

**ROBBINSDALE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR WORK SESSION MINUTES**

Tuesday, July 12, 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 7:32 p.m.
2. Councilmembers Present: Webb, Selman, Backen, Mayor Blonigan
Absent: None
3. Staff Present: Tim Sandvik, City Manager; Richard McCoy, Public Works Director;
Rick Pearson, Community Development Coordinator;
MaiTeng Moua, Assistant to City Manager – Communications

Discussion: Consider Implementation of 25 MPH Speed Limit on Appropriate Streets

4. City Manager Sandvik provided the Council with a high-level review of where we are at with the ongoing discussion of reducing speed limit on appropriate streets to 25 MPH. Sandvik opened up the floor for Council to provide further insights and discuss next steps.
5. Member Webb mentioned residents have voiced their interest in reducing speed limit, but have concerns about how it would be enforced.
6. Member Selman agreed with Member Webb and noted speeding is a societal issue. Member Selman stated he is in favor of reducing speed limit and suggest moving forward with it. Member Selman suggested looking into federal and state grants/funds to support a traffic officer dedicated to traffic only.
7. Member Backen agreed with reducing speed limit, but does not think that it will have much effect without proper enforcement.
8. Mayor Blonigan suggested adding the Photocop system and more unmarked cars in Robbinsdale if they get legally approved. Mayor Blonigan shared his recent ride along experience with a Robbinsdale Police Officer in an unmarked car and noted procedures taken when giving traffic citations.
9. Member Selman suggested meeting with the Robbinsdale Chief of Police to get more insights and education on the process of traffic violations. Mayor Blonigan agreed with scheduling a meeting with the Chief.
10. Member Webb shared daily experiences with aggressive drivers on residential streets. Member Webb expressed reducing speed limit to 25 MPH is a step towards something bigger. Member Webb stated something needs to be done and enforcement has to happen too.

11. McCoy shared traffic camera and enforcement process in Sydney, Australia. McCoy noted that a Minnesota City currently practices issuing warning letters to residents.
12. Council consensus was to move forward with next steps on reducing the speed limit on appropriate streets to 25 MPH. Sandvik suggested having a comprehensive work session dedicated to public safety. City staff will follow Council's guidance and bring back more information at the next City Council Work Session.

Discussion: Commissioner Roles

13. Sandvik introduced the item, walked through the memos provided by City staff and asked for direction from Council on the roles of Commissions.
14. Member Selman expressed appreciation towards all who have or currently serve on a Commission. Member Selman shared previous experience as a Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commissioner and Planning Commissioner. He stated during his time in both Commissions, the City Council sent items to Commissioners and that's what drove the agendas. Member Selman noted that we've drifted away from that. Member Selman suggested items be brought to Council and then Council assess how Commissions can support.
15. Member Backen agreed with Member Selman on having items go through Council and City staff to determine where Commissions can provide support.
16. Mayor Blonigan mentioned there should be a balance between what City Staff, City Council, and Commissioners do. Mayor Blonigan stated he is in favor of everyone's input. Mayor Blonigan suggested implementing a system where Commissioners' input is considered in a timely manner, such as providing information on budget timeline to help with project planning. Mayor Blonigan stated he wants to be more participatory with residents who serve on Commissions.
17. Member Webb mentioned there is currently no orientation or Council presence during a new Commissioner's first meeting. Member Webb suggested having some form of orientation or a Council Member present to welcome new Commissioner and review expectations of their role at their first official meeting.
18. Member Selman and Member Backen agreed with the idea of having an orientation or written expectations for Commissioners.
19. Sandvik agreed with having an opening manual and suggested having a goal-setting session with Council to discuss and determine expectations of Commissions. Sandvik stated he will provide Council with reminders to keep this topic on their radar and will continue to have conversations leading up to a work plan.

20. McCoy stated the Parks Commission should be used as a resource. McCoy mentioned that what draws the Capital Works Program in the Parks is what the Council and the residents want to see. McCoy expressed the idea of master planning and using the Parks Commission as a mechanism to gather information and put together ideas for future Parks projects.
21. Danny Sussman, Parks, Recreation & Forestry At-Large Commissioner, spoke to council about having clear communication on when Commissioners should be involved in the decision-making process and requested for timely community input. He agreed with having an orientation for Commissioners and parks master planning.
22. Member Webb expressed appreciation for Sussman's feedback.
23. Sandvik asked all to contact him with any questions and ongoing feedback.

Administrative Updates

24. Sandvik shared with Council Members the next step of Waste Management's liquidated damages. He noted the next July utility bill going out to residents will reflect two months' worth of credit for yard waste. He mentioned that in addition to yard waste, residents will receive 25% credit for refuse collection, recycling collection and other taxes. Sandvik stated precise communication will be provided through the City Website, City social media platforms and newsletters to inform Council Members and residents of updates.
25. Moua shared the Partners in Energy application was submitted on June 9th, 2022 and awaiting next steps. Moua mentioned the Minnesota GreenCorps member interviews were being finalized and offers will be extended as early as Friday, July 15th, 2022. Moua will share progress updates with Council Members at the next City Council Work Session in August.
26. Sandvik shared with Council Members that the budget for 2023-2024 is underway. More information will be presented in the upcoming months.
27. Sandvik provided a brief review of the Robbinsdale Historical Society sprinkler system situation to Council Members. He stated there is ongoing communication and will provide updates as they become available.
28. Sandvik shared with Council Members the state law legalizing the sale of THC products in Minnesota and provided a high-level review of regulations and enforcement. Sandvik mentioned the option of a moratorium. Member Selman suggested setting a meeting with the City Attorney to discuss a moratorium until there is a long-term solution. Sandvik asked all to reach out to him with questions and concerns.

Update: Problem Properties

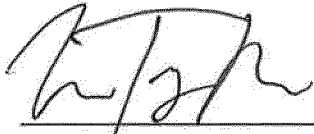
29. Pearson provided an overview of the report, which was distributed at the meeting. Pearson noted current status of properties 5624 42nd Ave N. and 3940 46th Ave N.

Other Business

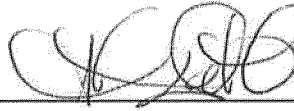
30. Member Selman asked about progress update on removal of the crosswalk on 42nd Ave N. and Yates Ave N. McCoy stated he is in communication with MET Council and will write letters to residents to notify them of the crosswalk removal plan.
31. Mayor Blonigan mentioned the upcoming Corridor Management Committee (CMC) meeting on Thursday, July 14th, 2022 and asked for suggestions on getting support on the resolution being brought to CMC. Member Selman and Member Backen suggested connecting with specific CMC members for a possible second on the resolution.

ADJOURNMENT

32. Mayor Pro Tem Webb adjourned the meeting at 9:39 p.m.



MaiTeng Moua, Recorder



Sheila Webb, Mayor Pro Tem