ROBBINSDALE

City Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 4, 2025
Meeting No. 5

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
Mayor Sutton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL
Present: Blackledge, Greenberg, Parisian, Wagner, Sutton
Absent:
Staff: Tim Sandvik, City Manager; Matt Bazyk, Recreation Services Manager; Chase Peterson-Etem, City Clerk

MICROPHONE CHECK

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

Theresa Bayard, 4335 Unity Ave. N., noted her utility bill and an assessment she received for a missed payment. She asked about a $50 charge. She said she can't get out from late fees and asked the Council about the policy.

Miles Toth, 4318 West Broadway, thanked the Council for their time last week to address the lighting at the Water Tower site.

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 4, 2025, MEETING AGENDA

Peterson-Etem, City Clerk, noted two additions to the agenda tonight.

1. Addition of Consent Item O, Approval of Licenses.
2. Addition of Business Item 11A, Voucher Disbursement Report

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Member Greenberg to approve the March 4, 2025, City Council agenda as amended. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA
Member Parisian removed Item M and N for further consideration

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Member Blackledge to approve the consent agenda, as revised. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

A. Approve City Council meeting minutes of December 3, 2024

B. Approve City Council meeting minutes of December 17, 2024

C. Approve City Council meeting minutes from January 7, 2025

D. Approve City Council meeting minutes from January 21, 2025

E. Approve City Council meeting minutes from February 4, 2025

F. Approve City Council meeting minutes from February 18, 2025

G. Approve City Council Work Session minutes from January 14, 2025

H. Approve City Council Work Session minutes from February 11, 2025

I. Approve City Council 2025 Top Goals and Priorities meeting minutes from February 24, 2025

J. Approve City Council Work Session meeting minutes from February 24, 2025

K. Receive Sustainability Committee Meeting minutes from January 15, 2025

L. Receive Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2025

O. Approval of Licenses

M. Twins Equipment Grant Submission

N. Twins Youth Coaching Grant Submission

Member Parisian noted she removed items M and N to give thanks and acknowledgement to the Staff for submitting these grants for equipment and coaching on a quick deadline.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Wagner to accept any equipment that comes from the Twins Equipment Grant and accept funds, if awarded, from the Twins Coaching Grant. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS

A. Republic Services of the Twin Cities

City Clerk Peterson-Etem noted the City is switching from Waste Management to Republic Services. He introduced presenter Bev Mathiasen of Republic Services.

Bev Mathiasen introduced Frances Estrella, Municipal Administrator at Republic Services. She presented who Republic Services is, their vision, and the work they do. Mathiasen noted they are no longer just a hauling service, but highlighted their commitment to customer service and sustainability. In regard to customer service, Mathiasen stated they have highly trained representatives, twelve local agents, call center availability Monday through Saturday, “Track my Truck” feature though their website, designated voice and email inbox for the City, and experienced drivers. Republic Services invested in AI software this year to provide timely coaching to representatives and make sure customers feel heard. In regard to sustainability and environmental services, Mathiasen stated they are a leader in EV trucks and plan to bring EV’s to Minnesota in 2025. She stated Republic Services is intentionally selling the recycled plastics to companies who will use it in new recyclable products and not textiles. Additionally, she highlighted some PFAS projects Republic Services is involved in. She then expressed her gratitude for choosing Republic Services as their provider.

Member Wagner asked if residents should reach out to Republic Services directly if there is an issue? Mathiasen stated residents have a welcome letter being mailed to them that will designate which issues they need to call Republic Services for or if it is an issue they need to contact the city for.

Member Wagner asked what type of recycling Republic Services collects and if residents can expect to see a kickback of lower costs due to Republic Services being able to sell their recyclables. Mathiasen noted they will collect the same type of recyclables that are being collected currently. She noted there is legislation going on about that and it may be more appropriate to discuss at a workshop.

Member Greenberg asked where the current recyclables are going if the current polymer center in Indianapolis isn't finished. Mathiasen stated the majority of it goes into new products and some gets sold to buyers.

Member Greenberg asked if there will be ongoing communication that goes back and forth on the website once customers have signed up? Mathiasen noted the welcome card with information will be attached to the bin once distributed in addition to digital communication. Estrella stated once a quarter the city will receive educational pieces from Republic Services to send out to residents.

Member Greenberg stated the City would love for Republic Services to be involved in Robbinsdale upcoming events.

Member Parisian asked when the sticker program ends? Peterson-Etem stated it expires at the end of the month and they encourage residents to do extra spring cleaning before then or they could potentially see if they could give or sell them to community members.

Member Parisian asked if there's anything residents need to do in regard to bin transitions? Mathiasen stated they have a list for bin disbursement. Peterson-Etem added that they are prepared for calls regarding bin sizes and will help mitigate issues that arise.

Member Parisian asked if bin size is noted somewhere on the bin. Mathiasen stated you might be able to figure that out through your bill or a number on your bin.

Member Parisian noted she would like to hear more about the EV program once it exists in Minnesota.

Member Blackledge expressed gratitude for the educational information provided tonight and on the website.

Mayor Sutton expressed gratitude for advanced communication, level of technology investments, and intentional customer service. He noted the Whiz Band parade happening July 13th.

Petersen-Etem stated Staff is compiling a list of events they will partner with Republic Services on.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. None

.

OLD BUSINESS

A. None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Consider Resolution Approving Code Variance for 3819 W Broadway (US Internet)

Community Development Director Rand provided an overview of the item and detailed the history of the request by applicant US Internet. Rand stated the old building will be demolished and a new site will be developed. She highlighted the State Statute MS 462 and why US Internet requested the variance. Staff is recommending approval of the variance and members of the public who attended a public hearing February 20th also expressed support of the variance.

Member Wagner asked the current setback of the existing structure? Rand stated the existing building is setback much further than thirty feet. Member Wagner noted support for this variance.

Member Greenberg highlighted his support for this variance due to the intention of the building.

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Member Wagner to adopt Resolution No. 8147 " A RESOLUTION APPROVING VARIANCE REQUEST V25-1 TO ALLOW A BUILDING TO BE SET BACK 30 FEET FROM THE REAR YARD PROPERTY LINE AT 3819 W BROADWAY". The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

B. Consider Resolution Approving Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for 3819 W Broadway (US Internet)

Community Development Director Rand provided an overview of the item and detailed history of Conditional Use Permits and Transit Oriented Overlay districts. Rand noted the request by US Internet for a Condition Use Permit for a 3935 square foot brick building with minimal parking and landscaping. A public hearing was held on February 20th and residents expressed support. She stated staff feel this Conditional Use Permit is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and recommends approval with conditions that meet code.

Member Parisian asked how the number of five parking spaces was decided. Rand noted that US Internet believes one to two vehicles will be there at a time; however, they also want to look towards the future. Member Parisian noted her hope is to reduce the amount of pavement where possible.

Member Parisian asked how running a data center will impact Robbinsdale's sustainability goals. Rand highlighted the small size of the facility. Tim Martin, US Internet CFO, stated it is not intended for data mining, but data switching which uses much less power.

Member Greenberg asked if the amount of noise produced by the facility would be similar to what is there today. Martin stated he doesn't know if it will be the same, but stated the generator will only be run when tested and if power goes out. Additionally, he stated it will be below the seventy decibels and the lack of complaints in other areas.

Member Greenberg asked if there are requirements regarding the landscaping in the Conditional Use Permit. Rand noted wording can be used to make them adhere, but noted that since it is in the plan Staff will hold them to it.

Member Wagner asked when costumers will be able to get online. Martin stated two to three years.

Member Wagner asked about maps of future service areas. Martin noted competition would use those maps against them, but they are open to City Staff.

Member Wagner asked the difference between fiber and broadband. Martin stated not all fiber is created equal and US Internet has a superior network build that will "future-proof" Robbinsdale.

Mayor Sutton asked if this will cover one-hundred percent of Robbinsdale residents aside from outliers? Martin stated that is the intent, but bike trails and parkways do present issues.

Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Member Greenberg to adopt Resolution No. 8148" A RESOLUTION TO ALLOW FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT (CUP) FOR A PRIVATE UTILITY BUILDING AT 3819 WEST BROADWAY". The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

C. Approve Entering a Professional Services Agreement for the new Public Works Facility

City Engineer/Public Works Director McCoy provided an overview of the item and detailed the history of the current public works facility. McCoy highlighted the need for a new public works facility. Preliminary planning on the new public works facility was initiated twelve months ago with companies submitting conceptual design plans, estimated costs, and experience of employees. Oertel Architects was chosen to perform the job and gave an estimate of $1.16 million. McCoy noted geothermal energy is feasible at the site for an additional $25,000. Staff is recommending approval of the project in addition to the topographic and boundary survey for an additional $26,700. Staff estimates some additional costs for hazardous materials analysis and geo-tech. McCoy noted how Public Works will function without the existing building while construction is occurring.

Member Wagner asked what the public works facility is and what it does. McCoy stated it is used for all public works operations. The public works building houses trucks, houses equipment, houses material for plowing, houses bulk material, acts as a staging area for removed brush, holds spare signage and posts, and provides space to perform maintenance on fleet vehicles.

Member Wagner asked what technological improvements will be done and if there will be fuel pumps on site. McCoy noted the constricted size of the site and regulations as to why no fuel pumps plan to be added. He stated the potential of geothermal use would be a technological improvement.

Member Wagner asked if office space will be improved or the same amount. McCoy stated a two-story administrative portion for public works staff and engineers is planned.

Member Greenberg asked if a geothermal system produces more than a solar system. McCoy noted it is more and plans to discuss costs with Council at a different date.

Member Parisian asked if any neighboring communities have similar systems. McCoy stated he was unsure, but would find out.

Member Parisian asked if he felt the current plan for Public Works was feasible while construction was occurring. McCoy noted Public Works has been speaking with the City of Crystal.

Member Greenberg asked if a phase approach to the construction was feasible. McCoy stated that would be difficult.

Mayor Sutton asked if the City is utilizing fuel pumps offered by Crystal. Sandvik noted technological challenges regarding that.

Mayor Sutton asked how this project compares in size to similar cities. McCoy noted he would gather data for public works facilities in similar size cities.

Mayor Sutton asked if there are safety concerns with the current public works building. McCoy stated yes.

Mayor Sutton noted the high costs and how City residents may feel. Sandvik highlighted the seriousness of this project and the use of grants and bonds.

Member Greenberg asked about the plan if the funding isn't there? McCoy noted the plan could sit on the shelf for a few years as the layout wouldn't vary, but specifications may change.

Member Blackledge highlighted the importance of sustainability and appreciation for other Members' comments.

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Member Parisian to authorize the Mayor and City Manager to engage Oertel Architects (and Consultant partners) in a professional services contract for design and construction services associated with the New Robbinsdale Public Works Facility project in accordance with the submitted proposal dated February 10, 2025, for a sum not to exceed $1,157,915.00. In addition, City Council authorize the inclusion of a Topographic and Boundary Survey for an additional cost not to exceed $ 26,790.00. Consideration of including a Geothermal Energy System Design will be made after further consideration by City Council. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

D. Consider Resolution Authorizing Guidelines for Attendance by Interactive Technology

Sandvik provided an overview of the item and detailed the history of why this is being discussed and the advancement of technology that makes this possible. He noted Council Members wanting to use this technology will need to submit a request and must be visible via video. Sandvik noted Members can utilize interactive technology no more than six times per calendar year excluding extenuating circumstances.

Member Parisian noted her concern of meeting in different places and stated she feels the person running the meeting would need to be in Council Chambers.

Mayor Sutton asked if that would eliminate his ability to travel. Member Parisian stated the Mayor Pro Tem could run the meeting.

Member Greenberg asked if Sandvik believes this would be an issue and if so, can the policy be updated. Sandvik noted they can accommodate this as a "whereas" clause, but he does feel they have the capability.

Mayor Sutton asked the specific concern Member Parisian has. Member Parisian noted her concern due to past experiences and for residents who attend.

Mayor Sutton highlighted his experience running meeting where individuals are in different places and doesn't feel the same concerns. Sandvik noted trying it and if issues arise they can readdress the conversation.

Member Blackledge agreed with the idea of trying it first.

Member Wagner noted he agrees with Member Parisian and would prefer the individual leading the meeting being present in Council Chambers.

Member Greenberg stated he can see both ways, but feels the use of this interactive technology will be limited so he'd be open to trying it first.

Mayor Sutton stated it is unknown if it will work till it's tried.

Sandvik highlighted this is for very limited circumstances, but Staff appreciate the ability of interactive technology for voting purposes.

Member Greenberg expressed appreciation to Member Parisian for bringing up her concern.

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Member Blackledge to adopt Resolution No. 8149 " A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING GUIDELINES ATTENDANCE BY INTERACTIVE TECHNOLOGY". The motion carries 5-1 (Wagner voted against).

<u>OTHER BUSINESS</u>

A. Voucher Requests Pending Approval for Disbursements

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Member Greenberg to approve Voucher Requests Pending Approval for Disbursements. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Peterson-Etem noted the transition to Republic Services and the communication plan with residents and the change in collection day for a group of townhomes in Ward One.

Sandvik noted two upcoming workshops about Lowry Station on March 24th at Elim, native plant and tree sale on the website, applications for summer jobs, snow emergency protocol, and registrations opening up for events and programming.

COUNCIL GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

Member Blackledge attended the Senior Commission and noted they are looking for people to join and encouraged people to check it out. He also recognized those celebrating Ramadan.

Member Greenberg went to an open house for Prism food shelf that services Robbinsdale. He also went to Cooper High School tonight where they held an Empty Bowls fundraiser. Empty Bowls is a food shelf in Robbinsdale and you can donate online. He highlighted that girl scouts will be selling cookies this weekend at numerous locations.

Member Parisian wished everyone a Happy International Women's Day and Women's History Month. She expressed thanks to members of the Human Rights Commission, especially Courtney, who coordinated a wonderful event for women's contributions to the community.

Member Wagner echoed all sentiments shared and thanked Public Works.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Blackledge MOVED, seconded by Greenberg to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 p.m. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Signed by:
5C4C4DACAFC74C9...
Chase Peterson-Etem, City Clerk

Signed by:
Bradley Sutton
E744AB5DFC73409...
Bradley Sutton, Mayor