

ROBBINSDALE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL WORK SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, October 18, 2022

Following the City Council Meeting that takes place at 7pm

Robbinsdale City Hall

4100 Lakeview Avenue North

1. The work session was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Webb at 9:32 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; Diaa Tahoun, Finance Director; Kayla Kirtz, Assistant to City Manager – Communications

Discussion: Enterprise and Capital Project Fund Budgets and CIP for 2023-2032
(Attachment 1)

4. Sandvik introduced the budget attachments.
5. Tahoun explained the enterprise fund, consistent with the 2020 and 2022 rate study. Tahoun recommended raising the rate by 15%, equivalent to \$543,521.
6. Tahoun explained the change in water rates for regular households would be \$13.58 monthly and \$27.16 bimonthly.
7. Webb asked about the increase in water rates over recent years. In response, McCoy explained water rates have increased in recent years to preempt the payment for the new water treatment plant.
8. Tahoun explained that the City monitors household water bills and sends code enforcement to households where they expect the water rates are high due to excess running water from toilets or hoses.
9. Sandvik explained that in recent years the City has seen increases in water rates and notes that the City has aging infrastructure and is working to add new infrastructure. Sandvik explained that proposed rates are for funding infrastructure projects such as the water treatment plant and water towers.
10. Tahoun explained the recommended rate increase for the sanitary sewer fee of 12 percent to total \$261,795. For stormwater fees, Tahoun explained that the City recommends a 20 percent increase to \$274,419.
11. Tahoun explained changes in the cash balance in 2021 due to utility rates and that utility rate increases are essential for the City to maintain cash flow.

12. Mayor Blonigan asked whether this year's drought impacted fund calculations. In response, Tahoun explained that inflation and the supply chain are impacting interest rates.
13. Staff and Council had a discussion regarding License Center services along with recommended changes for 2023.
14. Tahoun explained that the park improvement fund will need support this year and expects that more money will need to be transferred in 2023 to maintain a positive balance. Tahoun stated that the City recommends an increase of \$400,000 to transfer to the park improvement fund
15. Tahoun explained the status of the street reconstruction fee.
16. McCoy and Tahoun discussed progress and timeline of Water Tower One, expecting it to be complete around the end of 2023.
17. McCoy provided updates on the timeline of the water treatment plant and is hopeful that the plant will be open by next week.
18. Tahoun stated that CIP discussion is planned for the special work session scheduled for November 1st.
19. Tahoun explained that they are getting feedback from department heads about continuing to work with Enterprise Rent-a-Car.
20. Sandvik explained the required process to set rates which is to post about and hold a public hearing in order for the Council to set rates.
21. Sandvik asked for Council feedback on the rates process. In response, Council stated they were in support of the rates discussed.
22. Mayor Blonigan requested staff convey the reasons for these rate changes to residents. In response, Sandvik explained that the City is working on a one-sheet for the tax levy and can create a similar document for utilities.
23. Blonigan asked about comparing the City's rates to other neighboring cities. In response, Sandvik explained that there are challenges with comparing to neighboring cities like Minneapolis or Crystal because their infrastructure is existing and newer.

Discussion: Proposed Zoning Text Amendment for the sales and service of THC products (Attachments 2-4)

24. Sandvik introduced the Proposed Zoning Text Amendment attachments.

25. Pearson introduced and explained the zoning text amendment which allows the retail sales and service of THC and cannabinoid products in all commercial districts above B-1.
26. Pearson described the map within the memo which shows B-2, B-3, B-4, DD-1, and DD-2 zoning. Pearson stated that the only commercial district not represented on the map is B-1.
27. Pearson pointed out the "THC or Cannabinoid Products" definition in the memo which is highlighted.
28. Pearson explained that they have looked at different examples of definitions and the draft definition is similar to Golden Valley's, who the City will be using as a reference.
29. Pearson stated that the Planning Commission hearing is scheduled for October 27th, 2022.
30. Sandvik introduced the recommended licensing language, which utilizes similar language to tobacco licensing. Sandvik further stated it was likely for an update to come from the Legislature during the next legislative session.
31. Sandvik explained licensing fees for cannabinoid sales.
32. Selman asked how the cost of liquor licenses are determined. In response, Sandvik explained that liquor license costs are compared to neighboring cities and are used to cover up front and regulatory processes of liquor sales.
33. Backen asked about the definition of "trace amount." In response, Sandvik explained that from his understanding "trace amount" is taken from the Pharmaceutical Board. Pearson agreed but said they can look into it and can get the city attorney involved.
34. Sandvik explained the timeline for passage of the zoning amendment. The public hearing with the Planning Commission is scheduled for Thursday, October 27th.
35. Staff and Council discussed the timeline for passage of zoning amendments.
36. Selman asked if the City has accepted any legal input from the attorney that offered legal input. Sandvik responded that he has had some candid conversation with the attorney.

Other business

37. Kirtz provided an update on Partners in Energy.
38. Kirtz provided an update on GreenStep Cities.
39. Sandvik provided an update on racial covenants. Sandvik stated that the Human Rights Commission Chair will provide their annual update at the City Council meeting on November 9th. A representative from Golden Valley will talk about how HRC can accelerate their work with Just Deeds.

40. Sandvik noted that the Robbinsdale Economic Development Authority will meet on November 9th instead of November 8th due to Election Day.
41. There was a discussion regarding setting a Canvassing meeting and would be discussed at the November 1 Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

42. Mayor Pro Tem Webb adjourned the meeting at 10:12 p.m.



Kayla Kirtz, Recorder



Sheila Webb, Mayor Pro Tem