

City of Robbinsdale
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
September 6, 2022
Meeting No. 17

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

2. Present: Backen, Webb, Selman, Mayor Blonigan
Staff: Tim Sandvik, City Manager; Dustin Leslie, City Clerk; Diaa Tahoun, Finance Director; Ryan Parks, Recreation Services Manager; Rick Pearson, Community Development Coordinator; Richard McCoy, Public Works Director; Patrick Foley, Police Chief.
Guests: Chaz Sandifer, New MPLS Farmer's Market; Laverne McCartney Knighton, Director – UNCF.

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. Jerry Blem – 2605 Parkview Blvd.: Resident stated vehicles were driving onto the field and would like to see posts with a chain on the vehicle access to discourage it in the future. Resident also stated the tennis court was damaged when a vehicle crashed into it driving from Abbott at Lowry. Resident requested a post or guard rail at that location for safety reasons.

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 6, 2022 MEETING AGENDA

5. Leslie reported the following change to the agenda:
 - Grammatical changes were made by the Mayor to the Resolution for Old Business A.
 - Voucher Report for Other Business A.
6. **Member Backen MOVED, seconded by Member Selman to approve the September 6, 2022 Agenda with the update given to Council by the City Clerk. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

CONSENT AGENDA

7. Member Selman removed item I for further consideration. Mayor Blonigan removed items G and H for further consideration.
8. **Member Backen MOVED, seconded by Member Webb to approve the September 6, 2022 Consent Agenda with the exceptions of items G, H, and I, which were pulled for further consideration. The 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 on 8/16/22
- B. Motion to receive advisory commission minutes:
 - Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Commission minutes on 5/24/22
 - Human Rights Commission minutes on 7/28/22
- C. Motion to approve issuance of licenses dated 9/6/22.
- D. Motion to approve the July 2022 payment for City credit card charges.
- E. Motion to acknowledge the Robbinsdale Wine & Spirits' financial reports for the month of July 2022.
- F. Motion to acknowledge the Deputy Registrar's financial reports for the month of July 2022.
- G. (Removed).
- H. (Removed).
- I. (Removed).
- J. Motion to authorize the City Manager and Human Resources to execute Contract Agreement between the City of Robbinsdale and Law Enforcement Labor Services #517.
- K. Scheduling Public Hearing on October 4, 2022 to Certify the Assessment Roll for Unpaid Administrative Penalties.
 - 1. Set a public hearing to certify the assessment roll for unpaid administrative penalties for Tuesday, October 4, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at Robbinsdale City Hall.
 - 2. Authorize the City Clerk to publish the public hearing notice in the official paper of the City and send notices to the affected property owners.
- L. Scheduling Public Hearing on October 4, 2022 to Certify the Assessment Roll for Delinquent Utilities.
 - 1. Set a public hearing to certify the assessment roll for delinquent utilities for Tuesday, October 4, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at Robbinsdale City Hall.
 - 2. Authorize the City Clerk to publish the public hearing notice in the official paper of the City and send notices to affected

property owners.

- M. Scheduling Public Hearing on October 4, 2022 to Certify the Assessment Roll for Emergency Water, Sewer, and Sump Pump Repairs.
 - 1. Set a public hearing to certify the assessment roll for emergency water and sewer repairs, and required sump pump repairs for Tuesday, October 4, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at Robbinsdale City Hall.
 - 2. Authorize the City Clerk to publish the public hearing notice in the official paper of the City and send notices to the affected property owners.
- N. Scheduling Public Hearing on October 4, 2022 to Certify the Assessment Roll for Retaining Wall Work.
 - 1. Set a public hearing to certify the assessment roll for retaining wall work for Tuesday, October 4, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at Robbinsdale City Hall.
 - 2. Authorize the City Clerk to publish the public hearing notice in the official paper of the City and send notices to the affected property owners.

CONSENT ITEM H: VARIANCE REQUEST V22-6 FOR AN ACCESSORY STRUCTURE AT 3701 MAJOR AVE N

- 9. Mayor Blonigan spoke about the wording in the Resolution and asked if using the word “allow” would allow for abuse of variance requests in the future.
- 10. Pearson stated variances expire after a year and must meet all other standards. Pearson stated more specifics could be added to prevent future confusion. He added that he thought the proposed garage was going to have an area of 780 sq. ft.
- 11. Mayor Blonigan requested to add “according to the plan that was submitted” to the NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED clause of the Resolution.
- 12. Mayor Blonigan MOVED, seconded by Member Selman to waive the reading and order the adoption of Resolution #__ “A RESOLUTION APPROVING VARIANCE REQUEST V22-6 TO ALLOW THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ACCESSORY STRUCTURE THAT EXCEEDS 25% OF THE AREA OF THE REAR YARD ACCORDING TO THE PLANS SUBMITTED FOR THE BUILDING PERMIT WITH A FOOTPRINT OF 780 SQUARE FEET AND EXCEEDING THE AREA OF THE MAIN FLOOR OF THE PRINCIPAL STRUCTURE AT 3701 MAJOR AVE N” with the change requested by the Mayor. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

CONSENT ITEM G: VARIANCE REQUEST V22-5 TO REDUCE THE FRONT YARD SETBACK FOR PARKING AT 3245 HALIFAX AVE N

9. Mayor Blonigan asked if there was a public hearing at the Planning Commission for this item. Pearson confirmed there was a public hearing.
10. **Member Backen MOVED, seconded by Member Selman to waive the reading and order the adoption of Resolution #7994 “A RESOLUTION APPROVING VARIANCE REQUEST V22-5 TO REDUCE THE REQUIRED SETBACK FOR FRONT YARD PARKING FROM 15 TO 7 FEET FOR 3245 HALIFAX AVE N.”**
The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

CONSENT ITEM I: APPOINT METRO BLUE LINE EXTENSION LRT SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

11. Member Selman stated he had no objections to the actual appointees but would be voting against this because the city should not support anything to do with light rail including committees.
12. Mayor Blonigan stated he would support the appointments because it is important to have a voice in the decisions.
13. **Member Selman MOVED, seconded by Member Backen to not approve the appointments to the BAC and CAC. A roll call was taken. Ayes: Selman. Nays: Backen, Webb, Mayor Blonigan. The motion failed on a 1-3 vote.**
14. **Member Backen MOVED, seconded by Member Webb to authorize the reappointments of Jason Greenberg and Gene Montanez to the Community Advisory Committee and Mike Opat to the Business Advisory Committee and to authorize staff to solicit additional, potential members for BAC vacancies. A roll call was taken. Ayes: Backen, Webb, Mayor Blonigan. Nays: Selman. The motion passed on a 3-1 vote.**
15. Member Backen shared Member Selman’s frustrations but stated the city should be involved in decisions regarding the light rail project.

OLD BUSINESS A: RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR REEVE MURAL ON MNDOT NOISE WALL FACING THE APARTMENTS AT 4600 LAKE ROAD

16. Pearson gave the report and showed Council a picture of the potential mural location and its proposed design.
17. In reference to Pearson stating Ted Bigos of Bigos Management thinking the mural would be a good idea, Member Selman stated Bigos had problematic properties in Robbinsdale and would support the mural but not because of Bigos.

18. Member Backen asked if only one flower would have color and if the only color would be purple. Pearson confirmed it would be only one color and one flower as coloring the barrier would be a complicated process.
19. The council discussed the design and stated they would support it but preferred it to be more colorful.
20. **Mayor Blonigan MOVED, seconded by Member Selman to waive the reading and order the adoption of Resolution #7995 "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR ART ON TRUNK HIGHWAY RIGHT OF WAY TO THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION." The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

NEWS BUSINESS A: UNCF WALK FOR EDUCATION

21. Knighton gave an overview and spoke about the history of the walk. Sandifer showed Council a map of the walk. Sandifer stated they would be using Strongarm Protection and volunteers for intersection management.
22. Mayor Blonigan referenced the walk being a national event. Knighton confirmed and stated there were 24 locations across the country who participate.
23. Member Webb asked when the walk last took place in Minnesota. Knighton stated 2008.
24. Member Webb stated this was a good opportunity for the city especially for the communities of color.
25. Member Selman stated this walk would likely not have been supported due to the staff recommendations and lack of safety plan if Knighton and Sandifer were not present. Member Selman stated he would support but asked the organizers to meet with the Police Department beforehand.
26. **Member Selman MOVED, seconded by Member Webb to approve the application for a 5k walk that was submitted by Laverne McCartney Knighton and Chaz Sandifer to be held on Saturday, September 17, 2022, 7:30 a.m. to noon, beginning and ending at Lakeview Terrace Park with conditions noted by Council and staff. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

OTHER BUSINESS A: DISBURSEMENT REQUESTS

27. **Member Backen MOVED, seconded by Member Selman to approve disbursement requests for period ending 9/6/2022. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

28. Sandvik stated the city would be getting new staff members soon including a new Assistant to City Manager – Communications, and GreenCorps member.

29. Sandvik stated staff was working on language for the THC moratorium and 25 mph speed limit discussion and should be ready in the near-future.
30. Sandvik stated the city was finalizing a deal for yard waste pickup to continue. The city would also continue to use the drop off site until fall.

COUNCIL GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

31. Member Backen reminded residents of the Meet & Greet event which would take place on West Broadway Monday, September 12.
32. Member Backen reminded residents of the Sanborn Park open house on Tuesday, September 13 taking place at City Hall.
33. Member Webb encouraged residents to attend the Meet & Greet event and Sanborn Park open house.
34. Member Webb wished a happy first day of school to teachers, students, and staff.
35. Member Webb asked staff to look into community initiative grants for the city.
36. Member Selman gave a reminder to drivers to be more careful with school starting again.
37. Member Selman congratulated Captain Kaczmarek for getting the position of Police Chief at Big Lake.
38. Mayor Blonigan encouraged residents to attend the Meet & Greet event.
39. Mayor Blonigan spoke about Labor Day and why it was important.

Adjournment:

40. **Member Webb MOVED, seconded by Member Selman to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**



Dustin Leslie, City Clerk



William A. Blonigan, Mayor