby Drehmel, Mn GreenCorps Member; Richard McCoy, Public Works Director/City Engineer; Rick Pearson, Community Development Coordinator

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 31, 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. He also noted there was an updated Resolution for Consent item No. I.
5. **Member Murphy MOVED, second by member Parisian to approve the City Council agenda for July 31, 2023. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

CONSENT AGENDA

6. **Member Parisian MOVED, second by member Wagner 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:
 - Work Session meeting minutes of July 11, 2023.
 - Special City Council Meeting minutes of July 11, 2023.
 - City Council meeting minutes of July 18, 2023.
 - Special Work Session meeting minutes of July 18, 2023.
 - B. Motion to approve issuance of licenses dated July 31, 2023.
 - C. Motion to acknowledge the Deputy Registrar's financial reports for the month of June 2023.
 - D. Motion to acknowledge the Robbinsdale Wine & Spirits' financial reports for the month of June 2023.
 - E. Motion to approve the requested block parties listed on Attachment 1 subject to the conditions, if any, listed.

- F. Motion to approve the request for the Robbinsdale Chamber of Commerce to hold their annual event on Monday, September 11, 2023, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (road closure 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.) on West Broadway from the Walgreens Rx pick-up driveway to 42nd Avenue, 41½ Avenue from West Broadway to Hubbard, and direct staff accordingly.
- G. Motion to approve the Sacred Heart Church Fun Fest:
- Approve the request for the Sacred Heart Church Annual Fun Fest, Saturday, September 23, 2023, 4:00-10:30 p.m., with music ending at 10:30 p.m.
 - Find that the Fun Fest qualifies as a community event and is eligible for extended outdoor music until 10:30 p.m. per City Code (2005.15, Subd. 1).
 - Approve the Police Chief's recommendation that Police Reserves will be on site.
 - Approve the temporary liquor license.
- H. Motion to authorize the City Manager and Finance Director to issue a Purchase Order to Evoqua Water Technologies of Holland, Michigan, for the purchase of replacement sludge press cloths at the new Water Treatment Plant – Project 53217, with finer weave in accordance with the quotation provided on July 17, 2023, for a price of \$39,123.04.
- I. Motion to waive the reading and order the adoption of Resolution No. 8047 “RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE SITE LEASE AGREEMENT WITH AMERICAN TOWER AT 3110 OAKDALE AVE.”
- J. Motion to waive the reading and concur with the Planning Commission by holding the first reding of Ordinance No. 23-11 “AN ORDINANCE REZONING 3836 HUBBARD AVENUE NORTH FROM R-2, SINGLE AND TWO FAMILY RESIDENTIAL TO R-1, SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL.”

PRESENTATION A: GREENSTEP CITIES STEP 3 AWARD.

7. Kristin Mroz, GreenStep Cities & Tribal Nations Co-Director, gave a presentation on Robbinsdale's work with GreenStep Cities and presented the award for Robbinsdale reaching Step 3 of the program.

PUBLIC HEARING A: PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER ZONING INTERPRETATION FOR AN INTENDED US AT 4050 LAKELAND AVE. N., ROBIN CENTER.

8. Pearson provided an overview and explained the Minnesota Department of Commerce sent the City an application on behalf of Scott Bennett of SBJ Enterprises dba Your Exchange, to operate a currency exchange business in Robbinsdale. He stated that the City must hold a public hearing and provide the Minnesota Department of Commerce with a decision from the governing authority. He explained the application states the business is for check cashing and noted his interpretation of the City Code does not allow this type of business at this specific

location. Pearson also noted the applicant could appeal the City Code interpretation or apply for a zoning text amendment.

9. Mayor Blonigan opened the public hearing.
10. Scott Bennet, Your Exchange, provided Council an overview of the business that he is proposing to potentially occupy the space. He stated the business isn't only for check cashing and noted several other services that would be provided.
11. Member Webb asked if languages, other than Spanish, would be offered as part of the services. Mr. Bennett stated since other languages aren't as common they do not advertise for them.
12. Member Webb asked about the fees for paying utility bills such as Xcel and Center Point. Bennet provided the fees that would be charged.
13. Member Webb asked who the target population is. Bennett answered the unbanked, underbanked, people that don't use bank accounts, and people who are in situations where they can't get a bank account.
14. Member Wagner asked how many people would be employed at this location and what kind of wages would employees make. Bennett stated there would be 4 to 6 employees and the starting wage is \$18 to \$20 with potential for an increase upon good performance.
15. Member Wagner asked how they keep employees safe. Bennet explained reducing hours, including further reduction in hours during the winter, security officers that show up during close, having multiple employees open and close together, and by having surveillance.
16. **Member Wager MOVED, seconded by member Murphy to close the public hearing. This vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**
17. Member Murphy asked if the B-3 district is where the old Payday America used to be. Pearson stated that is correct. Murphy asked if they had a conditional use permit. Pearson noted he was unsure.
18. Pearson noted staff had limited information in bringing this to Council and that the applicant had not contacted staff to inquire about zoning requirements before applying through the Minnesota Department of Commerce. He also stated the City Code doesn't explicitly mention "check cashing" so it is up to interpretation.
19. Member Murphy stated he does think there is a need for this business and questioned what the timeline would be for determining zoning and how that would fit into the statute guidelines. Pearson stated his preference would be to go through a text amendment process to figure out what the use is, which takes 90 to 120 days. Member Murphy said he would prefer that method too.
20. Member Webb agreed with Member Murphy and wants to make sure we are doing

the right thing for the people in the community and understands people do need a service like this.

21. Member Wagner asked if there was a change to staff's recommendation. Pearson stated staff would need to look into this further, based on Council's input.
22. Mayor Blonigan noted the 60-day timeframe given by the Minnesota Department of Commerce and stated he didn't want this to automatically be approved if the Council didn't come to a conclusion.
23. Mr. Bennett noted he could potentially withdraw the application from the state and allow the time for a text amendment.
24. Sandvik recommended the Council table this item and come back to it at the next Council meeting.
25. **Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by member Webb to table this item and revisit it at the August 15, 2023 Council meeting. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

OTHER BUSINESS A: MOTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT REQUESTS FOR PERIOD ENDING JULY 31, 2023

26. **Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by member Webb to approve disbursement requests for the period ending July 31, 2023. This vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

27. Sandvik noted requested information related to the School Resource Officer will be provided to the Council in the next week or two. He also thanked folks for coming to the Sochacki Park open house as well as Lee Park for the Minnesota Twins clinic. Lastly, he mentioned National Night Out is happening tomorrow, August 1, 2023, and is looking forward to seeing people out.

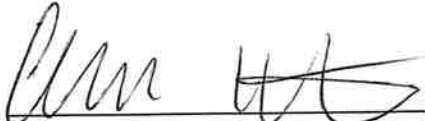
COUNCIL GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

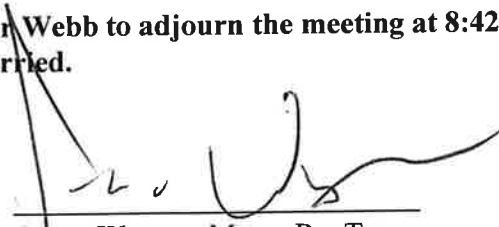
28. Member Murphy asked for follow up on traffic enforcement within neighborhoods. Sandvik stated the city continues to use multiple mechanisms to enforce this, including cameras and speed trailers. Member Murphy also asked specifically about additional information on road improvements.
29. Member Webb mentioned GreenStep Cities and congratulated the City on making it to Step 3. She noted National Night Out and hopes people can come together as a community.
30. Member Parisian thanked GreenStep Cities and staff for their sustainability efforts. She also mentioned the trash pick-up at Lakeview Terrace Park on Saturday, August 5, and noted the public safety open house happening on August 12.

31. Mayor Blonigan mentioned the Robbinsdale Farmers Market and again encouraged people to attend. He noted that he attended a reunion for two high schools from Liberia that held their event in Robbinsdale and that he provided a Mayoral proclamation. He also mentioned Robbinsdale's work with Partners in Energy (PIE) and that Council will be discussing Robbinsdale's Energy Action Plan at an upcoming Work Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by member Webb to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.


Chase Peterson-Etem, City Clerk


Aaron Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem