



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; Stephan Papiz, Forester/Natural Resources Specialist

MICROPHONE CHECK

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

None.

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 21, 2026, MEETING AGENDA

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

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Greenberg, to approve the April 21, 2026, City Council agenda, as amended. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Sutton removed Item B for further consideration.

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

- A. Approve City Council Meeting minutes from April 7, 2026
- C. Approve submission of a Metropolitan Council Water Efficiency grant application.
- B. Robbinsdale Wine & Spirits' Monthly Financial Statements – February
- C. Robbinsdale Wine & Spirits' Monthly Financial Statements – March 2026
- D. Deputy Registrar's Monthly Financial Statements – February
- E. Deputy Registrar's Monthly Financial Statements – March 2026
- F. Appointment of Alternate Commissioner to Bassett Creek Watershed Commission
- G. Hennepin County Youth Activities Grant Application

H. Miller Concessions at Hy-Vee

I. Antenna lease amendments with T-Mobile for 3310 Oakdale Ave N

J. Approval of Credit Card Charges and Payment

K. Authorize City Manager to Execute License Agreement with Birdhouse Restaurant

L. Approval of Licenses

M. Receive Sustainability Committee meeting minutes from March 18th, 2026

B. Investment Report

Mayor Sutton asked Staff to highlight what the investment report means for taxpayers.

City Manager Sandvik explained the importance of investment reports, the process, investment strategies, and net gains.

Mayor Sutton asked how the City recoups gains from the \$100,000 investment to the State Board. Sandvik stated it is relatively new, but the strategy has been to reinvest earnings into the State Board.

Member Caceres Aranda MOVED, seconded by Greenberg, to approve the Investment Report. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS

A. Arbor Day Proclamation

Peterson-Etem introduced the Arbor Day Proclamation and highlighted the importance of trees and keeping green spaces clean within the community.

Member Parisian asked the Staff to share details about the City's Arbor Day Celebration.

Peterson-Etem noted the Arbor Day Celebration is this coming Saturday at Manor Park at 9:30 a.m. and stated they will be cleaning up the park and giving away free seedlings.

Member Parisian encouraged residents to attend and noted that it is a very well-run event.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Blackledge, to proclaim Saturday, April 25, 2026, as Arbor Day in the City of Robbinsdale. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

B. Robbinsdale Forestry/Natural Resources Annual Report

Forester/Natural Resources Specialist Papiz presented the Forestry/Natural Resources Annual Report through providing an Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) update, tree pruning, native prairie/raingarden plan management activities, noxious weeds and invasive species control, shade tree disease, gravel bed nursery bareroot tree planting, tree and plant sales, City Code changes and updates, GIS-based tree and plant inventories, County Road 81 native landscape medians, Arbor Day Celebration, Adopt-a-Park Program, and Tree City USA.

Mayor Sutton highlighted Papiz's foresight in addressing the Emerald Ash Borer issue, noting how he extended the effectiveness of the insecticide treatment. This approach was contrasted with strategies used in other cities, and Sutton offered strong praise for Papiz's work, emphasizing the significant savings achieved for taxpayers.

Member Parisian echoed the appreciation for his expertise and contributions to the City of Robbinsdale. She asked Papiz what advice he could offer residents regarding trees on their properties. Papiz highlighted the importance of regular structural pruning and general intensive maintenance of trees.

Member Parisian asked how often trees need to be pruned. Papiz noted that it depends on the species, but every once in a while to three years. He commented that fast-growing species need to be pruned once every year.

Member Blackledge voiced appreciation for the presentation and asked Papiz if he's available to residents for questions. Papiz stated yes and is happy to do that.

Member Greenberg thanked Papiz for his presentation and highlighted the utilization of grants. He asked if the City could reapply for expired grants or if they were one-time offerings. Papiz noted the State, DNR, and County offer annual grants, but the EAB grant was a one-time situation.

Member Caceres Aranda thanked Papiz and noted it is evident his team cares and is passionate about the work they are doing. He also thanked Papiz for sharing how residents can be involved in this work.

Mayor Sutton asked whether residents can contact City contractors directly. Papiz stated yes, and the City can share which contractors it uses, but there are no negotiated rate reductions. He noted that such a request has never been received, largely because each tree pruning or removal job varies in scope and cost. He commented that insecticide injections could be given at a set rate.

Mayor Sutton expressed disappointment that the prairie restoration project didn't receive grant funding. He asked about a phased approach as a potential way to carry out the work over time and help reduce overall long-term costs. Papiz noted that a phased approach is a good way to describe it and stated that the Staff is currently reaching out for cost proposals after being unable to secure the grant. Despite the setback, the effort is ongoing and not being abandoned.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Greenberg, to receive the Robbinsdale Forestry/Natural Resources Annual Report. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. None

OLD BUSINESS

A. None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Adopt 2026 Goals and Top Priorities

Sandvik provided an overview of the item, outlining the timeline, history, and describing the process of reviewing past efforts while identifying new goals and top priorities.

Mayor Sutton commented that he appreciated seeing how the City approaches this work and felt the session was very productive in clarifying what matters most to both Council and Staff.

Member Parisian thanked the Staff for organizing and facilitating the annual meeting, noting it was a valuable and insightful session. She also expressed support for the identified goals and appreciation for the monthly report cards that the Staff provides.

Member Caceres Aranda shared that he valued both the process and the facilitator who led the meeting, and voiced support for the established goals. He asked whether quarterly check-ins on progress could be implemented or if that had been done in prior years. Sandvik responded that updates are already provided monthly through report cards, noting that some goals are actionable, some are more philosophical, and others fall somewhere in between.

Member Blackledge MOVED, seconded by Caceres Aranda, to approve the 2026 Goals and Top Priorities. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

A. Authorize Staff to Issue RFP for Cleaning Services

Sandvik provided an overview of the item, detailing the current cleaning situation, including operating hours, background check requirements, and the process for site tours and bidding.

Member Blackledge MOVED, seconded by Parisian, to Authorize Staff to issue RFP for Cleaning Services. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Voucher Requests Pending Approval for Disbursement

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Parisian, to approve voucher disbursement requests for the period ending April 21, 2026. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Peterson-Etem noted that election judge applications are now available on the City website and provided details on compensation, time commitment, and required training. He also shared that seats in Ward 3 and Ward 4 will be up for election, with candidate filing opening on May 19 and running for two weeks. Additionally, residents will receive a postcard in the mail with information about upcoming changes to the online utility payment system.

Sandvik highlighted the benefits of transitioning to the new utility payment system, thanked Papiz for his presentation, and provided updates on recent legislative activity, the upcoming Arbor Day celebration, and May programming.

COUNCIL GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

Member Blackledge encouraged residents to say hello to their neighbors.

Member Greenberg noted he will be attending the Arbor Day celebration and hopes to see residents in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Caceres Aranda, to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

Signed by:



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Chase Peterson-Em, City Clerk

Signed by:



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Bradley Sutton, Mayor