



City of Robbinsdale

City Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 6, 2024
Meeting No. 5

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Murphy, Parisian, Wagner, Mayor Blonigan
Absent: None
Staff: Tim Sandvik, City Manager; Richard McCoy, Public Works Director/City Engineer

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Yanna Demkiewicz – Ward 4. Shared concerns that the Robbinsdale City Council doesn't offer findings/opinions on international affairs. She shared that the City of Columbia Heights, and other cities, have offered resolutions for a ceasefire in recent history.

Council Member Wagner shared his thanks to the resident for presenting to the Council and appreciates the efforts that goes into presenting. Council Member Wagner shared his support for a ceasefire resolution.

Jamie Schuler – 3831 Hubbard Ave, Ward 3. Shared support for a ceasefire resolution.

Johnathan Hansen, 3927 Noble Ave. N. – shared support for a ceasefire resolution. Hansen also asked about the municipal waste collection, sharing support that municipally run organized collection be considered with the upcoming contract.

Mike Kelly, 2744 Zenith Ave N – Ward 4 – Shared concerns related to a nuisance property. Shared that it is concerning that issues have been occurring for two years. Includes concerns related to trash, un-permitted structures, etc... Shared that at 3:30 in the morning, family was intimidated by neighbor resulting in a 911 call recently – the party was disbursed and returned.

Mayor Blonigan shared the process that the Council uses to address problem properties. The Council has elevated their concern related to this property.

Mr. Sandvik highlighted the approach city staff takes, including through Code Enforcement and the Robbinsdale Police Department for criminal matters.

Council Member Murphy shared his thanks to Mr. Kelly for attending. He further reiterated that through Code Enforcement and Robbinsdale Police Department, the City continues to address the property.

Council Member Wagner thanked Mr. Kelly for attending and shared his interest in connecting with neighbors.

Mr. McCoy presented an award from the Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers – Project of Year related to Public Health. Mr. McCoy shared the process of recognition has also included APWA and City Engineers Association projects of the year.

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 6, 2024, MEETING AGENDA

Sandvik noted the addition of Consent Item J related to the purchase of soda ash, New Business Item C scheduling a special work session, and the disbursement report is also being added to Other Business Item A.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Wagner to approve the March 6, 2024, meeting agenda. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Blonigan asked for Consent Item A to be removed for further consideration.

Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Parisian to approve the Consent Agenda. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

- A. Removed for further consideration.
- B. City Council Meeting Minutes of February 20, 2024
- C. Receive Parks, Recreation, & Forestry Commission minutes from November 28, 2023
- D. Receive Senior Commission meeting minutes from June 5, 2023
- E. Deputy Registrar's Monthly Financial Statements
- F. Robbinsdale Wine & Spirits' Monthly Financial Statements
- G. Second Reading of Ordinance No. 24-01 "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 520.03, SUBD. 4(a) B-2 CONDITIONAL USES FOR CONSISTENCY; 520.05, SUBD. 4 B-3 CONDITIONAL USES TO PROMOTE MIXED USE REDEVELOPMENT BY REQUIRING A MINIMUM AMOUNT OF COMMERCIAL USES AND SECTION 530.09, SUBD. 3 TOD OVERLAY DISTRICT TO REALIGN THE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES WITH THE REVISED STATION AREA AND CLARIFY REAR YARD SETBACKS."
- H. Second Reading of Ordinance No. 24-02 "AN ORDINANCE REPEALING SECTION 435 OF THE CITY CODE POINT OF SALE HOUSING DISCLOSURE."
- I. Approval of Licenses
- J. Purchasing of Soda Ash for Water Treatment

REMOVED CONSENT ITEM

- A. City Council Meeting Minutes of February 6, 2024

Mayor Blonigan asked that more detail be added to the minutes for the discussion related to the presentation from the city's prosecuting attorney's office.

Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Parisian to table the City Council Meeting Minutes of February 6, 2024, and bring the item back at the March 19 City Council Meeting. This vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

- G. Second Reading of Ordinance 24-01 “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 520.03, SUBD. 4(a) B-2 CONDITIONAL USES FOR CONSISTENCY; 520.05, SUBD. 4 B-3 CONDITIONAL USES TO PROMOTE MIXED USE REDEVELOPMENT BY REQUIRING A MINIMUM AMOUNT OF COMMERCIAL USES AND SECTION 530.09, SUBD. 3 TOD OVERLAY DISTRICT TO REALIGN THE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES WITH THE REVISED STATION AREA AND CLARIFY REAR YARD SETBACKS.”

Mayor Blonigan asked for a brief overview of this ordinance. Sandvik provided details related to the ordinance and noted the biggest change is for multi-unit housing and the requirement to have a percentage of commercial use component. He stated this ordinance will help to reach the goals set forth in the comprehensive plan and this has been reviewed by the planning commission and the Council.

PRESENTATIONS

- A. None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. None

OLD BUSINESS

- A. None

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Council Review of Body Worn Camera System Audit

Sandvik introduced the item and noted the Council is being asked to acknowledge receipt of the Robbinsdale Police Department 2023 Body Worn Camera (BWC) Audit prepared by the Minnesota Security Consortium and confirm that the City Council has reviewed and is satisfied with the information provided. He noted that the Council recently underwent this process, but because a new system for BWC's and dash cams is being used, this is coming back to the Council sooner than it would statutorily be required to. He further indicated that this allows for more transparency in the audits.

Member Wagner asked what the difference is between this audit and the previous one they reviewed. Sandvik stated the audit process is the same, but the dates of this audit are from March 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023. He continued that the next audit would cover everything in the new system, which was effective January 1, 2024.

Member Murphy stated he is glad the city invested in this program, and he is proud and impressed with the department for how they have run the program. He also noted this helps the city to be transparent.

Mayor Blonigan stated they did a sampling of whether our police department did what they were supposed to do in certain situations, and noted they were compliant every time. He thanked the department for their service and mentioned the Council had a larger conversation about this at a prior work session.

Member Parisian echoed previous sentiments and liked that the city is participating in this audit to ensure our police department is using these tools under the guidelines in state statute. She thanked the department and noted these audits promote safety and truth for the officers and the public.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Murphy to Approve Council Review of Body Worn Camera System Audit. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

B. 2024 City Council Goals

Sandvik provided a brief recap and noted that last year the Council set top goals and priorities for the city. He stated the Council and staff met again in February 2024, with a facilitator to discuss those goals and priorities to see what their status was and if there was anything to remove, add, or adjust. The four main areas of focus were, what's different today than one year ago, upcoming challenges, what's going well, and trends and influences. He noted this year's goals and asked the Council to adopt the 2024 goals and provide edits, if any.

Member Murphy stated he appreciates the updates and the format of the goals.

Member Parisian stated that she appreciates the monthly goals report card that is shared with the Council and that it helps keep the goals top of mind when thinking about the work we do. She also highlighted staff's efforts toward sustainability and noted how valuable the goal-setting session was.

Member Wagner noted accessibility and walkability as one of the goals when thinking about street reconstruction and ensuring we do sidewalk feasibility during the design process.

Mayor Blonigan appreciated the staff's input during the goal-setting session and noted better outcomes happen when the Council and staff are a part of these discussions.

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Parisian to adopt the 2024 City Council Goals. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

C. Schedule Special Work Session for March 19, 2024, at 6 p.m.

Sandvik stated that staff is recommending the Council schedule a Special Work Session to discuss updates to the Light Rail Transit, as staff has received 30% engineered plans, and wants to provide a formal response to the project office.

Mayor Blonigan MOVED, seconded by Wagner, to schedule a Special Work Session for March 19, 2024, at 6 p.m. The motion was unanimous and the motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Voucher Requests Pending Approval for Disbursement

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

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Sandvik noted several items, including:

- The Robbinsdale Economic Development Authority meets next Tuesday at 7 p.m., followed by a Work Session.
- Commissioner Lunde and Head Judge Meyer of the Fourth District will be attending upcoming Council meetings.
- The City Forestry and Water Resources Specialist will be presenting updates to the Council in April.
- He will be attending the Day on the Hill hosted by the League of Minnesota Cities on March 7.
- Several proposals have been submitted for the Park Master Plan, the space needs analysis for the Public Works Building, and the Classification and Compensation study.
- The annual Employee Recognition Lunch is taking place on Thursday, March 14.

COUNCIL GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

Member Parisian thanked staff and election judges for their work on the Presidential Nomination Primary Election.

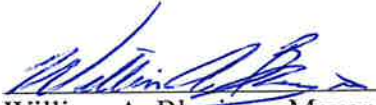
Member Wagner also thanked the election workers as well as everyone who got out and voted and encouraged people to vote when they can.

Mayor Blonigan asked about the upcoming Ward 2 Special Election. Sandvik provided candidate filing dates, open voting dates, and future election dates.

Mayor Blonigan also thanked the election staff and the election judges for their work. He noted that he and Member Wagner attended the Birdtown Bash and encouraged people to donate towards the Seven Dreams Foundation.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Wagner to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.


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