



City of Robbinsdale

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Parisian, Murphy, Blonigan
Absent: Wagner
Staff: Tim Sandvik, City Manager; Chase Peterson-Etem, City Clerk

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 20, 2024, MEETING AGENDA

Peterson-Etem noted two additions to the agenda for tonight. The first is the addition of a resolution for New Business Item B, and the second is the voucher disbursement report for Other Business Item A.

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Parisian to approve the February 20, 2024, meeting agenda. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Murphy to approve the consent agenda. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

- A. Approve City Council special work session minutes from February 12, 2024
- B. Approve City Council work session minutes from February 13, 2024
- C. Authorize City Manager to Execute Organized Labor Agreement
- D. Violent Crime Reduction Task Force
- E. Approval of Licenses
- F. Authorize Staff to Apply for - National Park Service, Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program

PRESENTATIONS

- A. None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. None

OLD BUSINESS

- A. None

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Accept Seed Grant Funds from the University of Minnesota

Sandvik noted the Council has been interested in increasing our sustainability efforts by way of grant funding. He stated that staff applied for a grant via Clean Energy Resources Teams (CERTs) in the fall of 2023 and were recently approved for funding. He continued that these funds would be allocated towards people having a home energy audit.

Mayor Blonigan stated these efforts could help people save money and eliminate the use of natural resources, over time. He also noted staff plans to reach out to restaurants in Robbinsdale to discuss their energy needs.

Member Parisian thanked and congratulated staff for their efforts. She noted sustainability is a goal of the city, and she is excited to see this work moving forward.

Member Murphy asked who Home Energy Squad is affiliated with. Sandvik stated they are in partnership with the Center for Energy and Environment, who we are partnering with for some loan rehab projects.

Member Murphy asked how many audits can be done with the grant money. Sandvik stated at a minimum 50 but we are hoping to include more if possible.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Murphy to Accept Seed Grant Funds from The University of Minnesota. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

- B. Consider City Investment Strategies

Sandvik provided an overview and noted that prior to the start of 2024, cities like Robbinsdale were not allowed to make certain types of investments. He continued that updated legislature now allows these cities to invest in a broader range of programs. He stated staff's recommendation is to work with the Minnesota State Board of Investments, through an S&P index fund.

Mayor Blonigan noted that in the past, only cities with a AAA bond rating or with a population over 100,000 could invest in certain ways. He stated this has been an ongoing effort for several years and that it passed last year. He continued that Robbinsdale's investments will be handled by the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA), which is part of the State Board of Investments. He noted we could put up to 15 percent of certain types of our reserves into this index fund, although the initial investment will be more conservative.

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Parisian to approve Resolution No. 8094 "RESOLUTION APPROVING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ADDITIONAL LONG-TERM EQUITY INVESTMENT AUTHORITY PURSUANT TO MINN. STAT. SEC. 118A.09." The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Voucher Requests Pending Approval for Disbursement

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Murphy to Approve Voucher Requests Pending Approval for Disbursement. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Peterson-Etem mentioned the Presidential Nomination Primary Election is happening now and encouraged people to vote early at City Hall. He noted additional information can be found on the city's website and noted there is also a Ward 2 Special Election in May.

Sandvik thanked all for their participation in the goal-setting session last week and is excited about the upcoming year. He mentioned a few employment opportunities and encouraged people to apply via the city website. He noted that communication efforts have been ongoing during Black History Month to provide information on how people can get involved throughout the community. Lastly, he shared that the Robbinsdale Crime Prevention Association (RCPA) does several events throughout the year with the Robbinsdale Police Department and is currently looking to recruit volunteers. He noted more information can be found on the city website and Facebook page.

COUNCIL GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

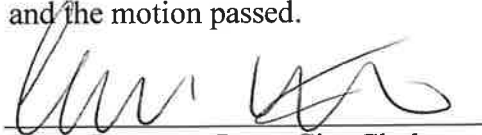
Member Parisian extended her thanks to everyone who attended the goal-setting session last week and acknowledged the Birdtown Brief and the excellent information that is included. She also encouraged people to attend the Bird Bash on March 2, 2024.

Member Murphy mentioned the purple streetlights that were installed in Robbinsdale and noted that staff were aware and have ordered replacement lights.

Mayor Blonigan also noted the Bird Bash and the Birdtown Brief and asked about subscribing to receive public safety notices. Sandvik stated folks can visit the city website where they can sign up to receive a variety of notices. Mayor Blonigan stated he would like to send a letter to the City of Burnsville offering our condolences regarding the three public safety workers that were killed this past week. He also noted the goal-setting session and how effective it was.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Parisian to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.


Chase Peterson-Etem, City Clerk
William A. Blonigan, Mayor