



## MINUTES

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### 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; Richard McCoy, City Engineer/Public Works Director; Will Bucheger, Assistant Planner

### MICROPHONE CHECK

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

Paula Schaefer, 3944 Vera Cruz, asked about rental properties in residential neighborhoods and what standards are in place for maintenance of those properties. She noted a few properties that could use some attention and asked if the City could have information meetings with property owners to make sure they are maintaining their rented properties.

Member Parisian noted past conversations the Council has had and recommended that if a pattern is happening, to please let the Council and staff know.

Member Greenberg noted he has heard some other folks mention this and that more conversations could be had for awareness.

### APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 2, 2026, MEETING AGENDA

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

1. Addition to Other Business Item 11A, Voucher Requests Pending Approval for Disbursement.
2. Addition to New Business Item 10 D, Terminating Limited Use Agreement
3. Amending Agenda so that Old Business follows New Business

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Parisian, to approve Moving New Business in front of Old Business as Item 9. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Blackledge, to approve adding New Business Item 10D, Terminating Limited Use Agreement. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

### CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Approve City Council Meeting minutes from May 19, 2026

- B. Approve City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes from May 12, 2026
- C. Approve City Council Town Hall Meeting Minutes from May 18, 2026
- D. Receive Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes from April 15, 2026
- E. Receive PRFC Meeting Minutes from March 24, 2026
- F. Receive HRC meeting minutes from March 26, 2026
- G. Receive HRC meeting minutes from April 23, 2026
- H. Appointment of Absentee Ballot Board and Deputizing Staff for 2026 City Elections
- I. Updates to City Manager Contract
- J. Appoint New Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Commissioner Matthew Rentsch
- K. Consumer Fireworks Sales Application
- L. Approval of Licenses
- M. Second Reading for a Zoning Text Amendment to Code Section 820 Public and Right of Way Trees: Vegetation
- N. Second reading of a Zoning Text Amendment to City Code Sections 825 (Tree Pruning and Chemical Treatments), 835 (Tree Disease & Insect Program), 425.11 (Definitions), and 425.15 (Minimum Standards)

## **PRESENTATIONS**

- A. Updates From North Memorial

Sandvik invited the North Memorial Representative to speak.

North Memorial CEO Trevor Sawallish discussed the partnership between North Memorial and Sanford, health care challenges, and the partnership process.

Sanford Health CEO Bill Gassen discussed who Sanford Health is, partnership focuses, partnership benefits, and future goals.

Member Caceres Aranda asked about the quality of care and cost of healthcare for Robbinsdale residents if this merger goes through. Sawallish noted that Sanford is a very active research organization that has the potential to present new ways to treat patients at a better cost. Gassen discussed the past successes of other mergers with Sanford, the Graduate Medical Education Programs, in relation to provider retention, virtual care, and cost-effectiveness.

Member Caceres Aranda asked about the past merger with Fairview Health that didn't succeed. Gassen discussed the differences in financial strain from that time period to now and the cultural alignment.

Member Caceres Aranda asked about potential layoffs due to the merger. Gassen noted that they aren't merging with a scarcity mindset, but merging with a goal to provide more care for more patients.

Member Parisian asked about how the Robbinsdale and North West Metro communities can have a voice in future decisions. Sawallish noted that the facilities and management team will stay in place. He also shared the continued commitment to working with communities and thinking about future needs. Gassen noted that from Sanford's structural perspective, an integrative model of care with local leadership is vitally important. He commented that the local Board of Directors will remain in place, and the different types of care provided will continue to be made by that Board. Gassen highlighted that a cornerstone commitment of the merger is that North Memorial will need to maintain or have a greater level of investment in the local community. Sawallish highlighted generations of care throughout the years and noted that it isn't possible without local partnership.

Gassen noted that two North Memorial Board Members will step onto Sanford's Board to improve integration.

Mayor Sutton asked about plans to expand existing footprints. Sawallish noted regulations, but stated there are future opportunities to expand services.

Member Greenberg noted that the majority of hospitals are non-profits and asked why that was highlighted. Gassen noted that while the majority of hospitals are non-profit, the partnership requests Sanford receives are not always non-profit. He highlighted that non-profit structures better align with Sanford's culture. Sawallish further discussed non-profit structures.

Member Greenberg asked about the long-term commitment to preserving the culture and community relationships built before the merger. Gassen responded that the individuals responsible for carrying out that work today will continue to be involved moving forward, citing previous mergers as examples of successful integration while maintaining local commitments. Sawallish noted that, as a smaller independent healthcare system, the organization had been required to reduce some community engagement efforts in recent years. He stated that this partnership would provide additional resources and opportunities to reinvest in the community and expand those efforts.

Council Member Blackledge asked for clarification regarding the representatives in attendance from each organization. Gassen introduced Nathan Peterson, Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff; Jennifer Grennan, Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer; Matt Hocks, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer; Erica Batcheller, Executive Vice President and Chief External Affairs Officer; and Angela Dejene from Media Relations. Sawallish introduced Bjorn Gunnerud, Chief Strategy Officer; Bette Zerwas from Government Affairs and Public Relations; Abigail Greenheck from Communications and Public Relations; and Senator Ann Rest.

Council Member Blackledge also asked whether there were any anticipated questions or topics that had not yet been raised that would be helpful for the City Council to consider as discussions move forward.

Gassen expanded upon the commitment to the care team. Sawallish commented on existing physician and patient relationships and how they will not be disrupted. He also highlighted the importance of this merger to Sanford and the care they've shown throughout the process.

Member Caceres Aranda asked if the organizations would be represented at the public forum next week. Gassen responded affirmatively. Sawallish responded affirmatively and highlighted the importance of having a public forum.

Mayor Sutton noted his excitement about the potential merger and voiced appreciation for Gassen's focus on the people.

## B. 2026 Pride Month Proclamation

Peterson-Etem introduced the Proclamation created by the DEI committee.

Member Parisian thanked Staff for creating the Proclamation and voiced her support. She highlighted upcoming PRIDE events happening around the Twin Cities and encouraged residents to attend.

Mayor Sutton stated he is happy to support the Proclamation and will be attending the Golden Valley PRIDE festival.

Peterson-Etem noted that Staff will be tabling at the festival and invited City Council to join.

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Blackledge, to proclaim June 2026 as Pride Month in the City of Robbinsdale. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

A. None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Rezone Request for 13 Municipal Parks

Assistant Planner Bucheger provided an overview of the item and detailed the history of the request for rezoning. He noted Staff review, Planning Commission hearing, resident feedback, and Staff recommendation.

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Blackledge, to adopt Resolution No. 8226, A RESOLUTION REZONING 13 MUNICIPAL PARK PROPERTIES FROM R-1 SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL TO PUBLIC FACILITIES (P). The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

B. Conditional Use Permit for Outdoor Service at 4050 Lakeland Ave N

Assistant Planner Bucheger detailed the action and request, experience with the applicant, zoning, parking, signage, lighting, Staff reviews, and Staff recommendation.

Mayor Sutton asked if there was any material change from last year to this year. Assistant Planner Bucheger stated no.

Member Blackledge MOVED, seconded by Parisian, to approve the Conditional Use Permit request Z26-2 to allow the use of an outdoor fireworks stand at 4050 Lakeland Ave N. with the following conditions: a. The applicant meets all requirements specified in Fire Permit RB2026-307. b. That this Conditional Use Permit is only valid between June 19th, 2026, and July 5th, 2026. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

C. Administering the 18-day In-Person Early Voting Period Vs. 46-day In-Person Absentee Period

Peterson-Etem discussed the new legislation that allows administering the 18-day in-person early voting period vs. the 46-day in-person absentee period, Staff capacity, and early voting opportunities outside of Robbinsdale.

Member Greenberg thanked Staff for their past efforts to be available for early voting and highlighted that it was not a small feat. He expressed his support for the change due to the data shared and other early voting options still available.

Member Parisian expressed gratitude for seamless early voting in past years and asked about a communication plan. Peterson-Etem noted that Staff would update the City website and send messaging out on social media,

Birdtown Brief, utility billing, and could send out postage. Member Parisian commented that she didn't feel postage was necessary due to cost, but asked for physical signage to be displayed at City Hall with the three other early voting options.

Member Caceres Aranda MOVED, seconded by Greenberg, to approve the transition to the 18-day in-person Early Voting model for the 2026 election cycle, while continuing to provide standard mail-in and drop-off absentee services for the full 46-day statutory window. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

#### D. Terminate Limited Use Agreement – 3353 Chowen Avenue N

City Engineer McCoy discussed the limited use agreement, structural issues, corrugated metal pipe issues, retaining wall issues, and Staff recommendations.

Member Greenberg asked if there had been communication with the homeowner before this. McCoy affirmed that there has been prior communication and noted the property owner is the one who advised the City of the sinkhole. He also commented that the owner was advised that the limited use agreement would likely need to be terminated and that the item would be coming to Council this evening.

Member Parisian asked if a loan at a reasonable interest rate could be provided, should the homeowner require assistance. McCoy noted there will be a paragraph in the letter regarding assistance.

Member Greenberg asked McCoy if terminating the limited use agreement is the only way forward. McCoy noted that he needs some formal action to ensure the vehicles will be moved so the pipe is accessible.

Sandvik noted that public safety is paramount, but Staff will keep cost in mind as well.

Member Caceres Aranda MOVED, seconded by Blackledge, to adopt Resolution No. 8227, A RESOLUTION TERMINATING THE LIMITED USE AGREEMENT FOR THE USE OF PARTS OF THE 34TH AVENUE N RIGHT-OF-WAY (ROW) BY THE PROPERTY OWNERS OF 3353 CHOWEN AVENUE N. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### A. Consider a Closed Session to Discuss the Purchase of Real Property

Sandvik noted that Staff recommends moving to a closed session to discuss the purchase of 3400 Oakdale Avenue North.

Member Blackledge MOVED, seconded by Greenberg, to approve moving to a closed session to discuss the purchase of 3400 Oakdale Avenue North, Robbinsdale. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Blackledge, to approve opening the meeting. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### A. Voucher Requests Pending Approval for Disbursement

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Caceres Aranda, to approve voucher disbursement requests for the period ending June 2, 2026. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Peterson-Etem noted that the candidate filing period ended for Ward 3 and Ward 4, with two candidates filing for Ward 3 and three candidates filing for Ward 4.

Sandvik thanked residents for the thoughtful questions as the City transitions to the new billing system and discussed software updates, flocculation tours, the Attorney General public forum, and upcoming City events.

### **COUNCIL GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Member Parisian congratulated candidates who filed in Ward 3 and Ward 4 and announced she will not be running for re-election. She stated it's been an honor to serve in this role and thanked those who supported her candidacy.

Member Blackledge voiced appreciation for Member Parisian, wished high school student athletes luck who are still competing, and encouraged residents to say hi to one another.

Member Caceres Aranda thanked Member Parisian for her dedicated service and noted that he filed for candidacy in Ward 4. He also highlighted the Robbinsdale Buy Nothing Facebook group and noted how generous the community is.

Member Greenberg congratulated Member Parisian and Member Caceres Aranda for their decisions. He highlighted the Diggers Plant Sale event at the Robbinsdale Historic Library and encouraged people to attend and support a great cause.

Mayor Sutton congratulated Member Parisian and those who submitted their applications for candidacy. He wished all a Happy Pride Month and asked Staff to fix the technology feedback for the following meetings.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Greenberg to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 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