

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Wagner, Parisian, Mayor Blonigan

Absent: Murphy

Staff: Tim Sandvik, City Manager; Chase Peterson-Etem, City Clerk; Diaa Tahoun, Finance Director

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

Eric Hilman, 3803 Orchard Ave. N., stated he is hoping for more facts about the light rail and questioned how this is equitable and thought residents and businesses are being displaced. He noted the environment and how this project would benefit the environment. He also noted the cost and how much residents will have to pay in taxes to cover the project and that BRT would be much cheaper. He is concerned about crime and asked the Council to ask for more from the project office.

Mayor Blonigan asked for a poll of how many people think we should not go forward with the LRT right now. 49 people raised their hands.

Diane Bunting, 2637 France Ave. N., supports the blue line extension and stated her reasoning. She noted other metro areas and their access to transit like this and stated the more riders there are, the safer it is going to be. She noted ways the light rail would be used and is excited.

Dan Anton, 3927 Noble Ave. N., stated he is in favor of the light rail and noted the cost is high, but the long-term fees would be better. He noted residents and businesses can make more long-term decisions on what is best for them since there would be permanent infrastructure.

Brad Sutton, 3801 Crystal Lake Blvd., Noted he is not against light rail or mass transit, but is opposed to the current track down 81. He urged the Council to consider some options around displacement, current alignment, and safety risks. He urged the Council to delay the municipal consent deadline.

Aaron Mcmenamy, 4227 40th Ave. N., stated the park and ride would overlook his backyard and wondered what the impact would be on his property.

Lisa Crocket, 4204 Zenith Ave. N., supports bus rapid transit and noted the cost to implement that would be much less expensive.

Jerome Johnson, 378 Summit Ave., St. Paul, provided the council documentation to read and noted differences between bus rapid transit and light rail. He noted in 10 years the transit options will be better and they should wait.

Jonathan Hansen, 3927 Noble Ave. N., has been looking forward to using the extension since he heard it was coming to Robbinsdale. He noted a lot of people knew this was coming and had decided to move here because of it. He noted the old alignment would have displaced even more residents. He noted misinformation may be spreading around and hopes people get information so they can make informed decisions.

Joanne Furlong, 3437 York Ave. N., noted a conversation she had with Mayor Blonigan about safety while riding the light rail and wondered if riders will feel safe and if crime would come into Robbinsdale. She also questioned how much money this would cost and asked the Council to vote no.

Mary Louise Ambrose, 3860 Lakeland Ave. N., stated she doesn't think the Met Council listens to residents and they need to reform the way they work and asked the Council to vote no.

Tom Boeser, 5321 47th Ave N., wondered how engineering would increase safety for pedestrians and drivers and hoped there will be an increase in the police force.

Brenda Remus, 3614 Abbott Ave N., noted she has contacted the Mayor and City Council and does not support the light rail extension. She asked if the Council ever does the Pledge of Allegiance before the meetings and asked if that could be incorporated into future meetings.

Dee Lunzer, 3700 Regent Ave. N., wants to echo the individuals that reference the cost of the light rail and wondered where the funds are coming from.

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 5, 2024 MEETING AGENDA

Mayor Blonigan noted New Business Item A would be amended to be Public Hearing A. He also asked to add Other Business Item C to honor Sipes Car Care Center in Robbinsdale.

Peterson-Em noted the addition of the voucher disbursement report for Other Business Item A, as well as additional licenses to Consent Item L.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Wagner to approve the August 5, 2024, meeting agenda. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Blonigan withdrew Item F for further consideration.

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

- A. Approve City Council Meeting minutes from June 4, 2024
- B. Approve City Council Work Session meeting minutes from June 11, 2024
- C. Approve City Council Work Session meeting minutes from July 9, 2024
- D. Receive Human Rights Commission minutes of April 25, 2024
- E. Receive Human Rights Commission minutes of May 23, 2024
- F. Appoint Erin Sparks as Ward 2 Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commissioner

Mayor Blonigan thanked Erin Sparks for their commitment to the city and noted their background and

qualifications.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Wagner to Appoint Erin Sparks as Ward 2 Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commissioner. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

- G. Approval of Block Party Requests for National Night Out (8-6-23) and State Aid Street Closures
- H. Accept Quote for 2024 Bituminous Mill and Overlay Project - City Project 39824
- I. Deputy Registrar's Monthly Financial Statements
- J. Robbinsdale Wine & Spirits' Monthly Financial Statements
- K. Approval of Credit Card Charges and Payment
- L. Approval of Licenses
- M. Accept Donation of Fire Suppression Tools (FST) from Minneapolis Cataract and Robbinsdale Masonic Lodge
- N. Joint Powers Agreement for Continued Participation in Shingle Creek Watershed Management Commission

PRESENTATIONS

- A. Donation from Minneapolis Cataract and Robbinsdale Masonic Lodge

Members of Cataract Lodge thanked the Council for having them and presented 10 fire suppression tools to the police and fire departments. They showed a video of how these tools can save lives.

Captain Elder thanked the free masons for their work and generosity that allowed officers to carry these tools in their vehicles. He noted the importance of fire suppression tools and how it is paramount to save lives and property.

Mayor Blonigan thanked them for their generous donation.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Resolution adopting Street Reconstruction Plan and authorizing preliminary Bond Sale

Tahoun introduced the item and noted a resolution is required to continue forward with the bond. He noted this was included in the budget and noted he and Christine Hogan from Baker Tilly are available to answer any questions.

Mayor Blonigan confirmed the public hearing is for determining if we should adopt the street reconstruction plan and authorize the preliminary bond sale. Hogan stated that is correct. Hogan also stated this is only a portion of the total bonds being issued for the city and the resolution will set a not to exceed limit. She noted the bond sale would take place in September and the rating conference would take place in August. It was also noted the previous public hearings related to this bond issuance have already happened.

Mayor Blonigan opened the public hearing. No one from the public spoke.

Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Parisian to close the public hearing. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Parisian to Adopt Resolution No. 8111 "A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A STREET RECONSTRUCTION PLAN, PROVIDING PRELIMINARY APPROVAL FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS THEREUNDER, AND TAKING OTHER ACTIONS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH." The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

Member Wanger MOVED, seconded by Parisian to adopt Resolution No. 8112 "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2024A, IN THE MAXIMUM AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$3,620,000; FIXING THEIR FORM AND SPECIFICATIONS; DIRECTING THEIR EXECUTION AND DELIVERY; PROVIDING FOR THEIR PAYMENT; AND ESTABLISHING A PRICING COMMITTEE."

A roll call was taken.

Ayes: Wagner, Parisian, Blonigan

Nays: None

The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

A. None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Accept Local Climate Action grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Sandvik provided an overview of the item and noted this grant would be used to study if geothermal could be incorporated into the new public works facility.

Member Parisian recognized and thanked the staff that worked on this grant opportunity as well as the Council for making climate action a priority.

Mayor Blonigan also thanked staff and noted this kind of heating may cost more upfront but would eventually help cut costs and also help the environment.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Wagner to Accept Local Climate Action Grant from The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

B. Fuel Agreement with City of Crystal, MN

Sandvik noted the Council has discussed this in the past and noted that purchasing fuel with the City of Crystal could save the city a substantial amount of money. He noted staff have reached out to the current provider of fuel and they were not able to match the same prices as the City of Crystal.

Mayor Blonigan asked about the price of fuel through the State of Minnesota. Sandvik stated the price is a set amount and that eliminates the need for negotiations.

Mayor Blonigan noted Robbinsdale could have a fueling station at a new public works facility and that would eliminate the need to contract with Crystal. He also noted there would be an initial set-up fee, but that would be paid fairly quickly. Sandvik stated that is correct based on fuel use in the past year and future use projections.

Member Wagner thanked staff for finding cost-saving mechanisms and being prudent with taxpayers' money.

Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Parisian to Approve Fuel Agreement with The City Of Crystal, MN. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Voucher Requests Pending Approval for Disbursement

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

B. Schedule Canvas Board Meeting for August 16, 2024

Peterson-Etem noted that after each local election a canvassing board must meet to declare the official results of the election. He stated the Council serves as the canvassing board and is required to meet within three days of a primary election. He noted staff is recommending the Canvassing Board Convene on Friday, August 16, and is looking for direction on what time they would like to set the meeting at.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Wagner to Schedule The Canvas Board Meeting For August 16, 2024 At Noon. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

C. Proclamation declaring Sipes Car Care Day in Robbinsdale

Mayor Blonigan noted Sipes Car Care has been in Robbinsdale for 100 years and has been a crucial part of the community. He noted how much business had been done there and asked the city to honor them with a proclamation.

The other Council Members agreed and directed staff to create the proclamation.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Peterson-Etem noted early voting for the State Primary Election is happening now and Robbinsdale residents can vote early at City Hall. Member Wagner asked if people who received a mailed ballot could drop those off at City Hall. Peterson-Etem stated yes.

Sandvik thanked everyone who participated in the Pet and Wheel Parade. He noted the newly created Sustainability Committee is looking for members and people can visit the city website for more info on how to join. Registration for Fall and Winter recreation activities is open, and he indicated the Twins are hosting a free youth baseball clinic. He noted the Public Safety Open House is this Saturday from 11 am - 3 pm and encouraged folks to stop by. On Wednesday, August 21, there will be an open house related to the Blue Line Light Rail Transit Extension at Elim Church from 6 to 8 pm. There is also a survey on the city website that folks can complete related to the Blue Line LRT extension. Lastly, he wished everyone a Happy National Night Out tomorrow night.

COUNCIL GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

Member Wagner thanked all who came to the Council meeting tonight and appreciated the engagement. He also encouraged folks to vote and noted he is looking forward to having a new Council Member seated.

Member Parisian encouraged folks to vote and thanked all the election judges and staff for the work they had done for the election. She wished everyone a safe and fun National Night Out and thanked folks for being engaged at the Council meeting.

Mayor Blonigan reiterated Member Wagner and Parisian and wished all a Happy National Night Out.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Wagner to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.



Chase Peterson-Etem, City Clerk



William A. Blonigan, Mayor