



MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Blackledge called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Blackledge, Greenberg, Parisian, Wagner

Absent: Sutton

Staff: Tim Sandvik, City Manager; Chase Peterson-Etem, City Clerk; Joanna Brookes, Human Resources Manager

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

Miles Toth, 4318 West Broadway, thanked the Council for the time they put into listening to them about the Water Tower lighting and appreciated the decision they have made about it.

Peter Lundquist, 4334 Halifax, noted he is a k-9 trainer and that he can't use regular dog parks to train his dogs because the dogs are trained to find narcotics and parks are not safe for them. He stated he has tried to reach out to the police department, but they haven't found any solutions and is asking if there is any space in Robbinsdale for him to use.

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 18, 2025, MEETING AGENDA

City Clerk Peterson-Etem noted the addition of Other Business Item 11A, Voucher Disbursement Report.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Wagner to approve the March 18, 2025, City Council agenda as amended. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Approve City Council meeting minutes from March 4, 2025
- B. Faith Lilac Way Lutheran Church Event
- C. Approval of Licenses
- D. Robin Center – Mobile Food Unit In excess of 10 Days/Year
- E. Robbinsdale Wine & Spirits' Monthly Financial Statement - December 2024
- F. Deputy Registrar's Monthly Financial Statements – December 2024
- G. Robbinsdale Wine & Spirits' Monthly Financial Statement – January 2025
- H. Deputy Registrar's Monthly Financial Statements – January 2025

I. Authorize Staff to apply for grant funding through the MN DNR

PRESENTATIONS

A. Employee Handbook Updates

City Manager Sandvik introduced Human Resources Manager Joanna Brookes.

Brookes noted there are seven proposed updates to the handbook including free Community Center membership to Council Members, City employees, volunteers, elected officials, and Commissioners, correcting language regarding accrual and carry-over in terms of leave, proposing pay for probationary employees who are called for jury duty, changing policy to allow employees to reserve a designated amount of annual leave before invoking the Family and Medical Leave Act, bringing FMLA in line with recent ESST legislation changes, changing definition of “in good standing”, clarifying practice of hiring veterans, and explaining health insurance when employee resigns.

Member Wagner asked what would happen if the disciplinary investigation took a long time to resolve and the employee was unable to resign, and what is the process for disciplinary investigations. Brooks stated they have a progressive disciplinary policy that may look differently based on what occurred. She noted it is possible that investigations can take time, but not six months in her experience. She highlighted that the choice to resign is always with the employee. Sandvik stated resignation is the choice of the employee and if no wrongdoing is found the leave will be paid out.

Member Wagner asked if an employee leaves does the investigation continue. Sandvik stated it depends on the situation.

Member Parisian asked if the term “disciplinary investigation” is defined somewhere in the handbook. Brooks stated it is defined in the handbook and also in Minnesota State Statute.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackledge expressed gratitude for the document's attention to employees.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. None

OLD BUSINESS

A. None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Memorandum of Understanding – Energy Action Plan Addendum Development

Sandvik provided an overview of the item and detailed the history of the Energy Action Plan, who was involved in the plan, and creation of the Sustainability Coordinator. Sandvik noted going forward the addition of solar, addition of EV, and the backing of Hennepin County. He stated that authorization to continue this program is desired.

Member Parisian commented she is happy to support this and is encouraged by how this program has evolved. She additionally expressed gratitude to those working to collaborate behind the scenes.

Member Blackledge expressed gratitude for the energy put forward in this plan.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Wagner to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Xcel Energy to Develop and Implement an Addendum to the Robbinsdale Energy Action Plan. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

B. Authorize City Manager to Execute License Agreement with Birdhouse Restaurant

Sandvik provided an overview of the item and detailed the history of outdoor space utilization within the City and who frequents those spaces. Staff is recommending authorization to execute the license agreement with Birdhouse restaurant.

Member Wagner expressed appreciation for all the restaurants in Robbinsdale.

Member Greenberg stated this license is a win for the City and for the restaurant.

Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Greenberg to approve the authorization for the City Manager to execute a license agreement with Birdhouse Restaurant. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Voucher Requests Pending Approval for Disbursement

Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Parisian to approve voucher requests pending approval for disbursement. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Peterson-Etem noted the transition to Republic Services occurring on April 1st, the distribution of bins, the days of service, and the FAQ page on the City website.

Sandvik highlighted Wiz Bang Days and ways individuals can get involved, the opening of summer registrations for recreational activities, the delay of the Shoreline project, and LRT planning meetings occurring next week. He also stated his appreciation for the team heading up the Republic Service transition and the positive attitudes shown by City residents.

COUNCIL GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

Member Wagner wished everyone a belated Happy St. Patrick's Day.

Member Parisian expressed thanks to Courtney Kirking, the Human Rights Commission, the Robbinsdale Historical Society, all those who put together the event and exhibit at City Hall recognizing women's contributions to Robbinsdale. Member Parisian wished people a Happy Women's History Month.

Member Greenberg thanked Staff for all their work during the transition to Republic Services.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackledge highlighted the *Utility Billing Newsletter* and the great information it provides. He encouraged all to give a wave to neighbors as people head outside more frequently.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Greenberg to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

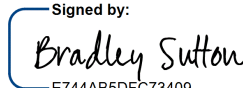
Signed by:



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Chase Peterson-Etem, City Clerk

Signed by:



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Bradley Sutton, Mayor