

ROBBINSDALE CITY COUNCIL

WORK SESSION

February 15, 2023

**After the Robbinsdale Economic Development Authority (REDA) Meeting that
takes place at 7:00 p.m.**

**Robbinsdale City Hall
4100 Lakeview Avenue North**

MINUTES

1. The work session was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Wagner at 7:15 p.m.
2. Councilmembers present: Webb, Parisian, Wagner, Mayor Blonigan
3. Staff present: Tim Sandvik, City Manager; Richard McCoy, Public Works Director; Rick Pearson, Community Development Director; Kayla Kirtz, Assistant to City Manager – Communications
4. Guest: Regan Murphy, Councilmember-elect

Discussion: Tax Increment Financing Basics Discussion (Attachment 1)

5. Sandvik introduced the discussion item and introduced Attorney Ron Batty.
6. Batty explained tax increment authorities and that REDA serves as a tax increment authority for the city.
7. Jason Aarsvold from Ehlers gave the presentation (Attachment 1).
8. Blonigan asked about payment for Ehlers' services on TIF projects. Aarsvold explained that TIF dollars can be used to pay for administrative/consultant services.
9. Webb asked about capturing assessed tax value from other jurisdictions in the TIF process. Batty and Aarsvold explained that the baseline tax values are still being distributed to jurisdictions, tax increment authorities are only capturing the incremental tax value from a project.
10. Murphy explained potential added benefits of TIF developments, such as jobs and housing, in addition to monetary value.
11. Blonigan clarified "first buyers" in an owner-occupied housing TIF district.
12. Wagner asked about development ownership and intended use during the entire duration of the TIF. Aarsvold explained that development ownership can change and businesses move in and out of TIF districts.

13. Murphy asked that Aarsvold explain "opportunity zones." Aarsvold explained that opportunity zones incentivize private developers to invest in certain areas and receive tax incentives for doing so.
14. Parisian asked about Council's and REDA's involvement in TIF projects in real time. Aarsvold explained that the Council is mostly involved on the front end of TIF projects while setting terms or fees. During the duration of the project the Council relies on staff to administer policy/funds while providing updates to Council.

Discussion: Consider Liquor Law Updates (Attachment 2)

15. Sandvik introduced the attachment. The City is working with City attorney to update parts of the City code, with direction from state statutes from the League of Minnesota Cities.
16. Wagner asked about concerns of fire hazards posed by microdistilleries. Sandvik explained that infrastructure upgrades and annual inspection requirements would be accompanied by licenses.
17. Webb asked about how these legislative changes will impact current businesses. Sandvik responded that the City is in constant conversation with the Robbinsdale business community and provides them with necessary updates. Murphy noted that the City could reach out to the two current Robbinsdale businesses that these liquor law updates would impact.
18. Blonigan noted that he would be in favor of the changes to enable future potential business. Wagner noted that he trusts the recommendations of the City. Murphy said that he thinks the City already has an ordinance in alignment with state statutes for fire codes in microdistilleries.
19. Sandvik clarified Council's agreement on setting a first reading of the liquor licensing changes in March.

Discussion: An Ordinance Amending Section 920.05 and 920.09 of the Robbinsdale City Code (Attachment 3)

20. Sandvik introduced the attachment.
21. Webb asked about penalties for false alarms. Sandvik responded that it would be in the form of a fine. Pearson explained that fines range depending on the severity of the case.
22. Wagner clarified that this policy does not include fire alarms. Sandvik responded that the policy is for security alarms, in businesses, for example.
23. Webb asked about educating businesses and staff about this policy. Sandvik noted that staff can explore the education component.
24. Murphy noted that new homesteaders in Robbinsdale receive a welcome packet with instructions on city services but the City does not do that for new businesses. Webb expressed her support of the idea of a similar welcome packet for businesses. Pearson explained the Hennepin County Open to Business ("Elevate Business") program. Sandvik

noted that the Elevate Business program could be a great resource to connect new businesses to information. Webb expressed her support for something tangible the City can offer for business owners.

25. Parisian, asked if there is a comprehensive business directory in Robbinsdale, Sandvik responded that the Chamber of Commerce would be a good resource. Parisian discussed adding messaging about the false alarm policy for existing businesses.
26. Sandvik recapped the direction for Council that the first reading of the ordinance language will be in March and second reading in April.

Discussion: Stormwater Ordinance Updates (Attachment 4)

27. McCoy introduced the attachment, beginning with the Pet Waste Requirement.
28. Blonigan suggested an addition that accounts for picking up waste on bodies of water, liquid or solid.
29. McCoy stated that he would direct staff to make the first section more specific.
30. Murphy asked what happens when somebody violates the ordinance. Pearson stated that the process is typically a warning and then a fine. McCoy responded that staff will ensure that there is a consequence to make it an enforceable ordinance.
31. Parisian asked what MS4 is. McCoy answered that MS4 is "Municipal Small Storm Sewer Systems."
32. McCoy introduced the Salt Storage Requirement. Blonigan suggested that staff look into what other cities do for training businesses on salt storage.
33. Parisian asked if the policy includes the City's use of salt. McCoy responded that the City's salt usage is within the MS4 permit and complies with higher standards.

Staff Updates

Law Enforcement Legal Services (LELS) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Update (Sandvik)

34. Sandvik provided an update on the decisions of the LELS MOU and asked for feedback from Council.
35. Blonigan expressed his opinion that he supported Council agreeing to the original MOU.
36. Webb stated her support of Council's decisions at the last Council meeting, but is in support of taking measures to support police retention.
37. Blonigan asked for an update on the incoming Police Captain. Sandvik responded that the Police Captain and new officer will be starting on March 6 and that staff will do a swearing in with the Council.

38. Wagner asked about response to the MOU and expressed his concern for making a negotiation outside of the general contract negotiation. Parisian asked for clarification. Sandvik gave his recommendation that Council support the MOU. Blonigan expressed his support of the MOU.
39. Parisian asked about data on effectiveness of similar incentive programs in other communities. Sandvik noted that he does not have data but that it has been successful in other communities. Council discussed effectiveness of retention bonuses in other professions.
40. Murphy provided his opinion that Council should support the agreement. Webb noted workforce housing. Murphy encouraged staff to introduce themselves to Robbinsdale officers. Webb suggested having a Robbinsdale officer at a Birdhouse Table Talk.

Council Strategic Plan - set date

41. Council and staff are considering Monday, March 20 at 5:00 PM for the 2023 Goal Setting Session.

Staff Recognition Lunch - set date

42. Council and staff are considering March 14, March 15, March 16, or March 30 for the annual Staff Recognition Lunch.

Sustainability Update (Kirtz)

43. Kirtz explained the City's intention to apply for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Level 2 Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Station grant and that approval from Council to apply will be sought at the next Council meeting. Sandvik noted that the grant will be competitive but other funding opportunities will be coming down the line. Blonigan asked about location of the EV charging stations and expressed his opinion on placement of the stations in downtown versus Lakeview Terrace Park. Murphy noted the charging stations located in the Hy-Vee parking lot. Wagner asked if the grant requires placement on public property or if they can be located on private property in collaboration with a business.
44. Kirtz explained the City's intention to establish an internal Sustainability Committee and that approval will be sought at the next Council meeting, in alignment with the GreenStep Cities program. Staff asked clarifying questions about the committee and the GreenStep program.
45. Kirtz explained that the MN GreenCorps host site application is due March 14 and asked for Council direction on whether or not to apply or pursue other options. Blonigan asked if staff has a position on the matter and encouraged staff to apply regardless. Webb, Wagner, and Parisian expressed their support for another GreenCorps member. Blonigan agreed. Kirtz explained GreenCorps project focus areas. Blonigan asked if a GreenCorps member could support the City's Partners in Energy work. Wagner asked if a GreenCorps member support the City's GreenStep efforts. Parisian highlighted the work required of

the Energy Action Plan. Blonigan clarified that Council is in support of applying for another GreenCorps member.

Council Updates

City Council Travel Policy (Attachment 5)

46. Blonigan explained the Council travel policy and proposed discussing the policy at a later date.

Just Deeds (Mayor Blonigan)

47. Blonigan explained the City's involvement in the Just Deeds program and requested that the City devote more resources to work related to Just Deeds.
48. Murphy asked how many properties in Robbinsdale have restrictive covenants. Parisian talked about the homestead welcome packet and its potential for engagement about Just Deeds.

Human Rights Commission Update (Mayor Blonigan)

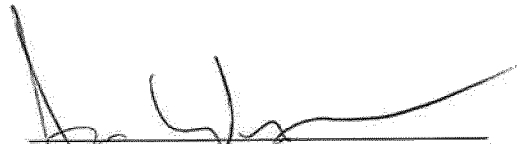
49. Mayor Blonigan provided an update from the Human Rights Commission:
- a. Promoted the TPT event at Breck and the Capri
 - b. Requested the City further examine the names of city entities
 - c. Requested the City consider additional staff or staff time devoted to DEI work
 - d. Requested additional information about City and RPD work to address ACLU suit
 - e. Encouraged the city to proclaim February as Black History Month in Robbinsdale
50. Council agreed on discussing DEI efforts at a later date.

ADJOURNMENT

51. Mayor Pro Tem Wagner adjourned the meeting at 10:34 p.m.



Kayla Kirtz, Recorder



Aaron Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem