

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Wagner, Murphy, Greenberg, Blonigan
Absent: Parisian
Staff: Tim Sandvik, City Manager; Chase Peterson-Etem, City Clerk

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

Donny Chillstrom, Elm Church 3978 West Broadway, asked if the city council received the letter from their attorney. Mayor Blonigan noted yes, they had.

Sam Good, 4400 Toledo Ave. N., asked about people walking from 44th Ave. to the railroad, and if there was a way we could keep people off the tracks.

Brenda Remus, 3614 Abbott Ave. N., asked if the Council could say the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Blonigan noted the Council could discuss doing this at the beginning of meetings at a future work session. Brenda Remus used the rest of her time to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and invited others to join.

Brian Lenoard, 4335 Drew Ave N., asked about a drainage pipe that was installed near his property and stated since that installment he has had standing water and fish in his backyard. He asked if there was a solution to this. Mayor Blonigan noted this issue has been sent to the City Manager and City Engineer.

Jonathan Hansen, 3927 Noble Ave. N., stated he believes the city should rename Sanborn Park to Castile Park and noted his reasoning.

Janice Brun, 4271 Drew Ave N., noted she was at the light rail open house and couldn't get an answer about where the construction equipment would be stored during the project.

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 3, 2024 MEETING AGENDA

Peterson-Etem noted the addition of the voucher disbursement for Other Business Item A.

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Wagner to approve the September 3, 2024, meeting agenda. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Member Greenberg removed Item J for further consideration.

Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Greenberg to approve the Consent Agenda. The vote was unanimous

and the motion passed.

- A. Approve Special City Council Meeting minutes from July 9, 2024
- B. Receive Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Commission minutes from June 25, 2024
- C. Deputy Registrar's Monthly Financial Statements
- D. Robbinsdale Wine & Spirits' Monthly Financial Statements
- E. Quarterly Financial Information for General, Water, Sanitary Sewer, Storm Sewer, and Solid Waste
- F. Scheduling Public Hearing on October 1, 2024, to Certify the Assessment Roll for Unpaid Administrative Penalties
- G. Scheduling Public Hearing on October 1, 2024, to Certify the Assessment Roll for Delinquent Utilities
- H. Scheduling Public Hearing on October 1, 2024, to Certify the Assessment Roll for Emergency Water, Sewer, and Sump Pump Repairs
- I. Approval of Licenses
- J. UNCF Walk for Education

Greenberg noted he wanted to pull this item off the consent agenda to encourage people to attend the walk and noted the work the organization does.

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Murphy to Approve UNCF Walk for Education. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

- K. Faith Chapel Event

PRESENTATIONS

- A. LMC Legislators of Distinction - Senator Rest, Representative Freiberg

Sandvik noted the League of Minnesota Cities has selected its 2024 Legislators of Distinction, and this year includes Senator Rest and Representative Freiberg, both of whom serve Robbinsdale. He noted the criteria for the League's selection and offered his thanks and appreciation to each of them.

Senator Rest and Representative Freiberg thanked the Council for their recognition and noted the pleasure they have had in representing and advocating for Robbinsdale.

Mayor Blonigan thanked Senator Rest and Representative Freiberg for their dedication to Robbinsdale and summarized the letters they received from the League of Minnesota Cities.

Member Murphy also thanked Senator Rest and Representative Freiberg and recognized the great work they do on behalf of Robbinsdale.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Public Hearing to receive feedback on the Blue Line Light Rail Extension

Sandvik introduced the item and stated the Council has been discussing municipal consent for the Blue Line

Light Rail Extension for the past several months. He noted feedback has been taken into consideration and is available on the city website. He noted three actions can be taken regarding municipal consent, including doing nothing, which results in a yes, voting yes, or voting no and providing specific concerns which must be considered by the project office. He stated the Council does not intend to take a vote at this public hearing, and that vote would occur on September 17, 2024.

Mayor Blonigan opened the public hearing.

Paul Krogh, North Memorial Health, noted they generally are supportive of the Light Rail Extension, but they do have some concerns. He stated those concerns have been shared with the Met Council and the City of Robbinsdale. He provided the four areas in which they are concerned: delays for patients seeking emergency care, safety at the proposed station, neighborhood safety, and accountability for maintenance and the safe coexistence of their air operations.

Brenda Remus, 3614 Abbott Ave. N., noted resident concerns that have accompanied the Green Line Extension and stated she doesn't want the Blue Line Extension to bring with it crime or safety issues and asked the Council to please take those into consideration.

Dustin Leslie, 2963 Chowen Ave. N., noted his support for the Blue Line Extension and that it was part of the reason he moved to Robbinsdale. He encouraged the Council to move forward with the project.

Garth Schumacher, 3934 Lake Curve, stated his support for the Blue Line Extension and believes this is something for future generations.

Ben Hansen, 3927 Noble Ave. N., stated his support for the Blue Line Extension, but also noted concerns about increased noise levels and the station location.

Claudia Fuglie, 4556 Lake Drive, stated she is in support of the Blue Line Extension and noted that not everyone can take a bus, but everyone can take light rail. She asked the Council to make it safe, easy to understand, and accessible for all.

Deborah Gillis, 4201 40th Ave. N., noted her concerns about safety and displacement and encouraged Bus Rapid Transit instead of light rail.

Sam Good, 4400 Toledo Ave. N., shared concerns about safety and infrastructure and wondered who would be responsible for these issues.

Bruce Bauer, 4308 Unity Ave. N., stated his concern about safety for riders and noted this will only bring more problems to the community.

Nancy Hanson, 4232 Shoreline Drive, noted she is a proponent of public transportation, but questioned the ridership and encouraged the Council to find a different way.

Marilouise Koerber, 3329 York Ave. N., provided her concerns over potential displacement as well as noise pollution and asked the Council to include those items in their list of conditions.

Johan Baumeister, 4257 Zenith Ave. N., stated his support for the Blue Line Extension and noted light rail could increase access for the many diverse people that live in Robbinsdale.

Klaus Weber, 3944 Perry Ave. N., noted his support for the Blue Line Extension, but also asked about safety and stated installing turn styles now will prevent us from having to come back and do it later.

Tim McDonald, 3813 Regent Ave. N., stated his largest concern is the potential crime that could come with the light rail. He asked the Council to pause and learn more about what can be done to mitigate future impacts.

Dan Doerrer, Elim Lutheran Church, thanked the Council for their thoughtfulness on the project and mentioned the letter that was provided to the Council in the agenda packet.

Nicky Leingang, 2939 Ewing Ave. N., noted their support for the Blue Line Extension and that light rail serves all and will increase access for future generations. They encouraged the Council to vote yes on municipal consent.

Mary Louise Ambrose, 3860 Lakeland Ave. N., encouraged the Council to vote no and noted she doesn't feel Metro Transit is currently running other light rail and bus systems well. She also hoped the Council could leverage a "no" vote to get more for Robbinsdale.

Barb Miller, 3264 Ewing Ave. N., stated she was happy to support the old alignment, but thinks the new alignment down County Road 81 will divide the city in half. She also has concerns about safety, ridership, and displacement.

Aaron Richins, 5216 44th Ave. N., noted his concern about ridership and that more people are working remotely now. He noted the permanency of light rail and wondered if that is the best option right now, especially given the high cost associated with the project, and stated he is not in support.

Bob Rausch, 3815 Crystal Lake Blvd., stated he thinks the design will destroy the downtown business area and believes the station platforms are in the wrong area. He also noted his concern about potentially increased crime.

Jonathan Hansen, 3927 Noble Ave. N., noted the potential benefits the light rail could bring, including development, accessibility, and environmental impacts. He urged the Council to vote yes, and work with all the entities to make it the best it could be.

Bruce Bauer, 4308 Unity Ave. N., noted the transfer station by the Twins Stadium and is worried people will misuse the station.

James Johnson, 3421 26th 1/2 Ave. N., stated he didn't think the demographics of Robbinsdale would support light rail and encouraged Bus Rapid Transit. He noted other locations could better support light rail and asked the Council to look into those.

John Perkins, 4221 Beard Ave. N., asked the Council to vote yes on municipal consent and noted this is important for Robbinsdale and for the greater community.

Claudia Fuglie, 4556 Lake Drive, reiterated that the light rail would provide more freedom and accessible options for all.

Mark Bettenga, 4207 Beard Ave. N., noted he believes this will happen no matter what the Council does, but does have concerns about how the light rail would be used and who will make sure it's maintained.

Bruce Glover, 3355 York Ave. N., stated he supports Bus Rapid Transit and that it would cost much less than light rail. He also noted it's not as flexible and ridership numbers don't support light rail.

Jerry Blem, 2605 Parkview Blvd., asked how the Council could vote on something that is only at 30%

engineered. He noted he had reached out to the Project Office and asked several questions related to safety around the operation of the light rail and how they will ensure the train stops if there is something on the track, or an emergency vehicle needs the right of way.

Tracy Boyle, 4519 Robin Circle, noted she is not for the light rail project as it is expensive and not flexible. She stated she is for Bus Rapid Transit as routes can be changed if needed. She also noted she thinks the light rail would alter the look and feel of the city negatively.

Greg Salyers, 3980 Lake Curve, mentioned the survey that was completed by community members and of people who responded, it showed most don't support this alignment. He asked the Council to make sure this is safe and done right and asked the Council to consider the alignment.

George Ross, 4023 Hubbard Ave. N., stated he is not a proponent of the Blue Line Extension and is concerned it will take away the small town feel of Robbinsdale. He asked about traffic safety and how that will be addressed.

Missy Strauch, 4217 40th Ave. N., noted her house is very close to the 40th stop and is concerned about safety as well as how this could affect the structure of her house from vibrations. She noted she is not in support of this alignment.

Jacqueline Delaney, 4513 Orchard Ave. N., noted her concern about the light rail and her proximity to it. She also mentioned her fear of additional traffic delays, potential crime, and the cost of it.

Karen Shull, 3939 Crystal Lake Blvd., noted she has submitted several letters over the years and the Council is aware of her stance on the Blue Line Extension. She asked what the Council intends to do with the survey results. She also asked about being able to comment on the potential park name changes at Sanborn Park.

Sandvik stated the Council can utilize the information from the Blue Line Extension survey however they choose. He also noted that folks would be able to provide comments on the park naming at the public hearing on September 17.

Barb Miller, 3264 Ewing Ave. N., wanted to reiterate her concern about the structure of her house due to construction and potential vibrations from the train. She also questioned what entity she would go to if something happened to her house.

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

The Council thanked folks for coming and participating not only at tonight's meeting, but throughout the process.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Consider Consumption and Display Permit for 4130 Lakeland

Sandvik provided an overview and noted this was tabled at the last meeting where the Council provided staff direction. He stated a Consumption and Display permit is a bit more unique and doesn't require as many assurances in way of liability for the applicant. He stated that staff and the City Attorney do not believe the establishment meets the requirements for issuance under state statute. He noted the League of Minnesota Cities is aligned with their interpretation of the statute. However, the Minnesota Department of Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement Division (AGE) noted they interpret the statute differently and would allow this establishment to have a Consumption and Display permit, if the city approved the application. He stated staff's

recommendation is to deny the permit at this time.

Hannah Lahai, Standpoint Event Center, noted customers have requested to be able to have alcohol, and stated right now only licensed caterers can provide this service. She noted she has general and umbrella liability insurance but is still waiting on her liquor liability insurance.

Mayor Blonigan noted other concerns that were brought up during this process related to the occupancy and insufficient exits and lack of sprinklers.

Lahai stated she is working with the Building Official to correct those issues.

Sandvik stated the city is working with the applicant and issued a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy for an event that was held, but the long-term concerns are still there.

Member Wagner asked if the application is denied, is there a time requirement for when the applicant could reapply? Sandvik stated there is not a waiting period to reapply, but any concerns would have to be addressed.

Member Wagner asked about the cost. Sandvik stated the current fee schedule does not include a line item for a Consumption and Display permit.

Mayor Blonigan stated he was inclined to deny the permit at this point but is willing to work with the applicant in the future.

Member Blonigan MOVED, seconded by Wagner to approve Resolution No. 8114 "A RESOLUTION DENYING LOCAL CONSENT FOR A CONSUMPTION AND DISPLAY PERMIT FOR STANDPOINT EVENTS CENTER" with the addition of a whereas clause stating the applicant was at the September 3, 2024, meeting and the Council heard their concerns and requests.

Member Murphy noted the city is very supportive of small businesses, and to reach out to the city when you have any questions.

A roll call was taken.

Ayes: Wagner, Murphy, Greenberg, Blonigan.

Nays: None.

The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

A. None

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Voucher Requests Pending Approval for Disbursement

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

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Peterson-Etem noted there is a candidate forum on September 9, at 8:00 p.m. which is for Ward 1 and Ward

2 Council races. He also stated early voting begins on September 20 and encouraged folks to visit the Robbinsdale city website for more information.

Sandvik stated the meeting on September 17 would be a full meeting, including a budget discussion, municipal consent, and a public hearing for a park naming. He noted construction on 41st Ave. continues. Lastly, he encouraged folks to attend the Meet and Greet hosted by the Robbinsdale Chamber of Commerce next week.

COUNCIL GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

Member Wagner thanked all for contributing to tonight's meeting and wished everyone a happy Labor Day and shared a quote from Abraham Lincoln.

Member Murphy noted the Wheels of Italy event on September 8 and that it's a free event in downtown Robbinsdale.

Member Greenberg thanked everyone for the engagement on the light rail project. He thanked the Police and Fire for the quick response they had to a recent house fire.

Mayor Blonigan reiterated the other Council's comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Wagner to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 p.m. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.


Chase Peterson-Etem, City Clerk
William A. Blonigan, Mayor