



MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Sutton called the meeting to order at 7:02 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; Will Bucheger, Assistant Planner; Jenna Wolf, Water Resource Specialist, Richard McCoy, Public Works Director/City Engineer; Stephan Papiz, City Forester/Natural Resources Specialist

MICROPHONE CHECK

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

Mike R. 7720 36th Ave. N., Crystal, provided an overview of a police encounter he witnessed about a pedestrian crossing the street illegally. He noted his interaction with the officer and asked the city to consider looking into their safety measures.

Phillip Gray, Brooklyn Center, noted his work with the Robbinsdale Police Department in a community outreach capacity and that he is working with Elim Church and other organizations to provide activities and programming opportunities for youth in Robbinsdale. He mentioned an opportunity for grant money and asked if the City would partner with them.

Sandvik noted the city has been in communication with Mr. Gray as well as Elim and noted staff could move forward with this, which could be done administratively. Sandvik noted if the Council is supportive of moving forward, they will make sure all partners are appropriately vetted.

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 5, 2026, MEETING AGENDA

City Clerk Peterson-Etem noted four additions to the agenda for tonight.

1. Addition to Consent Item H, Hennepin County Environmental Grant.
2. Addition to Consent Item I, Approve Resolution of Support for Hennepin County ERF Grant Application for 4740 & 4750 42nd Ave Mitchell Realty Business Building.
3. Addition to Presentation Item C, Quarterly Financial Information for General, Water, Sanitary Sewer, Storm Sewer, and Solid Waste.
4. Addition to Other Business Item 11A, Voucher Requests Pending Approval for Disbursement.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Caceres Aranda, to approve the May 5, 2026, City Council agenda as amended. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Sutton removed Item E for further consideration.

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

- A. Approve Meeting Minutes from April 21,
- B. Approve City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes from March 10, 2026
- C. Quarterly Financial Information for General, Water, Sanitary Sewer, Storm Sewer, and Solid Waste
- D. Establishment of the 2027-2028 Budget Calendar
- F. Accept Proposal for Crack Sealing
- G. Twin Cities Walleyes Unlimited Donation to Badges and Bobbers
- H. Approve Resolution of Support for 4205 West Broadway Proposed Redevelopment Project Grant Application to Hennepin County Environmental Response Fund (ERF) Grant Program
- I. Approve Resolution of Support for Hennepin County ERF Grant Application for 4740 & 4750 42nd Ave, Mitchell Realty Business Building
- J. Bank Signature Change
- E. Approve Joint Equipment Purchase and Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Crystal to Purchase and use the Equipment - City Project 8080

Mayor Sutton asked for further details on Item E. City Manager Sandvik explained that the item involved a joint purchase with the City of Crystal through the Capital Equipment Budget. Sandvik noted that the equipment may not be used seven days a week, making it an opportunity for the cities to share resources and use funds more efficiently.

Mayor Sutton then asked how the Capital Equipment Budget is performing. Sandvik responded that the shared purchase arrangement results in cost savings.

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Blackledge, to approve the Joint Equipment Purchase and Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Crystal to purchase and use the Equipment - City Project 8080. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS

- A. Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Proclamation

Peterson-Etem introduced the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Proclamation and noted the theme for 2026 is “power in unity, strengthening communities together.”

Member Parisian thanked the Staff for preparing the proclamation and noted that, in recognition of Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month, events are taking place throughout the Twin Cities, including one in Edina on May 16.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Caceres Aranda, to proclaim May 2026 to be Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in the City of Robbinsdale. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

B. National Public Works Week Proclamation

City Engineer McCoy introduced the proclamation and discussed the importance of public works, noting that much of the work happens behind the scenes and at all hours of the day. McCoy also highlighted the variety of services public works staff provide and encouraged residents to participate in a water treatment plant tour.

Mayor Sutton stated that public works employees are the “unsung heroes” of the community, expressed appreciation for their capabilities, and noted the need for an additional water tower.

Member Greenberg echoed the Mayor’s sentiments and noted the appreciation and recognition public works staff receive from residents.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Blackledge, to proclaim the week of May 17-23, 2026, as “National Public Works Week” in the City of Robbinsdale. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

C. Robbinsdale Public Library Centennial Proclamation

Sandvik noted that the Golden Valley Historical Society recently held an event celebrating 100 years of the library being open and recognized Pete Ritchie during the celebration.

Member Greenberg highlighted that it was a great event.

Mayor Sutton stated that it is a great art gallery and said he was happy to support the proclamation.

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Caceres Aranda, to proclaim that the Robbinsdale City Council celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Robbinsdale Public Library building and recognizes Pete Richie for his outstanding leadership, dedication, and contributions to preserving and advancing the history of Robbinsdale. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Massage Therapy Business License

Sandvik introduced the application for licensure and highlighted that the process can be cumbersome, noting that adjustments to the steps may be considered in the coming months. Sandvik also reviewed the Staff recommendations and associated conditions.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Blackledge, to open the public hearing. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

Member Blackledge MOVED, seconded by Greenberg, to close the public hearing. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

Member Caceres Aranda MOVED, seconded by Greenberg, to approve the therapeutic massage business license for Stephanie Nicole Keefe, to operate as RelaxologyMN, LLC, 4740 42nd Ave N, #111, pending successful completion of any inspections or other requirements. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

Member Blackledge MOVED, seconded by Parisian, to approve the individual massage therapy license for Stephanie Nicole Keeffe. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

A. None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Zoning Text Amendment to Code Section 820 Public and Right of Way Trees: Vegetation

Assistant Planner Bucheger provided an overview of the item, including its background, Planning Commission review, and Staff recommendation.

Member Greenberg asked whether Staff could provide residents with a clearer framework of prohibited plants, such as invasive grasses and thistles, noting that similar specificity exists for trees. Bucheger responded that such lists can be extensive and are often based on resources like the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

City Forester/Natural Resources Specialist Papiz added that the Minnesota Department of Agriculture maintains a list of noxious plants that the City references. Member Greenberg asked that the City also reference where that list can be found.

Water Resource Specialist Wolf noted that a resident-friendly list of common invasive plants with photos could be developed, and that she and City Forester/Natural Resources Specialist Papiz would be available for resident consultations as needed. City Forester/Natural Resources Specialist Papiz also stated the Department of Agriculture's list can be made available at City Hall.

Sandvik noted that the list is continuously updated and did not feel additional changes were necessary at this time.

Member Caceres Aranda MOVED, seconded by Greenberg, to approve the first reading of an Ordinance amending Sections 820 of the Robbinsdale City Code relating to public right of way tree management and residential vegetation enforcement. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

B. Zoning Text Amendments to City Code Sections 825 (Tree Pruning and Chemical Treatments), 835 (Tree Disease & Insect Program), 425.11 (Definitions), and 425.15 (Minimum Standards)

Assistant Planner Bucheger provided an overview of the item and detailed the action, background, Planning Commission review, and Staff recommendation.

Member Blackledge highlighted his appreciation for the intentionality in reviewing Code.

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Blackledge, to approve the first reading of an Ordinance amending Sections 825, 835, and 425 of the Robbinsdale City Code relating to tree management, residential vegetation enforcement, and property maintenance yard cover standards. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

A. MPCA PFAS Sampling Project

City Engineer McCoy provided background on the PFAS issue, noting that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has offered to help determine potential sources of PFAS contamination. McCoy explained that the plan

includes testing at two surface locations and three drilling locations, and he provided maps outlining the sites. He noted the work would take approximately four weeks and discussed proper disposal procedures for collected samples. McCoy also stated they would like to move forward by May 18 and, if approved, would notify nearby residents before work begins. He added that the fiscal impact on the City would be minimal and presented the Staff's recommendation.

Member Caceres Aranda asked what follow-up would look like. McCoy responded that he would bring a presentation back to the Council to share findings and that all impacted sites would be restored after completion of work.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Member Greenberg, to approve the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to perform additional borings and groundwater testing related to PFAS sampling, including temporary use of the area beside Lift Station #3 as a processing site for millings and water generated by the project. The motion includes the condition that any areas damaged during the work be restored at the project's expense, and that the City Manager be authorized to sign the Access Agreement.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Voucher Requests Pending Approval for Disbursement

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Caceres Aranda, to approve voucher disbursement requests for the period ending May 5, 2026. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Peterson-Etem noted that election judge applications are currently being accepted and that candidate filing for Ward 3 and Ward 4 will open on May 19. He also announced a town hall meeting on May 18 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Sandvik highlighted upcoming events.

COUNCIL GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

Member Parisian highlighted that May is Mental Health Awareness Month and pointed to the mental health awareness toolkit on the State of Minnesota website, noting the theme is "you matter."

Member Greenberg stated "Happy Cinco De Mayo" and highlighted a bike rodeo on Thursday at the Crystal Community Center, as well as noting that the new utility payment system is now live.

Member Blackledge encouraged residents to greet neighbors.

Mayor Sutton noted he will be joining Peterson-Etem at a district luncheon on Friday with Representative Omar to provide and receive updates.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Blackledge to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

Signed by:



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Chase Peterson-Etem, City Clerk

Signed by:



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Bradley Sutton, Mayor