

ROBBINSDALE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR WORK SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

Following the REDA Meeting which starts at 7:00 p.m. Robbinsdale City Hall

1. The work session was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Webb at 7:20 p.m.
2. Councilmembers Present: Kline, Webb, Selman, Backen, Mayor Blonigan
Absent: None
3. Staff Present: Marcia Glick, City Manager; Dustin Leslie, City Clerk
Rick Pearson, Community Development Coordinator

Presentation/Discussion: Redevelopment - Density

4. Pearson summarized information in the report using potential redevelopment of Elim Church parking lot as an example that would require a Comprehensive Plan amendment. He confirmed that the US Bank site has Comprehensive Plan and Zoning in place for higher density redevelopment. There was discussion on potential redevelopment timeline and desire to retain maximum control.
5. Member Backen inquired if there had been studies for example on how the community of Hopkins had changed with the construction of many high-density housing sites reaching a tipping site of more apartments than single family homes. Glick noted that St Louis Park and Golden Valley had also seen many additions of multi-family housing developments in the last few years.
6. Glick and Pearson will check other agencies to see if there are studies done on this matter and will see if there's any way to determine by inquiry the typical tenure for various apartments in the city.

Downtown Parking – Status and options

7. Glick reviewed current parking for various downtown businesses. Mayor Blonigan shared a discussion with Wicked Wort's owner on parking concerns and option for incentives for businesses if their employees park in remote lots. Council consensus was that until the parking lot at the old gas station location on 42nd/West Broadway is full, there isn't a parking problem. Staff will watch for special requests from businesses and check with council on parking requirements tied to request approval.

Downtown Plaza Use

8. Glick noted that the downtown plaza was constructed with contributions from members of the public in the form of purchase of memorial bricks. The site was partially licensed to the Birdhouse restaurant in 2020 and 2021 specifically related to state restrictions on inside dining. Marnas had an ad-hoc plaza on private property immediately south of their building; to comply with code for 2022, they would need to cut an access directly from the restaurant to access that space. All other restaurants with outdoor seating are on private property. Glick noted that allowing use of the plaza would require a change to the City Council Policy on use of the plaza.
9. Council consensus for Glick to get information on equitable license cost for continued use.

Review Annual Survey Questions

10. Council indicated that continuation of prior standard questions and modifications requested by Recreation were acceptable. Council was encouraged to contact the City Clerk if they had any further thoughts. The item will come back to City Council at the April 12 work session for final approval prior to posting on the city website. The survey tool on the website has no additional cost.

Problem Properties

11. Pearson indicated he was available for questions. Council discussion focused on property at 5624- 42nd. Council consensus to issue citations for the property.
12. Glick noted that legal aid representatives for the tenant at 4164 Adair had requested an appeal for citations issued in 2021. Glick noted issues at the property had been addressed at council meetings during the Crime Free housing update discussions both by an adjacent property owner in July 2021 and by legal aid representative of the tenant in January 2022. Council asked Glick to review the request with the City Attorney.

Review of Employee Code of Ethics as it Applies to Elected Officials

13. Staff had included an excerpt from the Robbinsdale Employee Handbook and the Code of Ethics from Brooklyn Park. Glick noted that the guidelines in the Robbinsdale document are briefly covered in the orientation after 1st election to the city council and that the Brooklyn Park document is a compilation of several Robbinsdale policies.
14. Council agreed that development of a specific Code of Ethics for council should be developed for the future.
15. Member Selman asked about a Charter Amendment. Glick confirmed the process would require either a unanimous vote of the City Council or an election ballot question.
16. Glick will see if there is a model code of ethics for city council promoted by the League of MN Cities.

March 12th annual goal session reschedule and reports on some items that couldn't wait

17. Member Webb shared that the date conflicted with her granddaughter's dance competition. After a discussion it suggested that the goal session be scheduled for a Saturday in April.
18. Glick suggested looking at some of the topics included in the agenda listing for item 9 to see which needed to be addressed right away vs waiting.
 - Council Rules not televising Opportunity for the Public. Mayor Blonigan reviewed the context of why providing an open on-air session at the beginning of the meeting had stopped. Member Selman indicated that not airing the whole meeting lacked transparency. In an informal poll, only Selman was interested in putting the opportunity for the public on-air.
 - GreenCorps Application Focus Areas. Glick noted that the application is due before the next council meeting. Staff will outline planned focus areas for city council distribution Friday and comments are needed early next week.

- LRT Consultant Contract Clarification. Looking for consultation on track location options reporting directly to city council with firm that has not previously worked with Met Council. Staff will follow up.
 - Glick noted that the Assistant to City Manager – Communications position will be advertised this month and that the functions needed are not those at an Assistant City Manager level. A future change in position responsibilities including HR/City Clerk functions may later be classified as Assistant City Manager.
 - Glick provided a quick update on the plan preparation for Council Chambers remodel.
 - Council consensus to continue to enforce the requirement for current vehicle tabs by code enforcement, but citation should remain at \$50, not double each month.
 - Sanborn Park updates – Council confirmed that the building replacement should be in a similar location to where it is at present – not moved to prominent position facing the lake. Support for inquiry into possible federal earmark for replacing current building with two-level with adequate space for city band practice and other larger group programming, skipping idea of event center, but considering possibility of hockey/skating ice cooling enhancement for longer skating season.
 - No-knock Policy – staff will distribute previous discussion points on this issue shared with a resident.
 - Joint Community Policing – waiting on the position of the person who coordinates the larger program to be replaced and official council approval of the budget. Expecting this will be happening ‘soon’ followed by advertising the shared position in Robbinsdale.
19. Presentation on City strategy for diversity, equity and inclusion; indigenous land acknowledgement follow up; additional review of Sanborn Park building options; and strategic priorities review will wait until meeting reschedule.

Partners In Energy Update

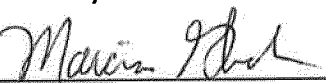
20. Leslie will forward list of interested participants to Mayor Blonigan and will follow up to set up an initial discussion meeting with the Mayor, participants, and staff.

Other Business

21. There was no other business

ADJOURNMENT

22. Mayor Pro Tem Webb adjourned the meeting at 9:43 p.m.



Marcia Glick, Recorder



Sheila Webb, Mayor Pro Tem