

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**

AGENDA

1. The work session was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Webb at 7:45 p.m.
2. Councilmembers present: Webb, Selman, Backen, Mayor Blonigan
3. Staff present: Tim Sandvik, City Manager; Richard McCoy, City Engineer; Diaa Tahoun, Finance Director; Kayla Kirtz, Assistant to City Manager – Communications

Discussion: Update on Organized Collection (Attachment 1)

4. Sandvik introduced local resident and Gustavus Adolphus College student Charles Ella. Ella presented the findings of a study he performed as part of a school project in which he was tasked with identifying a problem in his community and proposing a solution. Ella studied Waste Management labor force challenges.
5. Sandvik provided a brief summary of the agenda report and explained that some communities have ended their Waste Management contracts through the RFP process. Sandvik noted that the number of drivers in town is increasing but there are challenges due to new drivers being unfamiliar with streets, alleys, dead ends, etc. Service in Robbinsdale is challenging due to navigating automated service in alleyways. The City's contract with Waste Management goes into 2024 and the City will need to consider alley service and budgeting.
6. Staff and Council discussed challenges with alley versus street service.
7. Selman and Sandvik discussed other service options, including in-house service, outsourcing with another service, and removing organized hauling entirely. Council discussed their opinions, with Blonigan noting that Council's opinions of removing organized hauling are unanimous.
8. Council and staff discussed the opportunity of incentivizing haulers and further developing the contract.
9. Backen noted to be cautious about reducing yard waste pick up. Blonigan noted that most cities do not have curbside yard waste pick up and the City should publicize that we do.
10. Blonigan asked about solutions to reaching the houses that consistently get missed for pick up and Sandvik explained the GPS system that Waste Management relies upon.

11. Webb asked if there were any further comments and there were none.

Discussion: 2023 Budget Discussion (Attachment 2)

12. Sandvik introduced the attachment and explained the efforts to continue transparency and engagement specific to the budget.
13. Sandvik and Selman highlighted the questions brought forth in the previous City Council meeting from two residents.
14. Sandvik requested that Council direct them with how to improve communications. Selman posed the idea of a City podcast. Staff and Council discussed different communications strategies and methods to reach different populations. Blonigan noted that CCX Media is a good resource for advice and assistance. Sandvik noted that the City is planning to be more strategic with the creation of a communications plan.
15. McCoy discussed deployment of electric vehicles (EVs) and how it will impact the City, explaining that different staff will need different types of vehicles and there are challenges such as snow plowing, operating in cold temperatures, and needing four-wheel drive.
16. McCoy and Blonigan discussed funding opportunities and how different cities are using EVs. McCoy expressed his concern for Xcel Energy infrastructure being able to support EV charging stations.
17. Backen noted the EV chargers at Hy-Vee and how much they are used. Council noted locations that would benefit from an EV charger: downtown, City-owned lot, parks, City Hall, public works building. Selman explained different types of EV chargers and the different considerations such as cost, options to eat or shop nearby, etc.
18. Sandvik noted that the City needs to be strategic with their EV planning and highlighted the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the Inflation Reduction Act, and a Level 2 charging station grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency as funding opportunities.
19. Tahoun stated his support for EVs and discussed them for the City from a budgeting perspective.
20. Staff and Council discussed promotion of liquor store profits funding parks improvements.
21. Sandvik posed the opportunity to ask further questions about the budget. Blonigan and staff discussed hypotheticals about adjusting the budget to include EV stations. Webb asked about funding for hiring a diversity, equity, and inclusion staff person. Council discussed identifying grant opportunities and Sandvik discussed current and future City efforts.

Discussion: Problem Properties

22. Sandvik and Council discussed problem properties.

Other Announcements

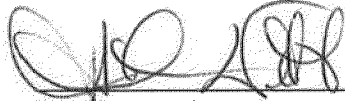
23. Kirtz introduced the 2022 Fall/Winter City Newsletter.

ADJOURNMENT

24. Mayor Pro Tem Webb adjourned the meeting at 8:56 p.m.



Kayla Kirtz, Recorder



Sheila Webb, Mayor Pro Tem