

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Parisian, Wagner, Murphy, Blonigan

Absent:

Staff: Tim Sandvik, City Manager; Chase Peterson-Etem, City Clerk; Richard McCoy, Public Works Director/City Engineer; Daa Tahoun, Finance Director

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

Steve Carlyle, 4165 West Broadway, stated he is unsure about the bus hub and stated he is afraid the light rail will bring in crime and wants to make sure that area can be controlled and monitored.

Michelle Joy, 3736 Regent Ave., stated she is proud to live in Robbinsdale, but thinks the light rail will split the city in two and bring crime to the city. She stated she thinks this would ruin the city. She thinks bus rapid transit would be better and that ridership would be lower post pandemic. She asked the Council to vote no on this project.

Eric Hillman, 3803 Orchard Ave. N., he stated the residents deserve to live in a safe community and believes light rail will bring about crime. He stated he has handed out fliers and that many of the people he has talked to don't want the light rail. He asked what is currently being done to prevent crime and doesn't think this will improve in the future. He is concerned taxes will go up because more police will have to be hired. He asked the council to vote no.

Brad Sutton, 3801 Crystal Lake Blvd., is also asking the council to say no to the blue line extension, but does think mass transit is important. He noted the pandemic has changed how many people would ride the light rail, and the corridor has changed as well. He noted remote work is here to stay and that although companies are implementing return to work policies, it's not every day and noted the demand isn't there. He also questioned whether the city would be divided into two and that businesses could also be negatively affected. He again asked the city Council to rethink this project, and this corridor.

Greg Salyers, 3980 Lake Curve, noted he has data on businesses that don't want light rail and agrees that the bus hub is already a challenge and thinks this will only bring in more crime. He asked the Council to reconsider and noted the city would be divided if this happens.

John Iden, Zenith Ave., stated he asked his tenants about the light rail, and they stated they were against it and they can find other ways to get around.

Kristel Porter, Executive Director of West Broadway Business and Area Coalition, 1501 West Broadway Ave., stated they talked to many business owners and they haven't talked to anyone who supports the light rail

extension. She noted this will affect many families and business owners and that the path doesn't take into account the safety, beyond the crime, of what this could do. She asked the council to vote no.

Karen Shull, 3939 Crystal Lake Blvd., agreed with Ms. Porter and is concerned about the station at North Memorial and the potential safety issues.

Jerry Blem, 2605 Parkview Blvd., stated he would move out of Robbinsdale if the light rail was built. He also noted the construction would impede how the hospital responds to emergencies and that it would be slower during construction. He questioned if tax dollars would increase. He noted a meeting he had with the project office and asked about safety and felt that the light rail wouldn't be able to stop when needed in an emergency.

APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 4, 2024 MEETING AGENDA

Peterson-Etem noted two items to add to the agenda. The addition of a PowerPoint for New Business item A and the voucher disbursement report for Other Business Item A.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Wagner to approve the June 4, 2024, Agenda. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Member Murphy removed Item I for further consideration.

Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Parisian to approve the consent agenda. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

- A. Accept Charter Commission meeting minutes from April 13, 2023
- B. Approval of Credit Card Charges and Payment – April 2024
- C. Approval of Licenses
- D. Second reading of an Ordinance amending City Code Section 400, State Building Code Adopted.
- E. Robbinsdale Wine & Spirits' Monthly Financial Statements
- F. Deputy Registrar's Monthly Financial Statements
- G. Authorize language updates and salary adjustment for City Manager
- H. Accept Quotes for Sidewalk Replacement - Project No. 39924
- I. Wheels of Italy Event

Member Murphy noted he wanted to promote the event, which is why he removed it from the consent agenda and invited Daniel Schaefer and Phill Slavik up to the podium to speak about the event. Schaefer and Slavik outlined the details and noted they have had a lot of interest and are excited. They also noted the hours would be extended this year.

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Parisian to Approve the Wheels Of Italy Event. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

PRESENTATIONS

- A. Proclamation to recognize the month of June as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, and the countless affirmative ways in which people self-identify (LGBTQIA+) Pride Month in the City of Robbinsdale

Sandvik introduced the item and noted the city has done this for the past several years.

Mayor Blonigan summarized the proclamation and noted staff will also be hosting a booth at the Golden Valley Pride festival this upcoming weekend.

Member Parisian wished everyone a Happy Pride and provided her support for the proclamation.

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Parisian to Approve a Proclamation To Recognize The Month Of June As Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, And The Countless Affirmative Ways In Which People Self-Identify (LGBTQIA+) Pride Month In The City Of Robbinsdale. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

- B. Proclamation to recognize June 19, 2024, as Juneteenth Freedom Day in the City of Robbinsdale

Sandvik provided a brief overview and noted this is important to the Council and to staff.

Mayor Blonigan summarized the proclamation and provided his support.

The rest of the Council provided their support for the proclamation and were happy to see the recognition.

Member Blonigan MOVED, seconded by Parisian to Approve Proclamation to Recognize June 19, 2024, As Juneteenth Freedom Day In The City Of Robbinsdale. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. None

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Reconsideration of Improvement of 41st Avenue between Railroad Avenue and Regent Avenue - Project No. 44123

McCoy provided an overview of the item and noted a public hearing was held on May 7, 2024. He stated the Council previously did not order the work to be completed as they were unsure about our current assessment policy. He noted a work session was held to further discuss the special assessment policy and although the Council may not be ready to make a decision about the policy, they could still order the work to be done. He noted the Council must rescind the previous motion and make a new motion to order the work.

Member Murphy asked about the potential length of time folks would have to pay the assessment off and what the interest rate would be. McCoy stated this item is only to approve the work and is not making any recommendations for potential assessments to property owners.

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Blonigan to rescind the motion made at the City Council meeting on May 7, 2024, that resulted in defeating the approval to order the improvement of 41st Avenue between Railroad Avenue and Regent Avenue - City Project No. 44123. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Parisian to Approve Reconsideration of Improvement Of 41St Avenue Between Railroad Avenue And Regent Avenue - Project No. 44123. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

A. City of Robbinsdale Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for 2023

Tahoun introduced the item and noted Aaron Nielsen of Malloy, Montague, Karnowski, Radosevich & Co., PA (MMKR) would be presenting this year's findings to the Council.

Nielsen provided an overview of the Comprehensive Financial Report for 2023 and noted the city's position in regard to its general funds, enterprise funds, water utility fund, sanitary sewer fund, storm sewer utility fund, solid waste removal fund, liquor operations fund, Broadway court fund, deputy registrar fund, and summary of net position.

Mayor Blonigan noted this is an audit and not financial advice and stated the city has started investing a small percent that is now allowable. He asked if the auditor would also review this information. Nielsen stated the auditor would review that information for next year's annual report.

Sandvik thanked Nielsen and Tahoun for their work on this and also thanked the Council, as this takes a lot of time and effort.

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Wagner to Approve City Of Robbinsdale Annual Comprehensive Financial Report For 2023. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

B. Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

Tahoun noted this certificate is beneficial for the city as it helps with lower bond rates.

Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Parisian to Approve Certificate Of Achievement For Excellence In Financial Reporting. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

C. Authorize Contract for Water Treatment Plant Solar Array

McCoy gave an overview of the item and noted there were 10 organizations that responded to our request for proposal. He stated a staff committee reviewed each of the submissions and discussed the best option for the city and staff is recommending iDEAL Energies, LLC.

Murphy asked how much these panels would offset the amount of electricity we currently use. McCoy stated the estimated offset is about 11 percent, which was consistent across most of the submissions.

Mayor Blonigan asked how long it would take to get our investment back. McCoy stated this proposal is an 8-year payback.

Member Wagner noted this vendor installed panels for St. Louis Park which has been successful with them. He also stated he is happy to move this forward.

Mayor Blonigan noted we would get a tax credit of 30 percent for this project and that would help with the payback period.

Member Parisian asked if the green rooftop at the Water Treatment Plant would be affected by the panels. McCoy stated that would not be affected as the panels will be on the elevated part of the roof.

Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Parisian to Authorize the Contract For A Water Treatment Plant Solar Array. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

D. Authorize City Manager to Execute a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with Hennepin County for Assessment Services

Sandvik provided an overview and stated the city has been working with Hennepin County for these services over the past several years.

Mayor Blonigan asked if this would be executed electronically. Sandvik stated most likely, but noted the mayor will not be required to sign this agreement.

Member Wagner asked if we are paying for this service. Sandvik stated yes, and noted the joint powers agreement would make it so there is no direct cost to the city. However, he also stated that the cost would be made up in some other way, most likely through the Hennepin County Levy.

Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Murphy to Authorize City Manager to Execute A Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) With Hennepin County For Assessment Services. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Voucher Requests Pending Approval for Disbursement

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

B. Schedule Special City Council Meeting Dates

Sandvik noted two dates that staff is asking the Council to consider for additional meetings. He noted the first would be to consider 2024 bonding and staff is looking at a Special City Council Meeting for July 9 at 6:30 p.m. He noted the second would be to schedule a special meeting to receive feedback from the community regarding the Municipal Consent process related to the Blue Line Light Rail Extension project and is proposing August 21 at 6 p.m.

Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Murphy to schedule a Special City Council Meeting for July 9, 2024, at 6:30 pm, as well as a Special Meeting on August 21, 2024, at 6 p.m. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Peterson-Item noted candidate filing for local elections was open until 5 p.m. today and that candidate information can be found on the city's website. He also noted early voting for the August Primary is starting on June 28, 2024.

Sandvik noted several updates:

- He noted the Annual Whiz Bang Days is happening soon and encouraged people to volunteer and attend the event.
- The Robbinsdale Farmers Market is back at Lakeview Terrace Park and encourages folks to stop by.
- He noted many people have been interested in the carp removal at Crystal Lake and there has been a lot of activity on social media around this.
- He stated that the new Community Development Director, Heather Rand, has started, and we are excited to have her.

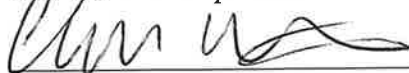
COUNCIL GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

Member Murphy asked about pull-tab operations in Robbinsdale and if the Council can be provided a report of how those funds are being spent in the community. He also thanked the City Forester for the great work he has done to preserve the tree canopy in Robbinsdale.

Mayor Blonigan noted the new signs at Lower Twin Lake that more clearly explain there is no wake on the lake. He asked about buying gas from the City of Crystal. Sandvik noted this is being worked on and stated the Council will be notified about that soon. Lastly, he noted a former Robbinsdale mayor had passed away, Harvy L. Lang and wanted to honor his work on the Council and provided his condolences.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Parisian to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 p.m. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.


Chase Peterson-Etem, City Clerk


William A. Blonigan, Mayor