

City of Robbinsdale
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
November 2, 2021
Meeting No. 21

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

2. Present: Kline, Webb, Selman, Backen, Mayor Blonigan
Absent: None
Staff: Marcia Glick, City Manager; Dustin Leslie, City Clerk; Diaa Tahoun, Finance Director; Patrick Foley, Police Chief; Ryan Parks, Recreation Services Manager; Harper Steinbach, Community Engagement Coordinator; Andrew Biggerstaff, City Attorney.

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. Evan Wilbur – 3343 France Ave N: Wilbur raised concerns about dogs being off leash in Sochaki Park. Resident stated dogs off leash pose risks to the park, guests, and other dogs. The resident asked the City to enforce the rules in the park. Wilbur was referred to discuss further with Chief Foley.
5. Gera Pobuda – 3803 Lee Ave N: Pobuda raised concerns about her sidewalk being removed and not replaced during the Lee Avenue construction project. Resident complained that she was not able to give input about the decision and worried about how it would affect her home value.
6. Mayor Blonigan asked staff if putting in a replacement sidewalk could be an option in the future. Glick stated the Council could make the decision to replace the sidewalk at any time as part of a capital works project. Mayor Blonigan stated the Council would discuss this in a future work session.

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 2, 2021 MEETING AGENDA

7. Leslie reported the following changes to the agenda:
 - The voucher report for Other Business A was added to the packet.
 - Minor corrections were made to Old Business A. A list of corrections were provided to Council members prior to the meeting.
 - Letters regarding Old Business A from the Housing Justice Center, Home Line, and resident Molly Beahen were added to the packet.
 - Addition to the agenda as Other Business B: scheduling a Graeser Park Update work session.

8. **Member Kline MOVED, seconded by Member Backen to approve the November 2, 2021 Agenda with the updates given to Council by the City Manager. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

CONSENT AGENDA

9. Member Selman removed Item G for further consideration.
10. **Member Backen MOVED, seconded by Member Selman to approve the November 2, 2021 Consent Agenda with the exception of Item G which was removed 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 10/19/21
 - City Council Budget Work Session minutes on 10/19/21
 - Special City Council Work Session LRT minutes on 10/26/21
 - Special City Council Work Session minutes on 10/26/21
 - Special City Council Meeting minutes on 10/26/21
- B. Motion to receive advisory commission minutes:
- Parks, Recreation, & Forestry Commission minutes on 9/28/21
 - Humans Rights Commission minutes on 9/23/21
- C. Motion to approve issuance of licenses dated 11/2/21.
- D. Motion to acknowledge the Robbinsdale Wine & Spirits' financial reports for the month of September 2021.
- E. Motion to acknowledge the Deputy Registrar's financial reports for the month of September 2021.
- F. Motion to approve the September 2021 payment for City credit card charges.
- G. (Removed).
- H. Motion to waive the reading and order the adoption of Resolution #7926 "RESOLUTION APPROVING STATE OF MINNESOTA JOINT POWERS AGREEMENTS WITH THE CITY OF ROBBINSDALE ON BEHALF OF ITS POLICE DEPARTMENT."

CONSENT ITEM G: ELECTING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LOCAL HOUSING INCENTIVES ACCOUNT PROGRAM UNDER THE METROPOLITAN LIVABLE COMMUNITIES ACT

11. Member Selman indicated he pulled the item because the grant is operated by the Metropolitan Council. Member Selman stated he would not support anything he did not have to from the Metropolitan Council due to their behavior with the Blue Line Project.
12. **Member Selman MOVED, seconded by Member Backen to not approve the Resolution.**
13. Glick gave a staff report regarding the program. Glick stated that by approving this Resolution, the City would opt into future grant funding from the Metropolitan Council with certain requirements put into place. If the Resolution did not pass, Robbinsdale projects would not be eligible for Metropolitan Council grant funding until 2023. The grants would include projects such as development programs, affordable housing programs, and lifecycle housing.
14. Member Selman expressed concerns about the Metropolitan Council not having elected officials and having appointed officials instead. Member Selman further stated he had no confidence in them or their grant money.
15. Mayor Blonigan stated it did not make sense to not pursue future grant funding. Members Kline, Webb, and Backen stated they would not support this motion.
16. **A roll call was taken: Ayes: Selman; Nays: Kline, Webb, Backen, Mayor Blonigan. The motion failed.**
17. **Member Backen MOVED, seconded by Member Kline to waive the reading and order the adoption of Resolution #7927 "ELECTING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LOCAL HOUSING INCENTIVES ACCOUNT PROGRAM UNDER THE METROPOLITAN LIVABLE COMMUNITIES ACT." A roll call was taken: Ayes: Kline, Webb, Backen, Mayor Blonigan; Nays: Selman. The motion passed.**

PRESENTATION A: PRESENTATION ON ROBBINSDALE RECREATION SERVICES

18. Parks and Steinbach gave the presentation highlighting: goals, programs, partnerships, special events, community gym and fitness center, facilities, staffing changes, commissions, and future ideas.
19. Mayor Blonigan asked about outreach to apartment buildings and how it was going.
20. Steinbach stated the department was in the process of building relationships with apartments in the community.
21. Member Selman asked if staff was advertising programs in the schools.

22. Steinbach stated the department is working on a quarterly one-pager to place in the schools. Steinbach stated the schools have new software which charges \$50 per page for advertisements. Steinbach further stated they would like to advertise more in the schools but it has become cost-prohibitive.
23. Mayor Blonigan stated that the schools are partners with the city and should be working together. He suggested that the Government Advisory Council members raise the issue at the next meeting.
24. Member Kline asked staff with the increase in users if they were seeing new faces at programs or if it was the same people every time.
25. Parks indicated he could not answer if he was seeing new faces in the programs but could tell that new, more diverse crowds were using the community gym. Steinbach stated that the website has been easier to navigate which has encouraged people outside of the community to also participate. Steinbach stated lower fees have also resulted in more diverse crowds to register for programs.
26. Member Selman stated that sales from the liquor store help support the Parks and Recreation departments and asked if the sales receipts could be recoded to show how much of purchases go back to the city.
27. Glick stated she would speak with the Liquor Store manager to see if added a line to liquor store receipts would be a possibility.
28. The Mayor and Council members all thanked Recreation staff for their work.

OLD BUSINESS A: SECOND READING – UPDATE TO SECTION 425 AND 927 OF CITY CODE REMOVING LEASE ADDENDUM REQUIREMENTS FOR RENTAL PROPERTIES

29. Glick gave the report and the timeline for the proposed updates. Glick reviewed structural corrections distributed to Council members before the meeting. Glick reviewed changes made between 1st and 2nd reading as well as how new processes would work. Glick also acknowledged letters to council asking them to postpone the final vote.
30. Member Selman referred to proposed Section 425, Subd. 3 in which the language states: “The third party designee will serve the Findings of Fact and Conclusions upon the owner or occupant and the City Clerk by U.S. Mail with five calendar days of the hearing.” Member Selman asked if this was meant as five days from the postmark and whether emails could also be sent.
31. Mayor Blonigan suggested adding the word “postmarked” to the language. Glick stated this addition could be done.

32. Mayor Blonigan asked for clarifications on what constitutes a repeat nuisance call in the language of Section 425.11. Subd. 18. Mayor Blonigan asked if three repeat nuisance calls mean 4 total nuisance calls or 3 total nuisance calls. Indicated that the language could be confusing.
33. Glick referred to Section 425.32. Subd. 2, which states the processes for the first three nuisance calls. Glick stated clarifications could be made to the definition referenced.
34. Biggerstaff reviewed what the new ordinance language would change and how processes would work with enforcement. Biggerstaff discussed rental licenses and conditions applied to them as a business operating within the city. Biggerstaff stated eviction of tenants would no longer be required with the proposed changes and that the council would be able to consider mitigating circumstances during the hearing.
35. Mayor Blonigan asked about time constraints and how long the approval could be put off for further discussions.
36. Biggerstaff stated additional tweaks could be made but the decision should not be delayed for a long period.
37. Member Webb stated she would like to make a motion to table the approval of the ordinance. Member Webb stated she would like more public input in the form of a public hearing and public comments. Member Webb further stated that the Human Rights Commission initiated this project and their voices have faded from the discussion.
38. Member Kline stated he also supports tabling the approval of the ordinance. Further stated he would like to hear more from the renting community.
39. Member Selman stated he was proud of the progress made on the amendment and would not support tabling the decision as the Council has been working on this for over a year. Member Selman also stated landlords should distribute a Know Your Rights document to their tenants so people are not afraid to call 9-1-1.
40. Member Backen stated he is not interested in holding this longer after working on it for over a year. Member Backen stated that residents are upset with the current crime waves in their neighborhoods. Member Backen suggested the Council could go back and fix issues if needed.
41. Mayor Blonigan stated he would like to see more input from the community.
42. **Member Selman MOVED, seconded by Member Backen to hold the second reading of Ordinance No. 21-12 "AN ORDINANCE UPDATING ROBBINSDALE CITY CODE SECTION 425 PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE AND SECTION 927 REPEAT NUISANCE SERVICE CALL FEES."**

43. **Member Webb MOVED, seconded by Member Kline to table holding the second reading and approving Ordinance No. 21-12 “AN ORDINANCE UPDATING ROBBINSDALE CITY CODE SECTION 425 PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE AND SECTION 927 REPEAT NUISANCE SERVICE CALL FEES” until the January 18th City Council meeting in 2022. A roll call was taken: Ayes: Kline, Webb, Mayor Blonigan; Nays: Selman, Backen. The motion passed.**

44. Glick stated staff would widely communicate to residents about the proposal and ask for public comments. She indicated that direction should be provided on current code since the moratorium was no longer in effect.

45. **Member Kline MOVED, seconded by Member Webb to hold provisions on Crime Free Housing Moratorium and to direct the City Manager to hold enforcement of the Crime Free Lease Addendum and required evictions until the proposed ordinance is resolved. A roll call was taken: Ayes: Kline, Webb, Mayor Blonigan; Nays: Selman, Backen. The motion passed.**

OTHER BUSINESS A: DISBURSEMENT REPORT

46. **Member Selman MOVED, seconded by Member Kline to approve disbursement requests for period ending 11/2/21. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried**

OTHER BUSINESS B: SCHEDULE GRAESER PARK WORK SESSION

47. **Member Selman MOVED, seconded by Member Backen to schedule a special work session for Graeser Park updates on November 9th, 2021 at 6:45 p.m. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

48. Glick stated there would be a budget work session after the meeting.

COUNCIL GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

49. Member Kline thanked the Fire Chief for hosting the Council on a tour of the Fire Department.

50. Member Kline thanked Recreation staff for the work they do and stated sales from Robbinsdale Wine & Spirits support the Parks and Recreation departments.

51. Member Webb stated she enjoyed the Fire Department tour and learned a lot about how organized they are and their dedication to the community.

52. Member Selman asked if there could be a closed meeting with the City Attorney to discuss litigation options against the Metropolitan Council regarding the Blue Line project.

53. Biggerstaff stated the ability to close a meeting would only be allowed if the city was actively considering litigation. Biggerstaff suggested the process could start with a memo.
54. Mayor Blonigan stated he would like questions about municipal consent requirements answers and would support a memo from the attorney. The rest of the council concurs with having the attorney write a memo.
55. Mayor Blonigan thanked the Fire Department for the tour and stated he was amazed with the varied expertise of the fire fighters.

Adjournment:

56. Member Kline MOVED, seconded by Member Webb to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 pm. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.



Dustin Leslie, City Clerk



William A. Blonigan, Mayor