

City of Robbinsdale
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
August 20, 2019
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; Meagan Donahue, Assistant to City Manager;
Rick Pearson, Community Development Coordinator
Richard McCoy, Public Works Director/City Engineer

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC

3. Mayor Murphy opened the floor to anyone wishing to speak on any items not on the agenda.
4. Rosemary Stafford – Lee Square – Requested the Council consider putting in a stop light in front of Lee Square for crossing 36th Avenue.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

5. Donahue noted the addition of three additional resident comment sheets for Old Business A.
6. Member Selman **MOVED**, seconded by Member Backen to approve the August 20th meeting agenda with the additions. **The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

CONSENT AGENDA

7. Member Blonigan **MOVED**, seconded by Member Backen to approve the Consent Agenda. **The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

Items approved are as follows:

- A. Motion to approve and order placed on file minutes of the City Council meeting:
 - Special Council Meeting on 08/05/19
 - Regular City Council Meeting on 08/05/19.
 - Regular Council Work Session on 08/05/19.
- B. Motion to acknowledge the receipt and placing on file minutes of the following Commissions and Boards:
 - Robbinsdale Parks, Recreation & Forestry Commission 5/28/19.
- C. Motion to approve issuance of licenses dated August 20, 2019.
- D. Motion to approve the July 2019 payment for City credit card charges.
- E. Motion to acknowledge the Investment Report for the quarter ended June 2019.
- F. Motion to:
 - Find that the Fun Fest qualifies as a community event and eligible for extended outdoor music until 11:00 p.m. per City Code (2005.15,

Subd.1).

- Approve the request for the Sacred Heart Church Annual Fun Fest, Saturday, September, 2019 with music ending at 11:00 p.m. on Saturday.
 - Approve the Police Chief's recommendation that Sacred Heart Church hire two sworn Robbinsdale Police Officers at the over-time rate to be present on Saturday, September 14, 2019, from 7:00 p.m. until 11:30 p.m.
 - Approve the City to pay half the Police Officer costs for the Sacred Heart Church Fun Fest for the Saturday, September 14, 2019 evening outdoor event.
 - Approve the temporary liquor and food licenses.
 - Approve the request for the Sacred Heart Church Annual Fun Fest road closure of 40½ Avenue North from West Broadway to Hubbard Avenue North, and Hubbard Avenue North between 40 ½ and 41st Avenues, from noon to 11:00 p.m. Saturday, September 14, 2019. Barricades are required at all street closures and must be in place during the festival. The closure at 40 ½ and Hubbard shall be on the near side (east side of Hubbard on 40 ½ and north side of 40 ½ at Hubbard), so that the intersection remains open in the directions of the non-closure.
- G. Motion to waive the reading and order the adoption of Resolution 7750 "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF ROBBINSDALE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MINNESOTA GREENSTEP CITIES PROGRAM."
- H. Motion to hold the 2nd reading of Ordinance 19-10 "AN ORDINANCE RELATED TO TOBACCO LICENSE REQUIREMENTS."
- I. Motion to authorize the Mayor and City Manager to execute the Marketing Agreement between the City of Robbinsdale and Utility Service Partners Private Label, INC, d/b/a Service Line Warranties of America, subject to final review and approval by the City Attorney.
- J. Motion to authorize the Mayor and City Manager to execute the Grant Agreement between the City of Robbinsdale and Parker Station LLC, subject to final review and approval by the City Attorney.
- K. Motion to waive the reading and order the adoption of Resolution 7751 "A RESOLUTION APPROVING SUBDIVISION REQUEST SUBD. 19-1, A LOT SPLIT TO ENABLE OUTLOT A TO BE COMBINED WITH THE PLAT OF PARKER STATION FLATS."
- L. Motion to waive the reading and order the adoption of Resolution 7752 "A RESOLUTION ADOPTING SIGN RETROFLECTIVITY EVALUATION AND MAINTENANCE POLICY."

PRESENTATION A– Introduction of 2019-2020 Robbinsdale Ambassadors

8. The 2019-2020 Ambassadors introduced themselves and answered questions from the Council.

OLD BUSINESS A– Water Treatment Plant Site Selection

9. McCoy presented the staff report. He stated the site needs to be selected to meet deadlines for funding. He shared the planning process leading up to this Council meeting and reviewed top issues raised by residents.
10. Pauline Peterson – Lee Square #243 – Addressed the Council and expressed she is in favor of a water treatment facility and lime water softening. She shared her concerns about placing the water treatment facility on the south site and would prefer the City use that site for something more desirable, such as a youth or senior center. She is in favor of the north site.
11. Kathryn Sherwick – Lee Square – Shared that she recently moved back to Minnesota and into Lee Square. She is disappointed that she did not receive information about the south site consideration until the Saturday before the August 5th meeting, not allowing for enough time to make it. She expressed her concerns about using the south site for the water treatment plant, as well as the potential turf athletic field. She suggested to look at other locations, such as the area the Mai Thai Restaurant.
12. Connie Cardarelle – Lee Square – Agrees with what has been said. She disagrees with Mr. McCoy about assuming there will be minimal detriment to the neighborhood. She has enjoyed walking the path through the “park” and all of the wild life she has encountered. She would like to know some more information about the proposed water tower and why that hasn’t been brought up during these meetings. She is in support of a soccer field, if a youth or senior center are not possible. She also expressed other concerns about using the south site for this project.
13. Derek Kiewatt – Lee Square – His unit is about 50 feet away from the property line. He would prefer the water treatment plant over the athletic field.
14. Mike Frye – 3831 Lee Avenue North – Requested information on which site is more cost effective for the project.
15. Beth Becklund – 3629 Lee Avenue North – Has lived in her home for 32 years and they have enjoyed the wildlife on the south site. She assumed this site was meant to be park land. She also expressed concerns about dealing with a 2-year construction project and the south site is not a good option.
16. Richard Lee – Lee Square – Has lived in the Robbinsdale area for over 70 years. Really would like the Council to consider the north site for the water treatment plant. He understands something needs to be done to help the water, but the south side will have a bigger impact to residents in the area.
17. Jack Soderberg – 3936 Noble Avenue North – Based on feedback from initial meetings considering the north site, which used to be an industrial site, an alternate site (the south site) was being considered. He wants to know where that feedback came from. He shared how he observes the south site currently being used and concerns about developing the south lot.

18. Dean Johnson – 3617 Lee Avenue North – The north site was originally deemed as the perfect site at the start of this process and wants to know why it changed to the south site. He also expressed concerns about using the south and would like the Council to consider selecting the north site.
19. Kathryn Sherwick – Lee Square – Returned to address the Council to share additional concerns about the impact to the residents of Lee Square.
20. Gary Becklund – 3629 Lee Avenue North – What is the cost of these sites for the project? Why isn't Minneapolis water being considered anymore? The cost to the lives that will be effected is his biggest worry and the need to preserve the green space we have left, as well as other concerns.
21. Duane Peterson – Lee Square #243 – Asked when the final decision will be made.
22. Mayor Murphy informed him that the plan is to make a decision tonight.
23. Rosemary Stafford – Lee Square – Shared a REDA Resolution from 1999, Resolution 9912 with the Council. Lee Square residents were under the impression that the land was donated from Lee Square as park land and would like this cleared up and shared other concerns. She also reiterated that she would like to see a stop light installed at the Lee Square entrance.
24. Marsha Jarvala – Lee Square – We call the south lot the "Best Kept Secret." This lot is very important and really hopes the City moves forward with the north site.
25. Carol Larson – 3711 Lee Avenue North – Either spot would have an impact on her, but she prefers the north site. The north end was originally presented as the ideal location. More people are impacted if the south site is selected.
26. McCoy returned to address the Council to answer resident questions.
27. McCoy acknowledged the site that was mentioned near Mai Thai. This location is much closer to the water level and has poor soils. The Lee area locations are much more centralized. The City owns both of the sites in the Lee area, we don't own other sites. The water tower is planned for a different location in town.
28. McCoy stated that there isn't much of a difference in cost between both sites.
29. McCoy said that the initial planned location was the north site. Residents on that end of the street attend the public hearing in opposition and suggested an alternate location, staff suggested consideration of the south site by Lee Square.
30. McCoy said that a feasibility report was completed which considered purchasing water from Minneapolis, building a new treatment plant and rebuilding the existing plants. Construction of a new plant came out as the best option over 40 years. Other communities pay significantly more for Minneapolis water over time.
31. McCoy addressed river water vs. ground water sustainability. A lot of chemicals are being detected in river water as technology improves. Robbinsdale was connected to Minneapolis water back in the early 1900's and in the 1920's Robbinsdale went on its own.
32. Mayor Murphy requested clarification about existing sites and other potential sites.
33. McCoy stated that each site has to be visited daily, which takes up a lot of time.

Maintaining three separate sites would be costlier. The new system will have a filter system, rather than a pressure system like we currently have. Maintenance for pressure systems is more difficult. A centralized plant is preferred.

34. McCoy acknowledged the request for a traffic light in front of Lee Square. To install a traffic light, we need to meet certain warrants and this location would not meet those warrants. Traffic control can be discussed at another time.
35. McCoy stated that the north site is do-able and they can make it work, but the south site is preferable.
36. Duane Peterson – Lee Square #243 – What would the City do for a park if the plant is put on the south site? What would happen with the north site? What would happen to the idea about the turf field.
37. Glick stated she is not sure what park uses would fit on the north site. The north parcel could possibly be used as a soccer field. The turf field was added as a line item on the Capital Improvement Plan in 2016, but was discussed for many years prior to that.
38. Beth Becklund – 3629 Lee Avenue North – asked if the north site would become a park?
39. Mayor Murphy stated that REDA currently owns the north site. They would need to sell it to the City for it to be dedicated as a formal park. He also stated that the CIP shows a plan for a turf field. There are no guarantees on what would be done with the north lot.
40. Mike Frye – 3831 Lee Avenue North – He is under the impression that the north side would be costlier to fit a building on.
41. Carol Larson – 3711 Lee Avenue North – Returned to address the Council, stating that the south site would not remain as it is long term. We would hate to see it turn into a big parking lot. Maybe we would have more green space with the water treatment plant over the artificial turf soccer field, we want green space, trees and landscaping.
42. Mayor Murphy thanked everyone for their comments and said they do make a difference.
43. Gary Becklund – asked how the project is going to be financed? Will bonds be used and what is the cost?
44. McCoy returned to answer questions. Until we have a design it is hard to say which site would be more cost effective, we need to start designing one site or the other, not both. Minimal parking would have to be added, so no large parking lots.
45. Mike Frye – 3831 Lee Avenue North – asked if it is possible to have the trucks loop within the building? Or have a smaller truck?
46. McCoy said that the truck turn around would need to be large enough for semi to turn around, so turning around in a building would likely not be possible. The plan is to have minimal surface area, just large enough for the truck to drive on. A smaller vehicle would mean more frequent trips, increased traffic and likely more expensive.
47. McCoy stated that funding through the state would allow for lower rates than bonds would.
48. Member Selman stated that he was the last to agree to anything in his ward when the project first came up. The further we got in the process, the more he understood that the south site was the best option. The south site has an effect on a large amount of people;

the north site has a bigger effect on a small amount of people. The City paid a lot of money for the feasibility study and he trusts the results. He congratulated and thanked everyone for their comments and said that they do matter. Both locations are great and both locations suck at the same time. He really feels that the south site is the best location. No matter what location is selected, he will do his best to make sure there is minimal impact and that everyone can be included in the design.

49. Member Backen stated that at the first public hearing the north side recommended the south side and the south side wants the north side. Residents expressed they wanted water softening. He is in favor of the south site and the City plans to make the impact as minimal as possible.
50. Member Rogan said that the study prepared for the City came back that something needs to be done. Minneapolis water is three times more expensive over the long haul, than a new plant. Originally he did not want to spend the extra money for water softening, but residents expressed that they really wanted it. Other sites were considered after the first public hearing and there are winners and losers no matter where it goes. We will be able to make it work better on the south site and it makes the most sense.
51. Member Blonigan thanked everyone for their comments throughout this process. The south site was supposed to be developed as the 3rd phase of Lee Square, when that couldn't happen it was turned back over to the city. It was always in the plan to develop this lot. It has been perceived as park land and treated as park land, but it is not a dedicated park. He stated that he perceived that the woods at the end of his block as a park has been developed and he understands what everyone is going through. We all agreed that the water treatment plant building cannot look like a traditional industrial building. We can do better for the environment on the south site with more space to add solar panels and greenery. The staff are experts in projects like this and he trusts their opinions. He is in favor of the south site.
52. Mayor Murphy stated that decisions like these are never easy. This is a classic "not in my back yard" example. The south site provides the best opportunity to improve the green space and possibly bring in large caliper trees to fill in the space. The Council wants people to be proud of what is built and make sure it is done right.
53. Member Selman **MOVED**, seconded by Member Backen to select the south site for the proposed Centralized Water Treatment Plant.
54. Roll Call – Blonigan, yes; Rogan, yes; Selman, yes; Backen, yes; Mayor Murphy, yes.
55. **The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

OTHER BUSINESS A – Voucher Request Pending Approval for Disbursement

56. Member Selman **MOVED**, seconded by Member Rogan to approve disbursement requests for period ending 08/20/19. **The vote was unanimous and the motion carried. Absent, Rogan.**

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

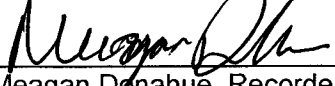
57. Glick reminded everyone that there is a Council Budget Work Session on Thursday, August 22nd at 6:30 pm.

COUNCIL GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

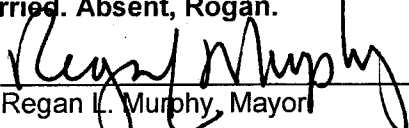
58. Member Blonigan shared that the Lower Twin Lake Association worked all summer to get a flag to signal "no wake" on the lake. A wind sock was installed and is visible anywhere on the lake.

ADJOURNMENT

59. Member Selman **MOVED**, seconded by Member Rogan to adjourn the meeting at 9:33 p.m.
The vote was **unanimous and the motion carried. Absent, Rogan.**



Meagan Donahue, Recorder



Regan L. Murphy, Mayor