



MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Blackledge, Greenberg, Parisian, Caceres Aranda, Sutton

Absent:

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

MICROPHONE CHECK

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

None.

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 3, 2026, MEETING AGENDA

City Clerk Peterson-Etem noted the addition of Other Business Item 11A, Voucher Disbursement Request.

Member Parisian asked if consent agenda item 6B was to approve the session minutes, rather than the goals and priorities themselves. City Manager Sandvik affirmed that was correct.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Blackledge, to approve the March 3, 2026, City Council agenda, as amended. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Member Parisian removed item I for further consideration.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Blackledge, to approve the consent agenda, as revised. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

- A. Approve City Council Meeting minutes from February 17, 2026
- B. Approve Top Goals and Priorities Session from February 26, 2026
- C. Approval of Credit Card Charges and Payment – January 2026
- D. Deputy Registrar's Monthly Financial Statements
- E. Robbinsdale Wine & Spirits' Monthly Financial Statements
- F. Approve submission of an Expedited Conservation Project grant application.
- G. Approval of Licenses

H. Authorize staff to credit the Utility Bill.

J. Violent Crime Reduction Task Force

I. Purchase of Police Patrol Vehicles

Member Parisian noted that this item is part of the capital equipment budget. Still, due to the sizeable amount and the number of emails she received from residents, she asked Sandvik to present an overview of the additional materials provided to the Council for residents' benefit. Sandvik stated that this item is part of the previously approved Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and discussed vehicle rotations and other frequently asked questions.

Member Parisian thanked Sandvik for his overview. She summarized the theme of questions she received as why at that cost, why five vehicles, and why now. She noted that the capital equipment budget has been allocated for this purpose, and noted that the lease in 2022 played an important role in why the City needs five vehicles now.

Member Parisian asked when the Council will receive the total cost. Sandvik stated that it will take a couple of months, but noted the City has no intention of exceeding the budgeted number in the CIP.

Member Parisian asked what the Staff expects the resale or auction value to be for those vehicles to have a net capital impact. Sandvik stated he has no hard answer, but Staff will provide those numbers as soon as they are able. He noted that the Staff tries to avoid the second depreciation and hit a good selling point.

Member Parisian asked about the policy for fleet replacement and if it is based on years in service or mileage. Sandvik noted fleet replacement is based on both and commented that different vehicles have different usage. He also commented that sometimes the City receives a lemon, but other times the City can stretch usage.

Member Parisian asked if there is a lifecycle cost comparison between the recommended Tahoes and a hybrid or EV alternative. Sandvik stated the City has sourced this out in the past, but noted it is hard to project that comparison from available data due to unique usage. He commented that there hasn't been evidence of cost reduction, but the cities that have made the decision to try hybrid or EV vehicles see the value due to priorities and see it as important to explore usage over the cost. Member Parisian voiced support for exploring the utilization of hybrid or EV vehicles for the police fleet going forward.

Mayor Sutton asked how many emails Member Parisian received regarding the item. Member Parisian stated she received six emails from residents of Ward 3.

Member Blackledge expressed gratitude towards the Staff for putting together a more detailed answer sheet.

Member Caceres Aranda asked why the City needs the V8 Tahoe engines versus the V6 Ford Explorer engines that are cheaper. Sandvik stated the larger engine provides for additional performance, which is hard to measure dollar for dollar, but police sometimes are required to push vehicles harder in different scenarios. He also noted that the City continues to utilize the State contract where dealers offer special prices.

Member Caceres Aranda stated that he received two emails from constituents who felt funds could be better spent elsewhere. He voiced support for purchasing three Tahoes and two Ford Explorers to save on costs.

Member Greenberg received two emails related to this item. He noted that one of the emails asked about using the funds set aside for vehicles to instead set up a community assistance fund. Member Greenberg asked if CIP funds can be used to create a community assistance fund. Sandvik stated that it would be difficult. He noted the

Council could utilize LAHA, set up a program, or go through an already established program by providing funds.

Mayor Sutton commented that he understands the Tahoes are more desirable ergonomically for officers who spend a significant amount of time in their vehicles. He also commented that EV's are undesirable for officers due to battery life in the winter months. Mayor Sutton expressed gratitude towards the Staff for the forethought in answering questions and supports moving forward.

Member Parisian stated that she is willing to make a motion with an added condition that any City vehicle acquisition would contain a documented evaluation of hybrid and EV options, and asked if the Council would have an appetite for that.

Member Greenberg commented that the City already has hybrid and EVs in the fleet and asked if the Council had requested documented evidence previously. Member Parisian asked if Member Greenberg would be more supportive of language that was directly related to the police department. Member Greenberg affirmed that statement.

Mayor Sutton asked if this discussion was more geared towards a work session.

Sandvik discussed the Council's goal to promote sustainability through a variety of mechanisms and stated that Staff has and will continue to do that through rolling stock. He stated that Staff can provide evaluations for hybrid or EV vehicles, but noted it will take more time.

Mayor Sutton asked if completing these evaluations would be a heavy lift for Staff. Sandvik noted that Staff serve at the pleasure of the Council, but commented that he is happy to explore creating evaluations further and can come back to the Council if they are proving to be too time-consuming.

Mayor Sutton stated he believes having that information would be valuable.

Member Blackledge summarized what the Council discussed approving.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Blackledge, to authorize the City Manager's approval to Purchase Police Patrol Vehicles, conditioned upon direction to Staff for any future Police vehicle acquisitions Staff include a documented evaluation of electric and hybrid vehicle options, including life cycle cost analysis, operational feasibility, grant eligibility, infrastructure requirements, and environmental impact. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS

A. Women's History Month Proclamation

Sandvik thanked the Staff and the DEI Committee for creating this Proclamation and discussed the national theme of "leading the change, women shaping a sustainable future".

Member Parisian voiced support for the Proclamation and thanked the Staff for putting it together. She then read some of the whereas clauses within the Proclamation.

Member Greenberg thanked the Staff and voiced his support for the Proclamation.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Greenberg, to proclaim March 2026 to be Women's History Month in the City of Robbinsdale. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. None

OLD BUSINESS

A. None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Approve Submission of an AARP Community Challenge Grant Application

Sandvik provided an overview of the item and detailed the history of grant funding and the desires of the Council for pedestrian-friendly facilities. He then described the grant and detailed the Staff's desires to upgrade bike rack infrastructure.

Member Parisian expressed her support for this application and the intended bike rack infrastructure.

Member Blackledge thanked the Staff for seeking out money-saving opportunities.

Member Greenberg echoes sentiments shared by Council Members and appreciates that this grant benefits residents of all ages.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Greenberg, to approve the Submission of an AARP Community Challenge Grant Application. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Voucher Requests Pending Approval for Disbursement

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Blackledge, to approve voucher disbursement requests for the period ending March 3, 2026. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Sandvik thanked Robbinsdale residents who attended the recent town hall and said he was inspired by the level of community engagement. He also expressed appreciation to the City Council and City Staff for their leadership and participation in the recent goal-setting session. Sandvik provided a brief legislative update and discussed upcoming opportunities related to state legislation. He noted that the Spring/Summer Parks and Recreation catalog will be coming out soon. Sandvik also shared that the Separation Ordinance will be discussed at next week's work session, along with several other topics scheduled for discussion.

COUNCIL GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

Member Blackledge encouraged residents to be mindful of neighbors as the weather warms and noted concerns about people driving faster in residential areas. He also raised the idea of streaming work sessions and asked that it remain on the radar so the effort does not fall through. He expressed appreciation for the earlier conversation and emphasized the importance of providing residents with the reasoning behind Council decisions.

Member Greenberg thanked everyone who attended the recent town hall. He also noted a new restaurant, Risata Cucina, opening on March 9 and encouraged residents to support the business. In recognition of Women's

History Month, he highlighted Layli Long Soldier, a poet whose work reflects on Native experiences, and brought attention to her contributions.

Member Caceres Aranda noted it has been about a month since he was sworn in and thanked the Council and Staff for helping ensure a smooth transition. He said he is continuing to monitor legislative updates and described the town hall meeting last week as productive, giving kudos to the Staff for their work. He also shared that he will not be able to attend the work session next week but will provide notes to Sandvik regarding the topics on the agenda.

Member Parisian acknowledged the strong turnout at the town hall, calling it inspiring and important. She said she would like to hold another one in the spring or early summer and asked the Staff to check with the Robbinsdale Police Department about their willingness to attend. She also expressed support for continuing the conversation about work session accessibility.

Mayor Sutton stated it was great to see the level of engagement at the town hall and encouraged residents not to let that be the end of their involvement. He also appreciated receiving legislative updates from Member Caceres Aranda. The mayor noted concerns about speeding in neighborhoods and encouraged residents to reach out if it is an issue in their area. He closed by sharing thoughts and prayers for members of the military and their families and condolences for those who have lost loved ones.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Blackledge to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

Signed by:



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Chase Peterson-Emem, City Clerk

Signed by:



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Bradley Sutton, Mayor