

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: None
Staff: Tim Sandvik, City Manager; Chase Peterson-Etem, City Clerk; Heather Rand, Community Development Director

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

None.

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 19, 2024 MEETING AGENDA

Peterson-Etem noted the addition of the report to item 11A.

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Wagner to approve the November 19, 2024, agenda. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Approve Canvassing Board Meeting minutes from August 16, 2024
- B. Approve City Council Meeting Minutes from August 20, 2024
- C. Accept Quote for Pickup and Equipment - City Project 8101
- D. Accept Quote for Pickup and Equipment - City Project 8162
- E. Accept Quote for Recreation Department Hybrid Vehicle - Project 8218
- F. Approval of Licenses
- G. Approve Quotes for Forestry Work
- H. Limited Use Agreement - 3501 France Avenue North

PRESENTATIONS

- A. Special Thanks - Terrance O'Brien

Sandvik noted a video that CCX made highlighting Terrance's time with Robbinsdale and played the video.

Terrance thanked the Council for the opportunity and stated he enjoyed his time.

The Council thanked Terrance and noted the great work he did for the city.

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Parisian to award a Certificate of Achievement to Terrance O'Brien. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. None

OLD BUSINESS

A. None

NEW BUSINESS

A. 4227 40th Ave N Sign Violation Appeal

Rand provided an overview of the item and detailed the various items related to this property, including background of the citation, code provisions, and previous discussion at the planning commission. She noted the City Attorney agreed with staff's interpretation of the City Code, that the banner is in violation. Rand did note that the Planning Commission recommended approval of the appeal, but staff continue to agree with the City Attorney and recommend denial of the appeal.

Mayor Blonigan asked if the appellant submitted any written testimony. Rand noted the appellant argued that the City Code doesn't specifically say banners cannot be in the R-1 zoning district.

Mayor Blonigan noted that to him that it was clear that banners aren't permitted in this zoning district. He continued that he agrees with staff and the City Attorney and there is no ambiguity.

Member Parisian stated she agrees with staff's recommendation and didn't see the ambiguity.

Member Murphy stated he thinks applying the current code should be used in this case but noted the City Code could be updated to more specifically address this issue in the future. Rand noted she is in agreement that parts of the Zoning and City Code, could be updated and she will be working on that in the coming year.

Member Greenberg asked what aspect of the City Code does the Planning Commission think is vague. Rand noted some of them felt there was language that allowed special provisions and that wasn't clear and needed to be updated.

Member Wagner agreed with staff and thought it was clear this appeal should be denied.

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Wagner to approve the denial of this appeal and direct staff to look at City Code updates. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

B. 3505 Bottineau Blvd Prelim Plat Lot Subdivision

Rand presented this item, noting this is the Hy-Vee location and provided background on the property and the application request for the subdivision. She noted staff doesn't see this as a controversial item and that it could

help clean up some of the plat information. She stated the city Engineering department reviewed this application, as well as Hennepin County.

Mayor Blonigan asked how the plats would be cleaned up. Rand noted legal descriptions and that if the Council approves this preliminary hearing, more detail will be provided when the final plat is approved.

Member Wagner asked if the TIF that was provided for this project will need to be looked into. Sandvik noted the city pooled all TIF and this would be treated the same as any other transfer or sale of property.

Member Murphy asked if we had any grounds for denial of this, noting his concern for operations of the convenience store. Rand stated she didn't feel as though there were any valid reasons.

Member Greenberg asked about opportunities for improved experience by splitting the plat. Rand suggested those concerns should be directed to Hy-Vee Management and Operations and noted they could be asked to be present at the final plat meeting.

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Greenberg to approve the preliminary plat lot subdivision.

Member Wagner and Mayor Blonigan agreed with Members Murphy and Greenberg and wanted to make sure land and operational use were taken into consideration.

Sandvik noted TIF agreements stay with the property.

The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

C. 2025 Levy and General Fund Budget

Sandvik noted this is not an actionable item for tonight, rather staff is looking for direction from the Council. He provided a brief update noting past discussions and reminded the Council that the preliminary levy was set at ten percent, which cannot be exceeded by the final levy, but could be reduced if desired. He also noted the city's investment portfolio and indicated they would continue to conservatively invest at a sustainable rate and that they have had gains. He stated potential ways the Council could reduce the levy, including adjustments to requested positions and other supplements, indicating a formal budget including these adjustments would be presented to the Council on December 3.

Member Greenberg asked about negative feedback on the preliminary levy. Sandvik stated he had not received any negative feedback but has had thoughtful questions related to the communication that has been sent out.

Member Wagner stated he liked the options Sandvik noted to reduce the levy to eight percent and feels good about it.

Member Parisian agreed with Member Wagner and appreciated the diversification in how staff plans to reduce the levy to eight percent.

Mayor Blonigan asked staff to look at the purchase of a vehicle to see if there could be any cost saving there. He also recognized the good work staff has done to get to this budget.

Member Murphy asked about state mandates and if our legislators could look into potential funding sources for those required mandates to help reduce the cost burden on the city, as well as asking our legislators to look into bond funding for projects, such as infrastructure or city buildings. He also noted previous discussion on consideration of a local sales tax, that could act as a revenue source for the city. Sandvik noted a study is currently being conducted about local sales tax and mentioned discussions around items they plan to discuss with legislators in the upcoming year.

Sandvik noted staff will prepare a detailed budget for the December 3 meeting, with a proposed eight percent final levy.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Voucher Requests Pending Approval for Disbursement

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

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Peterson-Etem noted two upcoming events. The first is the annual Holiday Tree Lighting, taking place on December 3, at 6:00 p.m. and the second is an open house to honor Mayor Blonigan for his years of service to Robbinsdale, which will take place on December 17, at 5:00 p.m. He also acknowledged and thanked all the workers who helped the General Election run smoothly and their dedication to the City.

Sandvik stated the City Band will perform on Thursday, Dec. 5, at 7:30 p.m. at the City of Crystal Community Center and the tri-city Santa Parade will take place on Saturday, December 7. He noted in conjunction with city events there will be a coat drive drop off at the public safety building and city hall, and a nonperishable food drive is happening at city hall as well.

COUNCIL GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

Member Greenberg wished all a Happy Thanksgiving and noted Saturday November 30, is Small Business Saturday and encouraged people to support our small businesses. He also thanked staff for their work on the budget and on the election.

Member Parisian commented on the new AV set up in the Chambers and thanked staff involved in making that happen. She also wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

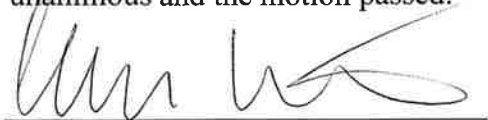
Member Wagner wished all a Happy Thanksgiving and echoed the other comments of the Council.

Member Murphy also mentioned the upgrades to the AV system in the chambers, noting increased efficiency. He also thanked City Clerk, Peterson-Etem for the four elections that took place throughout the year and thanked him for everything he does.

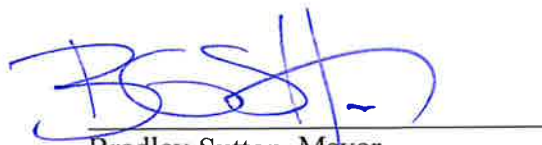
Mayor Blonigan also wished all a Happy Thanksgiving and agreed with the comments from the rest of the Council.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Parisian to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.



Chase Peterson-Etem, City Clerk



Bradley Sutton, Mayor