



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, Greenberg, Mayor Blonigan
Absent: None
Staff: Tim Sandvik, City Manager; Chase Peterson-Etem, City Clerk; Heather Rand, Community Development Director; Kayla Kirtz, Sustainability Coordinator

MICROPHONE CHECK

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

APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 17, 2024 MEETING AGENDA

Peterson-Etem noted the addition of the voucher disbursement report for Other Business Item 11A. He also mentioned the agreement related to New Business 10A was sent to the Council and will be added in the agenda for tonight. Lastly, he added Consent Item W, which is a letter of opposition to the House Bill related to broadband deployment, noting the Council had previously discussed this and was in agreement to have the letter sent to the city's representatives.

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Wagner to approve the December 17, 2024, meeting agenda. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Greenberg to approve the consent agenda, including the addition of Item W. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

- A. Approve City Council Meeting minutes from September 17, 2024
- B. Approve City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes from October 8, 2024
- C. Robbinsdale Wine & Spirits' Monthly Financial Statements
- D. Receive Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Commission Meeting Minutes from September 24, 2024
- E. Deputy Registrar's Monthly Financial Statements
- F. Recommendation for Charter Commission Reappointment
- G. A Resolution Approving of a Change to the By-Laws of the Robbinsdale Fire Department Relief

Association

- H. Approve Adjustments for Non-Union Employees
- I. Approval of Licenses
- J. First reading of an ordinance amending Section 205 of the City Code Salaries of Elected Officials
- K. First Reading of Ordinance Amendment to Section 515.07 Subdivision 4 on Conditional Uses in R-B, Allowing Private Utility Buildings
- L. 2025 License Renewals for The Birdhouse Eat & Drink
- M. 2025 License Renewals for Broadway Pizza/Eagles Nest Lounge
- N. 2025 License Renewals for Hy-Vee, Inc.
- O. 2025 License Renewals for Johnnie Mae's Lounge
- P. 2025 License Renewals for Marna's Eatery and Lounge
- Q. 2025 License Renewals for Nonna Rosa's
- R. 2025 License Renewals for Nouvelle Kitchen & Brewery
- S. 2025 Licenses for Travail Kitchen & Amusements
- T. 2025 License Renewals for Wicked Wort Brewing Company
- U. 2025 License Renewals for Robbinsdale Wine & Spirits
- V. Accept Donation from Target Corp, for \$500
- W. Letter of opposition to the House Bill related to broadband deployment

PRESENTATIONS

- A. Thank you - Council Member Murphy and Mayor Blonigan

Sandvik noted the great amount of service that Member Murphy and Mayor Blonigan have provided to the city. He noted staff prepared a video presentation for each of them.

Sandvik presented Member Murphy with a resolution recognizing and commending his service and dedication to Robbinsdale.

Member Murphy talked about his time on the Council, noting his interactions with residents, staff, and community members, and thanked all who have supported him.

Sandvik presented Mayor Blonigan with a resolution recognizing and commending his service and dedication to Robbinsdale.

Mayor Blonigan MOVED, seconded by Wagner to adopt Resolution No. 8133 "A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING REGAN MURPHY FOR HIS COMMUNITY SERVICE, DEDICATION, TIME, AND TALENT IN REPRESENTING THE CITY OF ROBBINSDALE." The vote was

unanimous and the motion carried.

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Wagner to adopt Resolution No. 8134 "A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING WILLIAM A. BLONIGAN FOR HIS COMMUNITY SERVICE, DEDICATION, TIME, AND TALENT IN REPRESENTING THE CITY OF ROBBINSDALE." The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Currency Exchange License Renewal - SJB Enterprises dba Your Exchange

Peterson-Etem presented the item, stating the Council approved of the initial application last year. He noted that state statute requires the Council to hold a public hearing annually for the renewal of currency exchange licenses and must notify the state of the Council's decision.

Mayor Blonigan opened the public hearing.

No members of the public spoke.

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

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Parisian to approve the application of SJB Enterprises dba Your Exchange. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

B. Public Hearing – Finds on Broadway – Consignment & Secondhand Goods Licenses – 4180 West Broadway

Sandvik provided a brief overview of the item, noting the Council must hold a public hearing. He stated the Police Department has not completed the background investigation, but recommended the Council approve the license contingent upon successful completion of the background investigation.

Mayor Blonigan opened the public hearing.

No members of the public spoke.

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

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Greenberg to approve the Consignment and Secondhand Goods 2025 licenses for Celeste M. Shahidi, dba Finds on Broadway, for 4180 West Broadway, contingent on a successful background investigation. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

C. Public Hearing – Fly Vintage & Vinyl, LLC – Consignment and Secondhand Goods Licenses – 3900 36th Avenue North

Sandvik presented the item noting this is similar to the previous public hearing and that a public hearing is required. He noted the Police Department has not yet completed the background investigation, but staff is recommending approval contingent upon successful completion of the background investigation.

Mayor Blongian opened the public hearing.

No members of the public spoke.

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

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Greenberg to approve Consignment and Secondhand Goods 2025 licenses for Betsy KayRuppert-Kan and Daniel Sung-Tak Ruppert-Kan, dba Fly Vintage & Vinyl, LLC, 390036th Avenue North, contingent on successful background investigation. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

D. Public Hearing – Pawn America – Pawnbroker & Secondhand Goods Licenses – 4134 West Broadway

Sandvik provided an overview, noting this item is also required to hold a public hearing and that the applicant has submitted materials, and staff is recommending approval, contingent upon an updated bond and Fire Department approval.

Member Wagner asked if there was a set timeline for when repairs need to be done. Sandvik noted an inspection for those repairs is set to happen later this week.

Mayor Blonigan opened the public hearing.

No members of the public spoke.

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

Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Greenberg to approve the 2025 Pawnbroker and Secondhand Goods licenses for Pawn America Minnesota, LLC at 4134 West Broadway, subject to the City Clerk's office receiving the updated bond, and Fire Department final approval. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

A. 4227 40th Ave N Violation Appeal on Zoning Code Section 410 (Banner Sign)

Rand provided an overview of the item, noting it had previously been presented to the Council, but the applicant wasn't properly informed of the previous meeting date. She stated that staff is asking the Council to revisit this item to allow the applicant to be heard and provide their reasoning for the appeal.

Mayor Blonigan stated that although the Council made a previous decision, they are open to any new and additional information and will make a decision based on the evidence presented tonight.

Aaron Mcmenamy, 4227 40th Ave. N., noted he submitted an appeal request about the City Code language, not the banner in particular, as he feels there have been other banners like this throughout the city, and they were not given citations. He noted political banners during the election as comparable and feels the banner he displayed was also political and should have been treated as such.

Member Murphy stated he thinks there could be some clarity in the City Code and questioned if multiple yard signs would equal the same square footage size of this banner, and how that could be addressed in the future.

Mayor Blonigan stated he would have the same findings as the last time this was presented to the Council but suggested potentially returning the \$200 fine for lack of proper notice of the previous public hearing.

Member Wagner noted he would be willing to also provide a refund and asked if there is language on the city website regarding these requirements for banners or signs. He also asked if the city had a code committee that

would review updates to the City Code from time to time. Rand stated the City Code is linked on the website and residents could search banner or sign regulations through that, but did not believe the website specifically mentions banners, as they are not allowed in residential areas. She noted there isn't a committee that reviews code language, but items could be brought forward by the planning commission, through staff, or by the Council. Sandvik reiterated these items and noted Rand will have some recommended code updates coming in the future.

Wagner stated he would like to see a document that briefly goes over the regulations specific to Robbinsdale, noting it could be helpful as a quick guide that's not buried in City Code.

Member Greenberg noted his interpretation was clear and thinks the banner was in violation of the City Code. He supported the idea of providing easier ways for residents to understand the information around signs and banners, and was also in support of refunding the \$200 fine.

Mayor Blonigan asked about the Planning Commission's recommendation to the Council. Rand stated the Planning Commission's recommendation was to not deny the appeal. Rand noted the staff recommendation is to deny the appeal, as staff's interpretation, as well as the City Attorney's, is that the banner was in violation of the City Code.

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Wagner to uphold the Council's ruling from the November 19 meeting, as well as refund the \$200 fee to the resident.

Sandvik encouraged the Council to be explicit as to why the fee is being waived, especially since they are upholding the decision that was previously made.

Member Murphy withdrew his original motion.

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Wagner to uphold the Council's original ruling from the November 19 meeting based on no additional findings of fact. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Blonigan to refund the \$200 appeal fee to the appellant based on the unique circumstances where the resident was not properly notified of the appeal hearing at City Hall, even though it was done in a legal matter. He further motioned that the applicant wasn't in denial of why the violation occurred and was engaged in the process. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

B. Resolution Declaring the Desire to Rename Sanborn Park

Sandvik provided a brief overview of this item detailing the city's involvement in the Just Deeds program, which ultimately led the Council to explore a Parks and Facilities Naming Policy. He continued that the policy was created and first used as discussion to rename Sanborn Park, as it was discovered the Sanborn Holding Company utilized racially restrictive covenants. Although renaming submissions were received from the city, it was eventually decided to suspend the policy in order to allow increased community engagement. He noted that although the policy was suspended, it is the desire of the Council to formally acknowledge the desire to rename the park.

Mayor Blonigan noted he appreciated the resolution and was glad to be taking action regarding the desire to rename the park. He noted he doesn't necessarily need his name included in the first Whereas clause but stated he would like to include "with his daughter Maria Cisneros, City of Golden Valley City Attorney" in the third Whereas clause.

Member Greenberg wanted to confirm this item isn't about policy, rather that the Council is making a declaration that they want to eventually change the name of Sanborn Park. Sandvik stated that is correct.

Member Wagner stated he was okay with leaving the mayor's name in the resolution, but stated it could be switched to the Council instead.

Mayor Blonigan suggested changing the fifth whereas clause to "agrees that to partially remediate the harmful effects of racially restrictive covenants that the appropriate action would be to formally acknowledge the desire to rename the park, AND solicit community feedback in the near future."

Member Parisian stated she would want to include Mapping Prejudice and Just Deeds in the resolution, if the first whereas clause was removed. Blonigan suggested removing "Mayor Blonigan" from the first whereas clause and adding "Mapping Prejudice and Just Deeds."

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Wagner to adopt Resolution No. 8146 "A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE DESIRE TO RENAME SANBORN PARK IN THE CITY OF ROBBINSDALE." The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Municipal Materials Management Agreement

Sandvik presented the item and stated that last spring, staff had started pursuing options for the city's organized solid waste hauler, as the current contract expires at the end of March 2025. He noted a request for proposals (RFP) was sent out requiring submissions by September 16, 2024, and that a total of six complete bids were submitted. He continued that an ad hoc committee was formed to review the submissions and was graded on a weighted scale, with cost being the most crucial component. Through this committee, and with the Council's direction, staff is recommending the city enter into an agreement with Allied Waste Services of North America, LLC dba Republic Services of the Twin Cities, to commence April 1, 2025.

Member Wagner asked about the replacement of garbage carts, the timeframe of yard waste services, and how collection will be for alleyways. Sandvik stated communication will be provided to each residence with information about the exchange of carts, with that process happening at the end of March and early April as needed. Sandvik noted the current contract will collect yard waste until November 15, weather-dependent, and noted the last day the collection site will receive materials is November 30. Lastly, he stated alleyway service will continue as is.

Member Parisian asked about pricing and how that would be affected by the new provider. Sandvik mentioned that each bid had variations in cost per specific service but noted that the pricing for a typical house was very similar throughout the bids and costs for residents will be similar to the trajectory they have been on in past years.

Member Greenberg asked about the level of service with the new provider and if there would be improvements. Sandvik stated he hopes it will bring an increase in customer service, noting they have a local customer service pod, as well as additional technological components, and overall general service levels.

Mayor Blonigan asked about the sustainability efforts of Republic Services. Sandvik noted sustainability was part of the RFP and much of Republic Services' efforts for mechanical sustainability have been focused on warmer climates, noting the investments thus far are considerable and will continue to be rolled out in Minnesota as they are developed.

Mayor Blonigan asked about the terms of the agreement and if the contract could be extended. Sandvik noted it was for five years and there would be a caveat to extending that.

Member Wagner asked staff to keep the Council informed about the communication plan.

Member Greenberg asked if organic would be included with this service. Sandvik stated yes.

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Greenberg to Authorize the Mayor and City Manager to execute a Municipal Materials Management Agreement, effective April 1, 2025, between the City of Robbinsdale, and Allied Waste Services of North America, LLC dba Republic Services of the Twin Cities. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

B. Accept Quote for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations - Project 1020

Kirtz presented the item, noting there have been many conversations with staff and Council about electronic vehicles and this has become a top priority. She stated as the city builds its fleet of electric vehicles, there is also a need for charging stations, and described what types of charging stations staff is looking into and where they would be. She continued that staff is working with Exel Energy to address any electrical panel upgrades that are needed and that funds have been included in the Capital Improvement Plan for these stations. She did note that grants are also being looked into to offset costs.

Member Greenberg stated he was in favor of looking into grants and asked if there would be a cost for customers to use the charging stations. Kirtz stated that it would be a future decision for the Council, but staff is looking into how other cities handle this.

Member Wagner and Parisian noted their excitement and support for this project.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Greenberg to authorize the City Manager and Finance Director to issue a Purchase Order to KonectaEV of Minneapolis, Minnesota for the purchase of two ChargePoint Express 250 DC Fast Charging Stations. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Voucher Requests Pending Approval for Disbursement

Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Greenberg to approve disbursement requests for the period ending 12/17/2024. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Peterson-Etem provided his thanks and gratitude to Member Murphy and Mayor Blongian, recognizing their dedication to the residents, the staff, and their work to make Robbinsdale a great community.

Sandvik reflected on the year, noting several accomplishments and the work that was undertaken this year, both by staff and the Council, and thanked all for their dedication and hard work.

Sandvik mentioned his time getting to know and working with Member Murphy and that it was clear to him Council Member Murphy's dedication to the community and his expectation of a high level of service. He stated it has been a pleasure to work with Member Murphy and appreciated his ability to respectfully question the status quo while simultaneously supporting staff. He thanked Member Murphy for his time and dedication to the city.

Sandvik highlighted the extensive amount of time that Mayor Blonigan has given to the community and the sacrifices he has made during the many years serving in so many capacities for Robbinsdale. He noted that Mayor Blonigan had pushed him in new ways, but in ways that were always focused on improvement to the community and the residents. Sandvik stated his admiration to Mayor Blonigan for his efforts in sustainability and diversity, equity, and inclusion, before it was commonplace in local government, and it speaks to his

leadership and character. He provided his appreciation and thanks to Mayor Blonigan.

COUNCIL GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

Member Parisian thanked Member Murphy for his time on the Council and his advocacy, perspective, and collaboration. She highlighted his community involvement and reiterated her thanks for his positive impact.

Member Parisian thanked Mayor Blongian for his 44 years, noting his tenure is generational. She stated his time is inspirational, and that his impact on the community will be long-lasting. She highlighted several initiatives he has been instrumental in and reiterated her thanks and appreciation for Mayor Blonigan and his family.

Member Parisain wished all a Happy Holiday and Safe New Year.

Member Wagner shared similar sentiments about Member Murphy and Mayor Blonigan, adding his appreciation for their leadership and mentorship, noting their purely community-driven advocacy and service. He thanked both of them for everything they have done for Robbinsdale.

Member Wagner wished all a Happy Holiday and New Year.

Member Murphy noted his time with Mayor Blonigan and how they have both had the same goal in mind of making Robbinsdale a better place. He appreciated their connectivity as well as their time serving together and thanked him for his many years. He also highlighted Mayor Blonigan's leadership and stated his appreciation for the entire Council and the work they have done together.

Member Greenberg echoed the previously stated sentiments and offered his heartfelt thanks and appreciation to both Member Murphy and Mayor Blonigan. He noted an information session about the Shoreline project that happened last night, and many residents provided feedback and encouraged more to look into it. He also noted he attended a Community Advisory Committee meeting where they discussed the Lowry station design and indicated there were two main options. Lastly, he thanked the staff for their work throughout the year and wished all a Happy Holiday.

Mayor Blonigan thanked all for the kind comments, noting he spent much more time as a Council member than a mayor. He noted his accolades wouldn't be possible without the other Council members he's worked with over the years. He thanked the citizens for continuing to elect him, the staff for their work, and specifically City Manager Sandvik and other previous City Managers. He thanked other government leaders for their work and appreciated their dedication to Robbinsdale. Lastly, he thanked his family for their sacrifices and especially his wife, Teri, who has supported him throughout his entire time on the Council. Mayor Blonigan noted the future of Robbinsdale is in good hands and wishes all well.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Greenberg to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

A roll call was taken.

Ayes: Parisian, Wagner, Murphy, Greenberg

Nays: Blonigan

The motion carried 4-1.

Signed by:



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Chase Peterson-Em, City Clerk

Signed by:



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Bradley Sutton, Mayor