

ROBBINSDALE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR WORK SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

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

1. The work session was called to order by Mayor Blonigan at 7:41 p.m.
2. Councilmembers Present: Selman, Backen, Mayor Blonigan
Absent: Kline, Webb
3. Staff Present: Marcia Glick, City Manager; Rick Pearson, Community Development Coordinator

Lake Regulation Update

4. Glick reported that the 1st reading of an ordinance updating regulations would be on the October 19th work session. Once adopted, the ordinance is submitted to the Department of Natural Resources. She noted that letters had gone out to the people submitting comments during the earlier public process. Council members indicated that the letter should go to everyone with lake property.

Organic Recycling – Utility Rates

5. Glick reviewed the information in the agenda report. The SCORE grant funds are to be used for certain program expenses including discount to new and existing customers. The council members concurred with the recommendation of using the funds to reduce the rate from the \$12.50 contracted rate to \$10.75 for 2022.
6. Council members discussed other solid waste collection costs. Liquidated damages collected so far in 2021 are just over \$4000 compared to the \$1.47 M contact cost for 2022. Selman noted that he had called Waste Management to report missed garbage collection and had been on hold an extremely long time without reaching anyone. Recommended requiring a specific email address for Robbinsdale complaints with guaranteed response within one business day.

Environmental Awareness/Action

7. Mayor Blonigan noted that he is a member of the Minnesota Cities Climate Caucus and that they are hoping to have a large group of cities adopt a Climate Emergency Declaration early in 2022. He also is working to connect with Xcel representatives on the Partners in Energy Program and had gotten information on an opportunity to apply to host a Green Corps Member (likely in March 2022) who could assist the city with environmental initiatives including promoting recycling and assisting with the PIE program. If accepted, Green Corp member assignment would be from September 2022-August 2023.

Special Assessment Policy

8. Council Members reviewed the policy and the fact that it does not allow deferral of delinquent utilities or abatement of nuisances. Special assessments for these unpaid costs would attach to property taxes until paid. No changes were recommended.

Options for Consultant for City Manager Search

9. Glick outlined the two proposals. Council members indicated interest in the approach suggested by Craig Waldron. Glick will schedule a time for the consultant to meet with the City Council. Glick noted that the other consultant suggested a process start in January if council opted to go that route instead.

Public Safety Tour – Public Works Tour

10. Council members confirmed they would be available for a public safety tour at 6pm on September 28th. Tour of public works facilities would wait until summer 2022.

Project updates

11. Glick highlighted that the new meters offer many features, although it was concluded not to move forward with an option for customers to monitor water usage based on cost/benefit analysis. She also noted that liquor license renewals would include notice regarding the end of expanded outdoor service permitted in 2020 and 2021.

Problem Properties

12. Person reviewed the staff report attached to the agenda. He noted a case with a dangerous dog; Council asked that staff check to see if an interpreter was needed before failure to comply with state requirements would result in seizure.

Other Business

13. Glick indicated she had extended an invitation for Metropolitan Council Representative Lilligren to attend the upcoming LRT community meeting on October 27 and he had a conflict that date. She was recommending a council works session on October 26th to preview the partials to be presented on October 27th. She will invite Lilligren to join. Council members indicated that with the number of other work sessions already planned for the rest of 2021, they didn't think there would be a special work session just for a meeting with Mr. Lilligren. Glick noted that during Capital Works budget meetings there would be discussion on moving forward with replacement of Water Tower 2 using ARPA funds.

ADJOURNMENT

14. Mayor Blonigan adjourned the meeting at 8:47 p.m.



Marcia Glick, Recorder



William A. Blonigan, Mayor