

City of Robbinsdale
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
AUGUST 18, 2020
Meeting No. 16

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.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC

3. Mayor Murphy opened the floor to anyone wishing to speak on any items not on the agenda.
No one chose to speak.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. Glick noted the addition of New Business A- amending the Special Assessment Policy to include storm damaged trees on private property
5. Member Selman **MOVED**, seconded by Member Backen to approve the August 18th meeting agenda. **A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Blonigan, Rogan, Selman, Backen, Mayor Murphy. Nays: None. The motion carried.**

CONSENT AGENDA

6. Member Blonigan **MOVED**, seconded by Member Rogan to approve the consent agenda items. **A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Blonigan, Rogan, Selman, Backen, Mayor Murphy. Nays: None. The motion carried.**
 - A. Motion to approve and place on file minutes of the City Council meeting:
 - City Council Minutes on 8/4/20
 - Council Work Session Minutes on 8/4/20
 - B. Motion to affirm and support the appointment of Sherry O'Donnell as interim City Clerk commencing August 18, 2020.
 - C. Motion to approve issuance of licenses dated August 18th, 2020.
 - D. Motion to approve the July 2020 payment for City credit card charges.
 - E. Motion to waive the reading and order the adoption of Resolution No. 7838, "A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING CITY WATER RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2021, AS RECOMMENDED IN OPTION 2 OF THE WATER UTILITY RATE STUDY AND COMMITTING TO USE FUND BALANCE IN THE EVENT A DEFICIT BALANCE EXISTS TO MAKE PUBLIC FACILITIES AUTHORITY (PFA) LOAN PAYMENTS."

- F. Motion to approve Sacred Heart Church Annual Fun Fest on Saturday, September 12 from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., including temporary food and liquor licenses.

NEW BUSINESS A – Amendment to Special Assessment Policy: Storm Damage Private Trees

7. McCoy reviewed the staff report noting that the sometimes large expense for removal of trees damaged by storms on private property was similar to the sudden expense of repairs needed to private water and sanitary sewer lines.
8. Council spoke in support of the amendment and thanked staff for this recommendation
9. Member Backen **MOVED**, seconded by Member Selman to waive the reading and order the adoption of Resolution No. 7839, “A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT POLICY FOR THE CITY OF ROBBINSDALE.” **A roll call vote was taken on the motion. Ayes: Blonigan, Rogan, Selman, Backen, Mayor Murphy. Nays: None. The motion carried.**

OTHER BUSINESS A – Voucher Request Pending Approval for Disbursement

10. Member Backen **MOVED**, seconded by Member Rogan to approve disbursement requests for period ending 08/18/20. **A roll call vote was taken on the motion. Ayes: Blonigan, Rogan, Selman, Backen, Mayor Murphy. Nays: None. The motion carried.**

OTHER BUSINESS B – Discuss Spending Plan Options for Federal CARES Act Local Funding

11. Glick presented the report noting that at this point, staff is suggesting ideas and looking for feedback. Of note is that to the extent that funds can be provided to cover City costs, it is covering costs that would have been passed along to taxpayers. Updates to other suggestions it had been found that PRISM had only 6 eligible households receiving rent assistance March through July, much lower than anticipated. North Memorial’s President, who had initially requested the assistance some months ago, reported that the hospital had covered its costs and did not need city assistance. Other preliminary ideas had also been covered through other funding sources. Robbinsdale is not alone in struggling to identify appropriate allocations.
12. Zuba shared information on requirements for the Federal funding. He noted, for example, that the city cannot assist with city utility bills as this would be characterized as reimbursing lost income for the city. The League of MN Cities cautioned that cities should be cautious of providing funds to school districts as they are already getting their own funds. Zuba provided examples of City expenditures related to COVID which would be covered by this resource: work from home technology, personal protective equipment for public safety, staff time specifically related to COVID planning, extra disinfectant in buildings and vehicles. Funds cannot be used to cover lost income.
13. There was discussion on ways to make people aware of rent assistance options and other assistance. Rogan noted that there is a page on the County website the city might link to. Blonigan noted a city had hired a social worker and asked if funds could be used for staffing.
14. Lindsay Jendrazak, 4120 Abbott Ave N, suggested several options including internet hot spots (Comcast for example only provides 60 days free), child care, mobile libraries, resource kits, wifi in public spaces, public health on the go.

15. Discussion continued to check to see if private schools were also receiving funds directly and whether funds could be used to promote how to apply for assistance as well as options on CCX.
16. Glick noted that the window to use funds is closing and most likely partnerships with existing third-party/non-profit underwriters would be the most viable option; she is setting up a meeting with Hennepin County to follow up on original option for County to help administer funds. Funds distributed in ways that were found not to meet Federal requirements would have to be repaid to the Feds. The item will come back to the September 1 City Council Meeting with a resolution supporting allocation of funds.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

17. Glick reported that John Tingley's last day with the city was August 18th; that he had done an excellent job with the Primary Election and was leaving for personal reasons and she wanted to publicly thank him for all he has done for the city. The position is being advertised looking for someone with strong administrative skills. She gave an update on filling the Police Captain and Police Chief positions
18. Glick noted that the Robbinsdale Chamber of Commerce was working on a virtual Meet & Greet event since the in-person event was not possible this year.

COUNCIL GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

19. Blonigan reported that a resident had suggested creating adopt a park/road/storm drain program to address littering. He expressed regret that Sheila Webb had not been recognized at the August 14th Canvass Board meeting when other candidates present were acknowledged. He echoed Glick's comments regarding John Tingley's departure and that he will be missed.
20. Selman mentioned the storm the previous Friday and was glad that everyone was ok. He mentioned a social media concern regarding lack of action related to speed enforcement. Glick noted she had brought the discussion to the attention of Captain Foley and reminded people to report problems directly to the police so that they can get details that help with enforcement. Selman noted that the police are not spending enough time in the neighborhoods addressing speeding.
21. Murphy echoed Selman's report indicating that he has never seen anyone pulled over for driving through the stop sign at West Broadway and the Plaza or speeding through neighborhoods.

ADJOURNMENT

22. Member Rogan **MOVED**, seconded by Member Selman to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. **A roll call vote was taken on the motion. Ayes: Blonigan, Rogan, Selman, Backen, Mayor Murphy. Nays: None. The motion carried.**

Marcia Glick, Recording

Regan L. Murphy, Mayor