

**City of Robbinsdale
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
December 7, 2021
Meeting No. 23**

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

2. Present: Selman, Backen, Kline, Webb, Mayor Blonigan
Absent: None
Staff: Marcia Glick, City Manager; Dustin Leslie, City Clerk; Diaa Tahoun, Finance Director; Richard McCoy, Public Works Director; Rick Pearson, Community Development Coordinator.

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. Celeste Shahidi – Finds on Broadway business owner: 4180 West Broadway– Shahidi told Council her business has been hit by vehicles 5 times in the past three years due to its location. Shahidi explained this is often due to speeding in the area and that a few were due to police chases. Shahidi asked Council to find a way to grab the attention of speeders in the area so they slow down. Shahidi said she was worried someone would eventually get hit by a car in front of her store.
5. Shahidi also made a complaint about the difficulty of obtaining records through the police department.
6. Mayor Blonigan told Shahidi that Council will bring these items up for discussion at the next regular work session.

APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 7, 2021 MEETING AGENDA

7. Leslie reported the following changes to the agenda:
 - The City received a public comment for Public Hearing D from resident Dan Neubert – 4413 Shoreview Road.
 - An additional pie chart was added to the Proposed Property Tax Notice – the pie chart is now what residents are directed to when they scan the barcode.
 - Updated Consent Item U memo: The Birdhouse submitted their CPA statement so that new information is included in the updated memo
 - A new Consent Agenda Item V: Law Enforcement Labor Agreement with the Sergeants
 - Voucher Report for Other Business A

- There were also grammatical corrections to the Resolution for the Patrol Contract Resolution under Consent Item J.
- Updated memo to reflect corrections from the Finance Department for the Public Utilities Public Hearing.
- the following liquor license renewals will be tabled to the 12/21/21 as their CPA report has not yet been submitted:
 - Wicked Wort Brewing Company (Consent Item R)
 - Marna's Eatery and Lounge (Consent Item S)
 - Broadway Pizza/Eagle's Nest Lounge (Consent Item T)

8. Member Selman MOVED, seconded by Member Webb to approve the December 7, 2021 Agenda with the updates given to Council by the City Clerk. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

9. Member Backen removed item U for further consideration.

10. Member Kline MOVED, seconded by Member Webb to approve the December 7, 2021 Consent Agenda with the exceptions of item U, which was pulled by Member Backen, and items R, S, and T which were tabled to the 12/21/21 City Council meeting. 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 11/16/21
 - Special City Council Work Session minutes on 11/16/21
- B. Motion to receive advisory commission minutes:
 - Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Commission minutes on 10/26/21
- C. Motion to approve issuance of licenses dated 12/7/21.
- D. Motion to acknowledge the Robbinsdale Wine & Spirits' financial reports for the month of October 2021.
- E. Motion to acknowledge the Deputy Registrar's financial reports for the month of October 2021.
- F. Motion to approve the October 2021 payment for City credit card charges.
- G. Motion to authorize the City Manager to submit the Opioid Settlement Participation Form on behalf of the City of Robbinsdale.
- H. Motion to authorize the Mayor and City Manager to execute an agreement with The Waldron Company, reviewed by the City Attorney, to advertise, screen, and identify the next City Manager in consultation with the City Council.

- I. Motion to authorize the Mayor and City Manager to enter into a contract with Nick's Tree Service of Corcoran, MN for Public and Private Tree Removal at an estimated cost of \$62,034.00, for ROW Tree Clearance at a rate of \$100.00 per hour, and Stump Grinding at a rate of \$4.50 per base diameter inch in the City of Robbinsdale for the two year period commencing January 1st, 2022. Extension of the contract beyond this date is permissible and will be subject to mutual agreement and satisfactory performance.
- J. Motion to waive the reading and order the adoption of Resolution #7931 "A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE LABOR AGREEMENT LOCAL ISSUES BETWEEN THE CITY OF ROBBINSDALE AND LELS, LOCAL 179."
- K. Motion to designate the City Manager to be the voting delegate at the Metro Cities Policy Adoption Meeting.
- L. Motion to approve 2022 liquor license renewal for El Toro Mexican Restaurant subject to the City Clerk's office receiving applicable insurance and all other information needed to satisfy ordinance requirements.
- M. Motion to approve 2022 liquor license renewal for Hy-Vee Market Grille and Grocery subject to the City Clerk's office receiving applicable insurance and all other information needed to satisfy ordinance requirements.
- N. Motion to approve 2022 liquor license renewal for Nonna Rosas's subject to the City Clerk's office receiving applicable insurance and all other information needed to satisfy ordinance requirements.
- O. Motion to approve 2022 liquor license renewal for Mama Lupita's Taqueria Café and Grill subject to the City Clerk's office receiving applicable insurance and all other information needed to satisfy ordinance requirements.
- P. Motion to approve 2022 liquor license renewal for Pig Ate My Pizza subject to the City Clerk's office receiving applicable insurance and all other information needed to satisfy ordinance requirements.
- Q. Motion to approve 2022 liquor license renewal for Travail Kitchen and Amusements subject to the City Clerk's office receiving applicable insurance and all other information needed to satisfy ordinance requirements.
- R. (Tabled to 12/21/21 meeting)
- S. (Tabled to 12/21/21 meeting)
- T. (Tabled to 12/21/21 meeting)

U. (Removed)

V. Motion to waive the reading and order the adoption of Resolution #7932 "A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE LABOR AGREEMENT LOCAL ISSUES BETWEEN THE CITY OF ROBBINSDALE AND LELS, LOCAL 8."

CONSENT ITEM U: 2022 LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL FOR THE BIRDHOUSE EAT AND DRINK

11. Member Backen pulled the item for clarifications as to why the memo was updated. Member Backen said Member Selman explained during the reading of the consent items and that no further explanation was necessary.
12. **Member Backen MOVED, seconded by Member Webb to approve the 2022 liquor license renewal for the Birdhouse Eat & Drink. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

PUBLIC HEARING A – FINDS ON BROADWAY – CONSIGNMENTS & SECOND HAND GOODS LICENSE – 4180 WEST BROADWAY

13. Leslie gave the report.
14. Mayor Blonigan opened the public hearing.
15. No one spoke.
16. **Member Selman MOVED, seconded by Member Kline to close the public hearing. The vote was unanimous and the motioned carried.**
17. **Member Selman MOVED, seconded by Member Backen to approve the Consignment and Second Hand Goods 2022 licenses for Celeste Shahidi, dba Finds on Broadway, for 4180 West Broadway. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

PUBLIC HEARING B – FLY VINTAGE AND VINYL – CONSIGNMENT AND SECOND HAND GOODS LICENSES – 3900 36TH AVENUE NORTH

18. Leslie gave the report
19. Mayor Blonigan opened the public hearing.
20. No one spoke.
21. **Member Backen MOVED, seconded by Member Kline to close the public hearing. The vote was unanimous and the motioned carried.**

22. **Member Backen MOVED, seconded by Member Selman to approve the Consignment and Second Hand Goods 2022 licenses for Betsy Kay Ruppert-Kan and Daniel Sung-Tak Ruppert Kan, dba Fly Vintage & Vinyl, LLC, 3900 36th Avenue North.**

PUBLIC HEARING C – PAWN AMERICA – PAWNBROKER & SECOND HAND GOODS LICENSES – 4134 WEST BROADWAY

23. Leslie gave the report.
24. Member Selman remarked that police do not include calls for service for other businesses when they are up for renewal or their Better Business Bureau rating. Member Selman said it is not fair to Pawn America to have all this extra information in the report.
25. Member Backen remarked about Pawn America's audit management software being down for three months and would like to know why.
26. Glick stated the outage occurred between periodic checks from the Police Department and did not inform the city. In the past, the city performed monthly checks on the business and switched it to bi-monthly due to improved performance. Glick stated the city could move back to more frequent reporting, if needed.
27. Mayor Blonigan and Member Backen discussed ways to get information as to why software went down. They decided it would be appropriate for Pawn America to submit a report to Council explaining why the software went down for so long and remediation for the future.
28. Mayor Blonigan opened the public hearing.
29. No one spoke.
30. **Member Selman MOVED, seconded by Member Backen to close the public hearing. The vote was unanimous and the motioned carried.**
31. Member Kline and Member Webb agreed with Member Selman's assertion that having more information in the memo was unfair to Pawn America and that all businesses should be treated equally when they are up for renewal.
32. Mayor Blonigan spoke about nature of pawn shops and why more checks need to be made for those types of businesses.
33. **Member Backen MOVED, seconded by Member Kline to table the approval of the 2022 Pawnbroker and Second Hand Goods Licenses for Pawn America Minnesota, LLC at 4134 West Broadway to the 12/21/21 meeting. Approval will be contingent on a report from the business about their software outage along with future remediation steps. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

PUBLIC HEARING D – PROPOSED WATER, SANITARY SEWER, STORM SEWER, SOLID WASTE, AND STREET LIGHT RATE INCREASES

34. Tahoun read the report highlighting increases to rates and studies justifying the increases.
35. Mayor Blonigan gave a high level explanation of the changes and increases an average resident would see on their bill.
36. Glick explained to Council what the fees pay for and reviewed liquidated damages being collected from Waste Management. She noted a contract price reduction was not pursued due to the need for higher wages to attract and retain staff.
37. Member Backen asked to discuss Waste Management at a future work session as their service has become an extreme downgrade over the past year.
38. Glick explained the penalty per missed pickup when Waste Management does not collect within 24 hours. The city now asks residents to schedule bulk pickups with Waste Management which should help with missed bulk pickups. Glick stated Waste Management could come in to give a report to Council. Council members expressed interest in a report from Waste Management at a future Council meeting.
39. Mayor Blonigan opened the public hearing.
40. No one spoke.
41. **Member Selman MOVED, seconded by Member Backen to close the public hearing. The vote was unanimous and the motioned carried.**
42. Glick stated the city went out to bid two years ago for trash services and any change from Waste Management would likely result in a large cost increase. Glick stated it may be better to stick with Waste Management and work through their issues.
43. **Member Selman MOVED, seconded by Member Backen to waive the reading and order the adoption of Resolution #7933 “A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING CITY WATER, SANITARY SEWER, STORM SEWER, SOLID WASTE, AND STREET LIGHT RATES IN THE CITY OF ROBBINSDALE EFFECTIVE FOR ALL USAGE BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2022.” The vote was unanimous and the motioned carried.**

PUBLIC HEARING E – 2022 BUDGET AND TAX LEVY

44. Tahoun and Glick presented the proposed budget to Council highlighting: budget requests, budget features, budget overview, general fund revenue highlights, general fund expenditure highlights, general fund reserves, tax impact, assessment timeline, and next steps.

45. Member Backen referred to the levy change increase and stated it is similar to surrounding cities and less than some. Member Backen stated he does not like increasing taxes but that the city has a duty to keep assets up to date.
46. Member Webb stated it is important for the community to know how city funds are being spent and that the community needs to come to Council meetings and speak up about any discrepancies they find in the budget. Member Webb spoke about the need to be diligent with spending tax money and that residents should be involved.
47. Member Kline remarked about how the levy increase is similar to other cities but Robbinsdale has less to work with in terms of total budget amount. Member Kline stated that the one extra position being requested shot the levy % higher than it would for other cities.
48. Member Selman stated with the new water treatment plant, water quality will be better in the city. Member Selman further stated that water quality was the second biggest complaint he's had as a Council member and was proud of the work that has been done.
49. Mayor Blonigan stated that the tax rate and levy per population is more favorable than a lot of neighboring cities and saw this budget request as a responsible budget.
50. Mayor Blonigan opened the public hearing.
51. No one spoke.
52. **Member Selman MOVED, seconded by Member Backen to close the public hearing. The vote was unanimous and the motioned carried.**

OTHER BUSINESS A: DISBURSEMENT REQUEST APPROVAL

53. **Member Backen MOVED, seconded by Member Selman to approve disbursement requests for period ending 12/7/2021. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

54. Glick reviewed upcoming work sessions with the City Council.

COUNCIL GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

55. Member Backen made the request to record the December 13th LRT work session for the public. Glick stated she would work with CCX to see if they would be available.
56. Member Kline thanked city staff, volunteers, and the Chamber of Commerce for their work on the Christmas tree lighting ceremony.
57. Member Webb thanked staff for work on the tree lighting ceremony.

58. Member Webb stated she met with Metropolitan Council representative Robert Lilligren at the end of November. Lilligren stated he would like to reestablish his relationship with the City Council.
59. Member Webb stated she has been working with Dre Wakely, an Environmental Educator with the Three Rivers Park District. They are working on youth programming with a focus on involving renters.
60. Mayor Blonigan thanked city staff and the Chamber of Commerce for putting on the tree lighting ceremony.
61. Mayor Blonigan remarked about the upcoming work session with the City Prosecutor. Mayor Blonigan talked about the prosecution philosophy of the St. Paul City Prosecutor and said he would ask the Robbinsdale City Prosecutor about their philosophy and whether they are more punitive or cooperative.

Adjournment:

62. Member Selman **MOVED**, seconded by Member Webb to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.



Dustin Leslie, City Clerk



William A. Blonigan, Mayor