

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Greenberg, Parisian, Wagner, Murphy, Mayor Blonigan

Absent:

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

Jonathan Hansen, 3927 Noble Ave. N., asked about meeting minutes, light pollution, and decorum at Council meetings. He also thanked the Council for their time and work on the Blue Line Extension project.

APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 15, 2024 MEETING AGENDA

Peterson-Etem stated the addition to Other Business Item 11A and noted the current report is being added to tonight's meeting.

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Murphy to approve the meeting agenda for October 15, 2024. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Member Murphy asked for Item N to be removed for further consideration.

Mayor Blongian asked for Items D, E, and F to be removed for further consideration.

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

- A. Approve City Council meeting minutes from August 5, 2024
- B. Approve City Council Work Session meeting minutes from August 14, 2024
- C. Receiving of Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission Meeting from Sept 24
- D. Hennepin County Sports Equipment Grant: Girls Fast Pitch Softball

Mayor Blonigan wanted to pull this item from the consent agenda to acknowledge the potential grant from Hennepin County.

Mayor Blonigan MOVED, seconded by Parisian to acknowledge the submission of the grant application. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

- E. Hennepin County Sports Equipment Grant: Robbinsdale Recreation Dedicated Girls Sports Programs

Mayor Blonigan wanted to pull this item from the consent agenda to acknowledge the potential grant from Hennepin County.

Mayor Blonigan MOVED, seconded by Parisian to acknowledge the submission of the grant application. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

- F. Hennepin County Play Area Grant: Matching Grant for Sanborn Park Playground

Mayor Blonigan wanted to pull this item from the consent agenda to acknowledge the potential grant from Hennepin County.

Mayor Blonigan MOVED, seconded by Parisian to acknowledge the submission of the grant application. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

- G. Accept Quote for Replacement Pickup Truck and Associated Equipment - City Project 8163

- H. Deputy Registrar's Monthly Financial Statements

- I. Robbinsdale Wine & Spirits' Monthly Financial Statements

- J. Approval of Licenses

- K. Approval of Credit Card Charges and Payment

- L. Joint Powers Agreement for the Establishment and Continued Operation of the Shingle Creek Watershed Management Commission

- M. Accept Getac Video Settlement

- N. Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) between Hennepin County and City of Robbinsdale and Three Rivers Park District

Member Murphy asked how many years the city has been doing this partnership and why they are partnering with Three Rivers Park District. Sandvik noted this is the second year of this specific agreement with Three Rivers Park District and that this partnership works well for all parties involved as Robbinsdale doesn't have a need for a full time person for this type of position.

Member Murphy asked if this person could give a presentation to the Council and provide updates to the work they're doing.

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Greenberg to Authorize the Mayor and City Manager to execute the Joint Powers Agreement between Hennepin County and City of Robbinsdale and Three Rivers Park District. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

PRESENTATIONS

- A. 2024 Position Classification and Compensation Study - Leah Davis, Abdo

Tim introduced the item and noted this was built into the 2024 budget. He thanked staff for their time working on this and noted Leah Davis from Abdo is here to go over the study.

Leah Davis, Abdo, stated she leads the Human Resources and Payroll consulting team at Abdo and provided a

background on her experience. She provided information on project overview, goals and underlying assumptions, analysis process and methodology, and compensation plan highlights.

Mayor Blonigan asked them to consider including the City of St. Anthony if they do future studies like this.

Member Parisian asked about unions and how negotiations would affect the implementation timeline. Sandvik noted retroactive pay could be implemented.

Member Greenberg asked for clarification on the steps versus grades. Davis noted grades are assigned based on the position and where it's at in the market.

Mayor Blonigan asked about the pay equity compliance reports and if there was anything to be aware of. Davis noted the state is looking for inequitable pay for women and similar positions. She noted the current plan and the proposed plan are both compliant.

Member Wagner asked about exempt versus non-exempt positions and if there is a specific grade where a position becomes exempt. Davis stated all positions should default to non-exempt, unless they meet certain criteria. She noted they have sent suggested changes to staff to look over but could further consult an attorney. Davis also noted the grade does not determine the exemption.

Member Wagner asked how the grades are determined. Davis noted each position is given a score which measures job impact, then they look at market data to determine where each grade should be, noting the number of positions in each grade can be different and the number of points in each grade.

Mayor Blonigan asked how many studies Abdo has done. Davis stated they do around 10-15 per year.

Member Parisian asked about implementation and a communication plan for navigating the changes. Davis stated they make sure staff is prepared to help explain the process and how determinations happened. Sandvik noted that city staff and leadership have been involved with updating job descriptions and have worked with Abdo on best practices for implementation.

Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Parisian to adopt the attached 2024 Compensation Report, and direct the City Manager to implement.

Member Greenberg asked if this was included in the budget for 2025. Sandvik noted there is a projected surplus, and they would use some of those funds to help implement this. He noted union negotiations would determine exact budget needs and that the Council may need to see how everything would work with the proposed levy.

The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Public Hearing and Adoption of Assessment Roll for Unpaid Administrative Penalties

Tahoun introduced the item and noted that unpaid administrative penalties may be assessed to property owners through their property taxes. He noted all residences in violation have been notified.

Mayor Blonigan opened the public hearing.

No one spoke.

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

Member Wagner asked what administrative citations could be and why there are some from 2022 and 2023. Sandvik stated these are largely related to code enforcement, such as long grass or dilapidated buildings. He noted there are some issues that get carried over, especially if they are trying to work with property owners.

Member Greenberg asked what happens after the Council approves this assessment. Sandvik noted these citations would have received a number of notifications and additional correspondents are sent with the assessment role and noted folks would still have until November 15, 2024, to make payments.

Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Greenberg to approve Resolution 8119, A Resolution adopting the assessment role for unpaid administrative penalties. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

B. Public Hearing and Adoption of Assessment Roll for Emergency Water and Sewer Repairs

Tahoun introduced the item and noted there is only one property for this assessment, noting they would have until November 15, 2024, to pay without interest added. He noted this was requested by the property owner.

Mayor Blonigan opened the public hearing.

No one spoke.

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

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Greenberg to adopt Resolution No. 8120, "A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR EMERGENCY WATER AND SEWER REPAIRS." The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

C. Public Hearing and Adoption of Assessment Roll for Delinquent Utilities

Tahoun provided an overview of the item and stated this public hearing and resolution is for delinquent utilities, noting the overall number includes the administrative fee. He indicated people would have until November 15, 2024, to submit payments to the city to avoid the fees being added to their property taxes.

Mayor Blonigan noted property owner names were not included on the report, and that often he would see this number decrease before the public hearing. Sandvik noted the process of including names on the report stopped a few years ago, but that the Council could discuss putting those back on. He also noted he didn't have the current year's numbers for other cities' delinquent utility assessments.

Mayor Blonigan asked for statistics on how many of these are still outstanding from years past and what those numbers look like. Sandvik noted staff could look into that, and in an ideal world the city wouldn't have to assess any of these fees.

Mayor Blonigan opened the public hearing.

Deb Houland, 3133 Grimes Ave. N., noted she was a renter and that when she moved in last year, there was already a balance on the utility bill. She noted she has paid all her utility bills since she moved in, and wondered what would happen to that balance. Sandvik stated staff would need to look into her individual account and encouraged her to talk with our utility billing department.

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

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Greenberg to adopt Resolution No. 8121 "A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR DELINQUENT UTILITIES."

The Council agreed they would like more information on other cities' delinquent utility amounts as well as renter versus homeowner assessments.

Member Greenberg asked about monthly utility bills instead of every other month. Sandvik stated monthly billing would increase staff time, but noted people could make payments towards utility bills any time throughout the year, and could make payments on a monthly schedule, even though they are billed every other month.

The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Suspend Parks and Facilities Naming Policy

Sandvik briefly introduced this item, providing background about the creation of the policy and noted previous discussions about the policy itself and submissions that were presented to the Council for Renaming Sanborn Park. He stated the Council provided direction to staff to revamp the Parks and Facilities Naming Policy, and staff is recommending the suspension of the policy and accepting naming submissions, until that policy has been updated.

Member Greenberg noted something they discussed at the last Work Session was to include language in the policy about not naming parks after people. Mayor Blonigan noted other cities have also gone the route of not naming parks after people.

Member Wagner stated if language is added about not naming parks after people, there should also be information included about how we will address parks currently named after people. He stated they made a good effort in trying to create a policy around this, and although it wasn't exactly right the first time, the Council is still working on it and has every intention of renaming Sanborn Park.

Member Parisian acknowledged the work that went into creating the policy, and noted suspending it does not diminish that work. She mentioned she wasn't sure about removing the naming of parks after people from the policy, noting the many people who attended the public hearing were in support of naming a park after a person. She also noted that removing that option could seem reactive and harmful, in some cases, especially given the route as to why people wanted to rename Sanborn Park.

Member Greenberg noted allowing parks to be named after people could force a decision to be based on the merits of people, which could also be problematic.

Mayor Blonigan asked about the current applications and if this would be used as the response to those. Sandvik stated that the hope a policy can be developed with the 90-day response time and the Council could discuss the current applications. He noted both the current applicants have been informed of what is happening with the policy.

Mayor Blonigan noted he would like to see a new policy created within the 90-day time period and wanted to see what policies look like in other communities. He stated more community engagement should also be done.

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Greenberg to adopt Resolution No. 8122 "A RESOLUTION SUSPENDING THE PARKS NAMING POLICY AS ADOPTED APRIL 16, 2024, FOR THE CITY OF

ROBBINSDALE." The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Voucher Requests Pending Approval for Disbursement

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Wagner to approve the voucher disbursement requestks. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Sandvik thanked all who attended and volunteered at the Birdtown Boo Bash. He noted the historic Robbinsdale Library has an anniversary coming up and will turn 100 years old in 2026, and as part of that process a new sign was erected. He noted the Police Department will again hold a winter coat drive and coats can be dropped off at the Police Department, City Hall, and at several other events.

Peterson-Etem noted early voting continues to take place at Robbinsdale City Hall and information for those days and times can be found on the city website. He also noted direct balloting starts on Friday. Member Blonigan asked how the machines are protected. Peterson-Etem noted the direct balloting machine is locked up each night, and during the day staff will assist residents into the Council Chambers where they can insert their ballot directly into the ballot counter. He also stated each ballot counter is tested multiple times and security is a high priority.

COUNCIL GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

Member Greenberg mentioned a new business in Robbinsdale, Cocoa Flake, which is a chocolate shop and was featured in the Star Tribune.

Member Parisian encouraged all to vote early, or on election day, November 5, 2024.

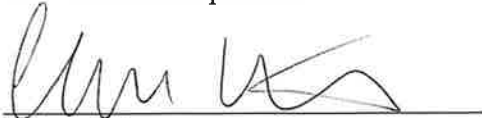
Member Wagner also encouraged people to vote and wished all a Happy Halloween.

Member Murphy reminded folks that Near Food Shelf is open and accepts cash donations as well as non-perishables.

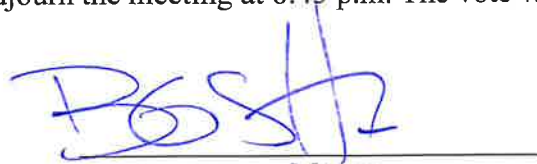
Mayor Blonigan noted yesterday was Indigenous People's Day and acknowledged the tribes that occupied this land in the past. He also wished all a Happy Halloween.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Parisian to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.



Chase Peterson-Etem, City Clerk



Bradley Sutton, Mayor