

**City of Robbinsdale
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
September 14, 2021
Meeting No. 17**

CALL TO ORDER

1. Mayor William A. Blonigan called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

ROLL CALL

2. Present: Kline, Webb, Selman, Backen, Mayor Blonigan
Absent: None
Staff: Marcia Glick, City Manager; Dustin Leslie, City Clerk; Richard McCoy;
City Engineer; Patrick Foley, Police Chief; Rick Pearson, Community
Development Coordinator; Brittany Sibell, Interim 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. Jerry Blem – 2605 Parkview Blvd.: Resident shared concerns about a pole installed in the alleyway behind his property. Resident stated that the pole sticks outside of the property line into the alley causing plows and other vehicles to run into it. Xcel energy has tagged the pole to be reinforced which caused the resident to contact Xcel requesting them to move the pole back. Resident is asking City to get involved to help him work with Xcel to get the pole moved. McCoy stated staff will reach out to Xcel.
5. Bonnie Bufort – 3712 Oakdale Ave.: Resident came in to speak about vagrancy issues at 36th and France. Resident read an email from Council Member Backen which stated actions taken against an individual who has been causing problems in the area. Resident stated more needs to be done and offered the suggestions of either designating resident-only parking in the area, or erecting a fence around Claire Terrace.
6. Nancy Stoneberg – 4327 Lakeland Ave.: Resident echoed statements of previous resident and asked Council for a broader response to vagrancy in the City as the problem is not isolated to the 36th and France area. Glick suggested adding the topic to the next Crime Prevention Association meeting or the Police Chief could hold a special forum on the topic. Glick further stated the City now has an embedded social worker and will be able to better handle these situations going forward.

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 14, 2021 MEETING AGENDA

7. Leslie reported the following changes to the agenda:
 - The voucher report for Other Business B was added to the packet.

- An updated Ordinance for Consent Item R with a minor edit from the mayor replaced the previous ordinance language.
- A few minor corrections to the budget presentation were included.
- An adjustment of the change order was made to Consent Item N. The total amount was lower than previously submitted.
- A request to add Other Business C: Crystal Lake Alum Treatment – Change Order was added to the agenda.

8. **Member Selman MOVED, seconded by Member Backen to approve the September 14, 2021 Agenda with the updates given to Council by the City Clerk. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

CONSENT AGENDA

9. Member Blonigan removed items G, H, and I for further consideration.

10. **Member Selman MOVED, seconded by Member Backen to approve the September 14, 2021 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 8/17/21
 - Regular Work Session minutes on 8/10/21
 - Special Joint City Council/Human Rights Commission Work Session minutes on 8/10/21
 - Special LRT Work Session minutes on 8/24/21
 - Special Budget Work Session minutes on 8/24/21
 - Special City Council Park Tour minutes on 8/31/21
- B. Motion to receive advisory commission minutes:
 - Human Rights Commission minutes on 7/22/21
- C. Motion to approve the issuance of licenses dated 9/14/21.
- D. Motion to acknowledge the Robbinsdale Wine & Spirits' financial reports for the month of July 2021.
- E. Motion to acknowledge the Deputy Registrar's financial reports for the month of July 2021.
- F. Motion to approve the July 2021 payment for City credit card charges.
- G. (Removed).
- H. (Removed).

- I. (Removed).
- J. Motion to set a Public Hearing to certify the assessment roll for unpaid administrative penalties for Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at 7 p.m. at Robbinsdale City Hall and 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.
- K. Motion to set a Public Hearing to certify the assessment roll for emergency water and sewer repairs, and required sump pump repairs for Tuesday, October 5, 2021, at 7 p.m. at Robbinsdale City Hall and 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. Motion to set a Public Hearing to certify the assessment roll for delinquent utilities for Tuesday, October 5, 2021, at 7 p.m. at Robbinsdale City Hall and 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.
- M. Motion to authorize the City Manager to accept the proposal from Ideacom Mid America for a Verkada Security and Access Control System as part of the Water Treatment Plant – Project 53217 for a total of \$101,397.00 plus additional costs up to \$1,000.00 for access cards/tags.
- N. Motion the authorize Change Order 8 consisting of material price increases for the submersible pumps and equipment for Wells 4, 7, and 8 as part of the Water Treatment Plant – Project 53217 for an increase of \$47,933.
- O. Motion to extend the completion date an additional 12 months for Variance request V18-1 for 4375 Ewing Ave. N. to October 1, 2022.
- P. Motion to approve the 2021 Cootie Medallion Hunt, October 19-24, 2021, with the condition that no park infrastructure is damaged in the placement or search of the medallion.
- Q. Motion to authorize the Mayor and City Manager to execute the Sublease Agreement for use of the parking lot on the west side of the downtown water tower offered by Metropolitan Council.
- R. 2nd Reading – Update to City Code & Guidelines Related to Street Closures.
 - 1. Hold the 2nd reading of Ordinance No. 21-08 “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ROBBINSDALE CITY CODE TO ALLOW STAFF APPROVAL OF STREET CLOSURES FOR NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS.”
 - 2. Waive the reading and order the adoption of Resolution #7911 “A RESOLUTION ADOPTING GUIDELINES FOR STREET CLOSURES FOR CELEBRATION OR EVENTS.”

CONSENT ITEM G: PARKS, RECREATION, AND FORESTRY COMMISSION APPOINTMENT.

11. Mayor Blonigan thanked all residents who applied to volunteer with the Commissions. Mayor Blonigan highlighted Gina Williamson's credentials and thanked Council Member Webb for recommending Williamson.
12. **Member Webb MOVED, seconded by Member Selman to appoint Gina Williamson as an At-Large representative on the Robbinsdale Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Commission for a term commencing immediately. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

CONSENT ITEM H: RECOMMENDATION FOR CHARTER COMMISSION APPOINTMENT.

13. Mayor Blonigan highlighted Chris Berg's experience and credentials and thanked him for his interest in the Charter Commission.
14. **Member Kline MOVED, seconded by Member Selman to waive the reading and order the adoption of Resolution #7912 "A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING TO THE CHIEF JUDGE OF THE HENNEPIN COUNTY DISTRICT COURT APPOINTMENT OF QUALIFIED VOTER IN THE CITY OF ROBBINSDALE (Chris Berg)." The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

CONSENT ITEM I: APPOINTMENT OF WARD 1 PLANNING COMMISSIONER.

15. Mayor Blonigan thanked Council Member Kline for recommending Melissa Markfort to the Planning Commission as a Ward 1 representative.
16. Council Member Kline thanked previous Commissioner Josh Harrison for his work on the Commission. Council Member Kline thanked Markfort for her interest and highlighted her qualifications and credentials.
17. **Member Kline MOVED, seconded by Member Selman to appoint Melissa Markfort to the Planning Commission as a Ward 1 Commissioner effective immediately. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

PRESENTATION A: PROPOSED 2022 GENERAL FUND AND DEBT SERVICE TAX LEVIES.

18. Sibell gave the report highlighting areas such as Budget Features, Budget Requests, General Fund Revenue Highlights, Property Tax Levies, General Fund Expenditure Highlights, General Fund Reserves, and Tax Impacts.
19. Mayor Blonigan asked what the additional tax burden for a typical homeowner in Robbinsdale would be with the levy increase. Sibell stated for an average home in the city costing \$236,000, an additional annual amount of \$69.97 would be added to a resident's property taxes. This would amount to \$5.83 per month.
20. Mayor Blonigan asked for clarifications on fiscal disparities and asked how it figures in with the increased tax levy. Sibell stated the overall need would be a 6.22% levy increase. However, with the fiscal disparity allocation of 3.21%, the total burden on the taxpayer dropped to 3.01%. Glick further stated and since Robbinsdale has very little commercial property, they receive a larger commercial property levy from the shared metro area pool which offsets part of the levy. Mayor Blonigan and Glick had a discussion about areas that have a lot of commercial property compared to Robbinsdale and cite North Memorial as an example of an asset to the community which does not pay property taxes. Glick also stated that Robbinsdale offers affordable housing compared to the rest of the region as an asset.
21. Council Member Selman stated Local Government Aid has gone down in the past making it more important to advocate both for the preservation of the fiscal disparities pool and of Local Government Aid from the State.
22. The Council was in agreement to support the current levy increases with the understanding that it may be lower before final certification but not go higher. Glick clarified there was no need for a resolution at this meeting as it would be on the September 21st meeting agenda.
23. Mayor Blonigan asked for projected tax increases for a range of homeowners, not just the average home of \$236,000. Glick stated more information would come out in the Truth In Taxation report which usually goes out in November.

NEW BUSINESS A: WICKED WORT EVENT ON 10/2/21.

24. Leslie gave the report and stated to the Council that they must approve the request that music can be played until 11pm. Any music after 10pm needs Council approval.
25. Mayor Blonigan asked staff how often these late music requests are approved.
26. Glick stated these requests are usually approved for special community and public events. Glick noted that initially the City Council had asked Wicked Wort to host an Oktoberfest Celebration.

27. Council Member Kline stated he is supportive of the request as it is not frequently requested and wanted to support the business. Council Member Selman also stated he supports it and said in the future the Council could consider a condition of lowering music levels for music after 10pm.

28. Member Backen **MOVED**, seconded by Member Kline to approve the Wicked Wort Brewing Company (4165 West Broadway) application for their event on Saturday, October 2, 2021, approving live music being played until 11pm and with the conditions listed in the memo. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS A: BUDGET WORK SESSION SCHEDULING

29. Glick gave report and went over the budget work session timeline.

30. Member Selman **MOVED**, seconded by Member Backen to set a series of Work Sessions to discuss the Proposed City Manager's Budget for 2022 Enterprise and Capital Project Funds, and the 2022-2031 Capital Improvement Plan, for the dates of October 19th after the Council meeting, October 26th as a separate work session, and November 2nd after the Council meeting with options to add work sessions on November 9th and November 16th if needed. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS B: DISBURSEMENT REQUEST APPROVAL.

31. Member Backen **MOVED**, seconded by Member Selman to approve disbursement requests for period ending 9/14/21. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS C: CRYSTAL LAKE ALUM TREATMENT – CHANGE ORDER.

32. Glick stated this change order relates to the Crystal Lake Alum Treatment and stays within the grant amount.

33. Member Selman **MOVED**, seconded by Member Backen to authorize the Mayor to sign the Change Order for material price increases for the in-lake alum treatment of Crystal Lake for an increase of \$13,455.89. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS.

34. Glick stated Waste Management is struggling with all types of pickups in the City over the past couple of months largely due to staffing issues and equipment breakdowns. A contact at Waste Management said new employees have been hired with plans to hire more. New staff is currently being trained and Waste Management is hopeful things will improve soon. Glick stated the City is issuing liquidated damages to Waste Management for missed pickups. Adjusting the individual charges for all residents in the City would be

costly. There are future possibilities of using liquidated damages to make adjustments for next year's rates.

35. Mayor Blonigan asked where residents can find out information about future delays. Glick stated the best options are to follow the City of social media or go the website. Glick noted sometimes the City does not get much advanced notice of issues from Waste Management and that communication needs to be improved.
36. Glick and Chief Foley stated the Tri-City Community Engagement Forum will be taking place Saturday October 2nd at the Crystal Community Center. This will be an opportunity for residents to address the Police Chiefs from Robbinsdale, Crystal, and New Hope.

COUNCIL GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

37. Council Member Kline stated he hosted a driveway talk at his home the previous week and had a good turnout.
38. Council Member Kline stated he and other residents have been experiencing issues with the school bus service. Further stated that a notification saying no bus would show up in the area came the night before which was frustrating for residents. Kline acknowledged understanding there are currently staffing issues with the bus service but said the lack of communication is unacceptable.
39. Council Member Kline thanked staff and the Chamber of Commerce for their work on the Meet & Greet.
40. Council Member Webb stressed the importance of the community sharing their comments and concerns about the Light Rail going through Robbinsdale. Webb also stated more transparency is needed from the Met Council about the project.
41. Council Member Webb welcomed educators, school staff, and students in going back to school.
42. Council Member Webb stated National Hispanic Heritage Month runs from September 15th to October 15th.
43. Council Member Selman stated he continues to receive feedback from residents and business owners regarding the Blue Line Extension project. Selman further stated that the business owners he spoke with were adamantly opposed to the project and would not stay during the years of construction.
44. Council Member Selman wished a happy 43rd Anniversary to his wife.
45. Council Member Backen thanked the Chamber of Commerce and local businesses for their work with the Meet & Greet.

46. Mayor Blonigan thanked the Chamber of Commerce and participants for their work on the Meet & Greet which was a success.
47. Mayor Blonigan highlighted environmental improvements which were noted in the City's fall newsletter.
48. Mayor Blonigan noted progress in City staff becoming more inclusive and diverse.

Adjournment:

**Member Kline MOVED, seconded by Member Backen to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 pm.
The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**



Dustin Leslie, City Clerk



William A. Blonigan, Mayor