



City of Robbinsdale

City Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 19, 2024
Meeting No. 6

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Wagner, Murphy, Parisian, Mayor Blonigan

Absent:

Staff: Tim Sandvik, City Manager; Chase Peterson-Etem, City Clerk

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

Patrick Bristol, 4512 Perry Ave. N., asked about a water usage notification system and mentioned the notification system the City of Crystal uses. He noted he had previously inquired about this. He also wondered why his usage is higher now than it had previously been.

Sandvik stated this software is different from what we currently offer, and noted staff could look into this further if the Council would like.

Member Murphy asked about lowering the potential threshold to the current limits we set for overuse emails. Sandvik noted we could investigate lowering that threshold and that we could bring this back to a work session at a later date.

Member Murphy noted the city does have a system in place that catches catastrophic events that may happen.

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 19, 2024 MEETING AGENDA

Peterson-Etem noted the addition of the Voucher Disbursement Report added to Other Business Item A.

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Parisian to approve the March 19, 2024, agenda. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Approve City Council Meeting Minutes of February 6, 2024
- B. Farmers Market Memorandum of Understanding
- C. Approval of Credit Card Charges and Payment – February 2024

- D. Authorize City Manager to Execute Organized Labor Agreement
- E. Mobile Food Unit in Robin Center
- F. DNR No Child Left Inside Grant Acceptance
- G. Approval of Licenses

PRESENTATIONS

- A. Hennepin County District Court Chief Judge Kerry Meyer

Kerry Meyer, Chief Judge of Hennepin County District Court, introduced herself and played a video providing an overview of the Hennepin County Court System. Meyer stated the courts do not keep any of the fines or surcharges for cases that are prosecuted. She noted a percentage of those are returned to the jurisdiction and in 2023 just under \$169,000 was disbursed to the City of Robbinsdale.

Mayor Blonigan stated the Chief Judge gets elected by the other judges and noted the good work being done. He noted the large number of cases that Hennepin County handles and that they are an innovative leader among the other counties in Minnesota.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. None

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Authorize City Manager to Execute License Agreement with Birdhouse Restaurant.

Sandvik stated this is a continuation of a previous agreement that allows the space to be utilized by the Birdhouse. He noted some specific updates to the license agreement and asked the Council for their consideration.

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Wagner to authorize The City Manager to Execute a License Agreement With Birdhouse Restaurant. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

- B. Authorize Wicked Wort to expand their current liquor license to include additional space.

Sandvik noted this is being brought to the Council as an expansion to the current license. He stated the space in question used to be divided into two different addresses but has since been converted into one address for the entire parcel. He continued that because this isn't a new liquor license, but an expansion that a public hearing was not required, and all aspects of the licensing process have been approved by the Minnesota Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement Division (AGE).

Member Wagner asked if there was an additional fee. Sandvik stated no, as the original liquor license fee would cover the additional space being used.

Mayor Blonigan asked where it is expanding to. Sandvik noted it would be expanding into the old coffee shop, Bean There Coffee. He noted that the certificate of insurance would note the old address is also covered under their insurance, as was suggested by AGE.

Member Murphy asked if they would continue to serve what is already being offered. Sandvik stated that is correct.

Steve Carlyle, the applicant, noted the old coffee shop space would be used for book clubs or small events. He stated other permits for the space are current, and they are trying to make it right with the city.

Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Parisian to Authorize Wicked Wort to expand their current liquor license to include additional space. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Authorize City Manager to execute a Professional Services Agreement with Bolton & Menk, Inc

Sandvik stated that in 2023 it was suggested to create a Parks Master Plan to be used as a guide for the next ten years. He noted the Park, Recreation, and Forestry Commission discussed expectations and did a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis to better understand our future needs. He noted a request for proposals was advertised and three firms were interviewed. Ultimately, Bolten and Menk rose to the top and staff is asking the Council to approve a professional services agreement with them.

Mayor Blonigan asked if the city has used Bolten and Menk for other projects. Sandvik stated yes, most recently they worked with staff for the station area planning.

Mayor Blonigan stated he would like to preserve the fields but is open to other ideas that are conducive to accommodating more people.

Member Wagner stated there is a lot of good energy and excitement around this and he is looking forward to the potential of what could be done in the future.

Member Parisian agreed and noted how quickly this all came together. She noted Bolten and Menk have done good work for us in the past. She also noted their proposal aligns well with the goals of the Council and she is excited to see more.

Member Murphy stated he is happy to support this and noted a Parks Master Plan will provide a new framework that will enhance what we can offer.

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Parisian to Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Professional Services Agreement With Bolton & Menk, Inc. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

B. Consider Support for HF 4182 - Equal Broadband Act

Sandvik provided a brief overview and noted the legislation that is being considered would allow broadband to function like other utilities, electric and gas, which allows for part of those fees to be recaptured.

Mayor Blonigan stated this is similar to how other franchise fees work and would also help to regulate and build out the city equally. He noted the fee is limited to 5 percent, like other franchise fees, which was an update from previous versions, and stated his support.

Member Wagner stated he toured the CCX Media facility and emphasized that most of what CCX produces for their cable channels already ends up online, and he is excited to support this.

Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Parisian to send a letter of support for HF 4182 - Equal Broadband Act and The Mayor Work with Staff to Craft The Letter. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Voucher Requests Pending Approval for Disbursement

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

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Peterson-Etem noted five people filed for the open Ward 2 City Council seat. He mentioned open voting for the Ward 2 Special Primary Election would start March 29 at City Hall and noted people can find more information on the city website.

Sandvik noted the city has several job openings, including temporary spring/summer positions, as well as full-time positions, and those can be found on the city website. He stated the city has a program that allows folks to receive a credit on their utility bill for upgrading appliances and if people have questions, they could contact the engineering department or look at city communications. He noted the project office for the Light Rail Extension is hosting their next open house at Elim Church on April 9, at 5:30 p.m. Lastly, he mentioned the CE&E program, which provides grants and loans for certain home improvements, is up and running, and more information can be found on the website or by calling the city.

COUNCIL GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

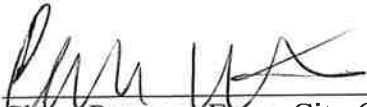
Member Wagner wished people a Happy St. Patrick's Day for everyone who celebrated. He noted that a resident was concerned about signs and messages that discriminated against LGBTQ+ people and reiterated that the City Council passed a proclamation last year celebrating Pride Month and read a passage from the proclamation. He also thanked the Ward 2 candidates who filed for the open Ward 2 Council seat and noted his positive experience working on the Council.

Member Parisian stated she attended the Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC) meeting last week and thanked the volunteers who serve on the Committee and recognized the great work they are doing with the police department. She noted she attended the Employee Recognition Luncheon and highlighted the amount of talent and expertise that exists within the staff. She also recognized the anti-LGBTQ+ messages that were displayed and noted those don't align with the cities values of inclusion and making residents and visitors feel welcome, and she will continue to promote diversity and inclusion.

Mayor Blonigan thanked Member Wagner for acknowledging the Pride proclamation that the Council passed and stated it is a good thing that Robbinsdale supports this. He also attended the employee lunch and hopes those types of things could happen more often as it provides comradeship and connections between people and departments.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Parisian to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.


Chase Peterson-Etem, City Clerk


William A. Blonigan, Mayor