

ROBBINSDALE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR WORK SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, May 4, 2021

Web-Ex Meeting following Regular Council Meeting

1. The work session was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Kline at 9:16 p.m.
2. Councilmembers Present: Kline, Webb, Selman, Backen, Mayor Blonigan
3. Staff Present: Marcia Glick, City Manager; Charnelle Dengnoue, Human Resources Specialist; Richard McCoy, Public Works Director; Rick Pearson, Community Development Coordinator; Patrick Foley, Police Chief.

REPORT: POLICE CHIEF FOLEY ON EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PREPAREDNESS

4. Chief Foley noted that the main goal of the plan are to mitigate, prepare, respond & recover. The plan is for the North Planning Group which includes Hennepin County, 11 cities, Alina & North Memorial. Robbinsdale's Emergency Operations Center is on the 2nd floor of the public safety building. It provides space for centralized communications for those involved. Typically the EOC is operated 4 times/year including during Whiz Bang Days when there are often weather emergencies to monitor. The City Manager is responsible for communicating with the City Council to keep them informed. The City Council does not have an active role in emergency management.

GOALS UPDATE- POLICE

5. Chief Foley provided 1st quarter information for the embedded social worker working with Robbinsdale, Crystal and New Hope. Each city pays 1/3 of the cost. The hope is to reduce the number of repeat calls. The social worker helps to connect people to resources; she does not provide immediate crisis service.
6. Council members discussed the reappearance of a memorial and the impact on the immediate neighborhood. Staff will research options and report back to the June work session – which may be moved to June 8th.

DISCUSSION: GREENSTEP CITIES

7. McCoy reported that the Xcel report is complete and a debriefing with CenterPoint is being scheduled. In both cases the big ticket energy opportunities have been completed. Smaller savings options exist that may be looked at for City Hall and Public Safety. The return on investment is too long for any work on the public works building.
8. Council members indicated next steps are to publicize what we have done and for staff to continue to be aware of energy conservation. Provide education on what city has done and what businesses and residents could consider for their properties.

DISCUSSION: LAKE REGULATIONS PUBLIC LISTENING SESSION

9. Glick shared a preliminary notice. Intent of the June 1 meeting is to receive input from the public on existing regulations. Comments will be compiled and brought back to a city meeting later in the summer. Those providing comments will be notified of the time and place of the next meeting.
10. It was noted that Ryan Lake does not have a public landing.

MONTHLY UPDATE: PROBLEM PROPERTIES

11. No major updates. Pearson will add a property on 42nd Avenue.

GOALS UPDATE:

12. McCoy shared the sample for the plaque for the water treatment plant building. As with other building projects it includes the names of city council members when the project was planned and the names of the city council members when the project was under construction. Everyone confirmed that the listing of names was correct.
13. Glick noted that the City Mission statement is listed on the goals update page. It was adopted during Mayor Robb's tenure.
14. Dengnoue gave a presentation on the city's hiring process. The city supports seeking diverse staff and improving relationships and services for our community members. Positions are posted on the city website, a government jobs website that links to other websites, as well as social media. When managers screen applications, the optional demographic data that applicants submit is not included and we are moving forward to remove names from the initial screening.
15. Glick noted the challenge of private data and rights to determine what personal information to share. She noted that with the switch to the on-line application system, fewer applicants are including the optional demographic reporting sheet.
16. Dengnoue noted that at City Hall we now have staff members who are fluent in Hmong, Spanish, French and English. Candidate interviews are including staff from different departments. We are working on setting up some trainings for managers about diversity and inclusion and reviewing interview questions for potential implicit bias.
17. Glick noted that initial interviews are including more candidates as some are not as skilled at presenting their qualifications.

18. Glick reported that she had visited with the Fire Department members on Monday. They are hoping to be able to get back out to the schools and more public events. They are going to be working to put out more information about the paid-on-call department and how it works with their other jobs and family commitments. She noted that there was a recent article in the Star Tribune on how other departments are facing the same struggle. The initial 2 years in the fire department, the members are going through training that costs \$20,000 each. Unless a fire fighter has been trained by another department, it isn't until the 3rd year where fire fighters are able to fully respond to emergencies and turn out gear is provided.
19. Dengnoue reported on projects the Human Rights Commission is working on and anticipated that they would be coming to the City Council work session in June. Glick suggested that with the June 1 listing session on lake regulations, it might be good to look at changing the regular work session to June 8th after the REDA meeting.
20. Council members talked about the naming of parks and ballfields.
21. Glick reported that the Robbinsdale Chamber of Commerce website now includes self-reported indications of BIPOC owned, woman owned, military service.
22. Glick noted that the Ward 2 new resident welcome letter is finished and she will be sending out the other Ward letters to confirm that they are ready to sign. There is an in-person work session on May 11 and staff will have letters ready for signatures.

ADJOURNMENT

23. Mayor Pro Tem Kline adjourned the meeting at 10:44 p.m.



Marcia Glick, Recorder



Tyler Kline, Mayor Pro Tem