



City of Robbinsdale

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

December 13, 2022

**After the Robbinsdale Economic Development Authority (REDA) Meeting that
takes place at 7:00 p.m.**

**Robbinsdale City Hall
4100 Lakeview Avenue North**

A G E N D A

1. CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR PRO TEM
2. ROLL CALL: Selman, Backen, Webb, Mayor Blonigan
3. Discussion: Update on Organized Collection (Attachment 1)
4. Discussion: 2023 Budget Discussion (Attachment 2)
5. Problem Properties
6. ADJOURNMENT



TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Tim Sandvik, City Manager

DATE: December 13, 2022

RE: Update on Organized Collection

Background:

In late summer/early fall of 2019, the City of Robbinsdale solicited bids through the Request for Proposals (RFP) process to entertain bids for organized collection in the City. Through the process, Waste Management was ultimately selected as the service provider, and a formal organized collection contract was executed with the City in April of 2020. This contract (attached), is set to expire in 2025, with the option for an extension if mutually agreed upon terms are met.

Organized collection is seen as a value to the City and its residents for a number of reasons. First, limiting competition allows the City to negotiate a competitive, universal, set of charges that are only achievable by giving the hauler a guarantee of a number of subscribers. Second, The City sees less wear and tear on local facilities (many of which are not built to the standards of high-volume traffic roads) which promotes and efficiency of resources (especially during unique events like springtime road restrictions). Third, fewer trucks on the roads also reduces noise in residential areas and a reduction in emissions. For all these considerations, the City recognized value in organized collection.

In mid-May, the City was notified that Waste Management was suspending Yard Waste for the foreseeable future. As this messaging was abrupt, and had little direction for the future, City Council and City staff immediately heard concerns expressed by residents. In the immediate, the City Manager's office directed staff to address what can be done with existing (yard waste) materials and how will we address charges for missed services. As has now been shared, a temporary drop site for yard waste as been set up at the City's Public Works facility on Toledo Ave, and residents will not be charged for weeks that yard waste has been missed.

Unfortunately, the missed yard waste service has magnified additional issues with Waste Management. While not consistent or universal, areas of the City are experiencing missed recycling, and occasional missed trash collection. In March of 2022, Waste Management was invited to address Council regarding similar concerns, albeit these issues were not as regular. Waste Management was again invited to address the City Council on June 7, 2022, and shared a variety of challenges they are facing, including staffing. Of course labor challenges are not unique to those positions requiring a Commercial Driver's License (CDL), as was reflected in the most recent Minnesota DEED report released.



That information shared that there are more than two job openings posted for the total persons counted through unemployment. Simply stated, it's a complicated situation.

Complicated or not, the City Council has directed staff to propose a variety of considerations for next steps. As noted, it has been staff's priority to address immediate concerns that are within our control – this will continue as we move forward, until a long-term solution is achieved.

This summer and fall, staff performed a variety of tasks, including:

- Pursue funds through contract language (included liquidated damages and the current performance bond)
- Pursue funds through our working relationship with Waste Management to ensure our incurred costs are covered (staff time, communications, and resources generally)
- Discussed service models – what may be reasonable expectations in the immediate and long-term?
- Potential, creative service models
- Discussed Re-bidding, or amending the current contract will cause an increase in costs to the customer – think rising costs of fuel, materials, labor, etc...
- Performed and Request for Quotes to form a consortium of yard waste haulers in the fall.

To start the discussion, resident Charles Ella, who is a student at Gustavus, will present the findings of a study he performed. Earlier in the fall, he contacted the City Manager to learn more about the issue(s), and to complete his coursework, he must present to Council. Staff will then provide updates, and considerations for Council.

Tim Sandvik, City Manager



Driver Shortage in Robbinsdale

CHARLES ELLA

Causes

- CDL's
- Low Unemployment
- Labor Force Participation

Plan

- Create contracts with private companies
- Expect more responsibilities from residents
- Open public works facilities more often

Drawbacks

- Funding
 - Logistical issues
 - Labor force issues affect everyone
-



TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Tim Sandvik, City Manager

DATE: December 13, 2022

RE: 2023 Budget Discussion

Background:

On December 6, 2022, staff presented Council a proposed 2023 budget. Traditionally, Robbinsdale City Council has opened the required Public Hearing, taken testimony per Truth in Taxation requirements, closed the public hearing, and tabled the item for final discussion. Following the December 13, 2022 City Council Work Session discussion, Council will approve a general operating budget on December 20, 2022.

Staff has intentionally left this Work Session item brief. However, staff will entertain any questions, comments, or concerns Council may bring to the discussion, and start with the following items that were raised at the December 6, 2022 Council meeting:

- Continued transparency/engagement (generally, and specific to the budget) as requested by Councilmember Webb
- Consider Electric Vehicles as a part of the City's rolling stock and invest in EV charging stations in Robbinsdale as requested by Mayor Blonigan

Tim Sandvik, City Manager