ROBBINSDALE

City Council Meeting
Tuesday, April 1, 2025
Meeting No. 7

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; Chase Peterson-Etem, City Clerk; Stephan Papiz, City Forester/Natural Resources Specialist; Jenna Wolf, Water Resources Specialist

MICROPHONE CHECK

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

Matt Alexander, 235 Lake St. Wayzata, North Shore Development Partners (proposed developer at US Bank Site), noted their firm would not be able to accommodate a park-and-ride, transit stop, or any other requested additions to their proposed design plan for the US Bank Site.

Emily Braun, 3445 Abbott Ave. N., stated the fees for storm water drainage for churches and other faith organizations are higher than in other communities, and she asked the Council to consider options for reducing this.

Michele Mahmood, 4268, Twin Oak Lane, noted her concern about the amount of yard waste that is allowed for residents with the new waste hauler and asked the Council to look into options for expanding this, especially in the Fall and Spring.

Sandvik provided background on why the limit was decided on the yard waste amount, and noted if the Council wanted to, they could discuss options at a Work Session. Similarly, he stated the Council could discuss storm water drainage rates at an upcoming Work Session.

The Council agreed that they would like to discuss yard waste options and storm water drainage costs at an upcoming Work Session.

Sandvik stated the Council could discuss potential development plans for the US Bank Site at a future meeting as well.

The Council agreed discussions could happen at a future meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 1, 2025, MEETING AGENDA

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

Mayor Sutton noted the movement of Items 8 and 10 ahead of Item 6, Consent Agenda.

Member Blackledge MOVED, seconded by Wagner to approve the April 1, 2025, City Council agenda as amended. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

PRESENTATIONS

These items were considered after New Business.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. First reading of an ordinance amending section 815.07 of the Robbinsdale City Code

City Manager Sandvik introduced the history of the ordinance and the reason for amending the City Code.

Member Greenberg asked if Lower Twin Lake will still be no-wake. Sandvik stated the no-wake policy is consistent throughout. Member Greenberg reiterated that the no-wake language is struck through and asked for clarification. Sandvik noted different sections that include no-wake language.

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

Mayor Sutton opened the public hearing.

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

Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Blackledge to approve the first reading of an Ordinance Amending Section 815.07 of the Robbinsdale City Code and set second reading for May 6, 2025. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Nuisance at 2732 Zenith Ave. N.

Sandvik provided an overview of the item and detailed the history of code violations occurring at the property since 2023. Staff asked that the Council waive the reading and adopt the resolution as shown in Exhibit A.

Member Wagner noted that in past similar situations, neighbors came out concerned about safety. Therefore, Member Wagner asked what safety considerations are being taken for Staff. Sandvik stated safety measures are being considered and will be addressed further in planning meetings.

Member Greenberg highlighted for the public that this is an unusual circumstance.

Mayor Sutton reiterated the attempts taken by the City to resolve this issue.

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Wagner to adopt Resolution No. 8152 “A RESOLUTION TO ABATE PUBLIC NUISANCE AT 2732 ZENITH AVENUE NORTH AS SHOWN IN EXHIBIT A.” The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

B. 1st Reading of Ordinance Adopting Updates to Appendix B - Fee Schedule

Sandvik provided an overview of the item and detailed the history of the fee schedule and noted the recommended updates to contractor licenses, permit fees, and EV charging. Sandvik noted this will be further discussed at the work session next week. Staff recommends holding the first reading and proceeding with a second reading on May 6, 2025.

Member Parisian asked when the fees will come into effect, given the timeline noted by Staff. Sandvik stated as close to May 7, 2025, as possible.

Member Greenberg asked if the fees could be staggered, as some fees were significantly increased. Sandvik highlighted that the removal of the license requirement will mitigate that cost. He also noted some of the fees were not updated in a timely manner through the years.

Member Greenberg asked if the license covers every job completed in Robbinsdale, as opposed to paying for the license per time. Sandvik stated that is correct. Member Greenberg reiterated he still wants to be cognizant of the fee increase.

Member Wagner asked if there is any other impact on the budget due to these removals. Sandvik noted the intent is to treat it as an enterprise fund, and the intent is not to have offsets to the budget in other areas.

Mayor Sutton asked if the work session would be the correct place to address other fees noted in the schedule that someone wanted to discuss. Sandvik stated yes.

Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Parisian to approve the first reading of an Ordinance Adopting Updates to Appendix B, Robbinsdale Ordinance Code and General Fee Schedule and set second reading for May 6, 2025. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

C. 1st Reading of an Ordinance Amending Chapter IV, Building, Housing, and Construction Regulations

Sandvik provided an overview of the item and detailed the history of licenses and the purpose of removing redundancies.

Member Wagner asked if a worker has a State license, if they still need to get a project-specific permit. Sandvik answered in the affirmative. Member Wagner asked what the State standards look like. Sandvik stated the standards of the Department of Labor and Industry are similar. Member Wagner reiterated that the City will still be making sure regulations are met.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Blackledge to approve the first reading of an Ordinance Amending Chapter IV, Building, Housing and Construction Regulations, Section 405, Licensed Construction Activities of the Robbinsdale City Code and set second reading for May 6, 2025. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

D. City of Robbinsdale - Top Goals and Priorities, 2025

Sandvik provided an overview of the item and detailed the history of establishing City goals and how goals were established for 2025. Staff recommended adopting the goals and encouraged the Council to expound on how this document has helped in the past.

Member Blackledge noted appreciation for the goal creation process. He highlighted his desire for more specificity in priority number 6, Humanize and Maintain Robbinsdale's Identity in the current political climate.

Member Wagner agreed with Member Blackledge and stated he would support adding clarifying wording. Additionally, he echoed his appreciation for the goal creation process. He noted the City is very intentional in setting goals by meeting with Staff leadership and department heads and deciding on priorities together.

Member Parisian agreed with Member Blackledge's suggestion for number 6. She also echoed appreciation for the goal-setting process and her approval of the current list. She asked Sandvik to note how goals that carry on for more than one calendar year are kept track of. Sandvik discussed the monthly report card he sends out related to the handbook, events, momentum on projects, recruiting, and retention.

Member Greenberg highlighted the holistic process of goal creation versus individual goals. He noted the numbers make it seem like one priority is higher than the next and suggested bullet points instead of the current numerical system.

Mayor Sutton asked if he should read the document being discussed. He then read the 7 top priorities, 5 opportunity goals, and 5 other brainstormed goals in the document.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Wagner to approve the 2025 Top Goals and Priorities Amending Item 6 to Humanize and Maintain Robbinsdale's Culturally Diverse Identity in the Current Political Climate. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA (continued)

Member Parisian removed Items E and F for further consideration.

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

A. Approve City Council meeting minutes from March 18, 2025

B. Approve Quote for Crack Sealing

C. Approve participation in the SolSmart Hennepin County Cohort 2025

D. Robbinsdale Joint Community Police and Partnership (JCPP) Donation

G. Hennepin County Art and Music Grant

H. Hennepin County Youth Equipment Grant

I. Ward 1 Park Recreation and Forestry Commissioner

J. Approve Sochacki Park Water Quality Improvements Project and Support a Hennepin County Grant Application

K. Receive Park Recreation and Forestry Commission Minutes from February 25

L. Approval of Licenses

E. Adopt Resolution Amending the 2024 General Fund Budget

Member Parisian referenced the operating surplus in 2024 and asked where those amounts are being moved to in 2025. She asked for Staff to expand on how common this process is, how budgets were set, and what those different accounts pay for. Sandvik stated that this budgeting occurs annually in addition to an annual audit and deficit budgeting. He highlighted the cost savings due to the Police Department shortage.

Member Wagner asked if the funds are allowed to be moved to investment vehicles. Sandvik stated that there are certain dollars they can allocate to those.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Greenberg to adopt Resolution No. 8150, "A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2024 GENERAL FUND BUDGET." The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Mayor Sutton passed control over to Mayor Pro Tem Blackledge as Mayor Sutton needed to depart.

F. Establishment of the 2026-2027 Budget Calendar

Member Parisian asked if these dates are for the 2025 Budget Calendar. Sandvik stated this is to budget for the 2026 and 2027 years.

Member Parisian asked if the budget planning dates noted are fixed dates or general timelines, as some of the dates don't fall on City Council meeting dates. Sandvik stated these are not specific dates and will be finalized closer to the meeting dates.

Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Parisian to approve the 2026-2027 budget calendar with the change to certify proposed property tax levies to the County Auditor from year 2023 to year 2025. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS (continued)

A. Robbinsdale Forestry/Natural Resources Annual Report

City Forester/Natural Resources Specialist Papiz introduced the annual Forestry/Natural Resources Annual Report. He noted the continued treatment of emerald ash borer trees on City-owned land with financial assistance due to a grant received in 2022. The equipment purchased with that grant should last till 2028. He highlighted zone-based public tree pruning, the objectives in tree pruning, structure-based pruning goals, and tree pruning and removal contracts. He also discussed prairie/raingarden management, noxious weeds, invasive species control, South Halifax Park Woodland Restoration, shade tree disease, insect control, gravel bed nursery bareroot tree planting, Tree Trust tree sale, tree spading, native plant kit sale through Minnesota Native Landscapes (MNL), ArcGIS-based public tree inventory, County Road 81 native landscape medians, Tree City USA, Arbor Day Celebration, and Adopt-a-Park Program.

Member Parisian highlighted the importance of the work Papiz does. She asked what is included in each native plant kit and how much square footage each kit covers. Papiz stated they cover roughly 40 to 60 square feet, and in the prairie grass kit, it would include some grasses such as Big Blue Stem, Indian Grass, Little Blue Stem, June Grass, Prairie Cord Grass. He noted the City Forestry website will have graphics that show what is in each kit.

Member Greenberg expressed his gratitude for the presentation, all Papiz does for the City, and the ecosystem within the City. He also passed along the City residents' gratitude.

Member Wagner highlighted the impressive emerald ash borer mitigation program Papiz has implemented. He asked if residents can help with pulling out invasive species. Papiz stated he generally finds enough help with himself, a co-worker in water resources, and other City workers. However, volunteer outreach is on his mind if needed.

Member Wagner asked what the schedule of controlled burns looks like and the purpose of controlled burns. Papiz noted rain gardens are burned every year, and parks are not burned yearly due to pollinator larvae.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackledge thanked Papiz for his presentation and echoed sentiments shared by other Council Members. He also pointed City residents to the forestry website as a great resource.

B. Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan Annual Report

Water Resources Specialist Wolf introduced the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), which included public education and outreach, public participation, illicit discharge detection and elimination, construction site stormwater runoff control, post-construction stormwater management, and pollution prevention and good housekeeping. She highlighted that stormwater pollution threatens lake health. She also noted compliance with the MS4 permits, the success of the Crystal Lake flocculation plant, and plans for 2025.

Member Greenberg asked how much work is left to do on Crystal Lake. Wolf stated the Lake is a work in progress, but she sees many positive improvements. There will always be a need for the flocculation plant due to the nature of the Lake.

Member Greenberg asked if other neighboring communities impact Robbinsdale lakes. Wolf stated that is correct. She described the pipe coming into Crystal Lake from Minneapolis and the active discussions to resolve the situation.

Member Greenberg expressed gratitude for the presentation and the work being done.

Member Parisian asked what Wolf expects the volume of carp removal to be compared to last year and the pattern that created for the following years. Wolf stated that is typically correct, however, carp are good at reproduction. Further, Wolf stated she does believe there is a carp reduction in the Lake and she hopes to introduce more bluegill that consume carp eggs.

Member Parisian asked what putting more plant life into the lake entails and what barriers are in the way. Wolf noted there is limited research on transplanting aquatic plant life, so much of what will be done is trial and error, but there is no harm in trying it.

Member Wagner expressed gratitude and thankfulness for the community outreach activities.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackledge echoed other Council Members' sentiments. He also asked if people can be a part of the carp removal process. Wolf stated they do not advertise when it is done due to some residents' opposing views, but that can be changed, and she sees it as an educational activity.

Sandvik noted that as part of the MS4, there are future steps needed. He advised the Council to ask if there is any public input, and then by motion, go forward with items 1 through 4 as noted in the recommendations.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Greenberg to approve receiving the annual report on the adopted SWPPP compliance for the 2024 calendar year, hold a public input meeting to receive comments and input on the adopted SWPPP, grant delegated authority to the Public Works Director/City Engineer and City Manager to process comments and advise the City Council of those decisions, and to authorize the City Manager to sign the Standard Annual Report upon conclusion of the comment investigation and submit that report to the MPCA by the designated date. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

This item was considered after Approval of the April 1, 2025, Meeting Agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

A. None

NEW BUSINESS
This item was considered after Approval of the April 1, 2025, Meeting Agenda.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Voucher Requests Pending Approval for Disbursement

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Wagner to approve disbursement requests for the period ending April 1, 2025. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Peterson-Etem noted services with Republic Services officially started today, and all bins should be delivered. He also noted that yard waste removal is set to start on April 14th to be collected on residents' normal collection date.

Sandvik apologized for inadvertently citing the wrong code number and subsection regarding the no-wake language. He thanked the Council for their support in terms of resources and funding and also thanked Jenna and Stephan for their presentations. He noted the good conversation at the LRT Lowry Station open house last week, upcoming events, Staff success in transitioning to Republic Services, positive community response to social media postings, and important upcoming dates with the Fire Department.

COUNCIL GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

Member Greenberg expressed his thankfulness for the presentations and the care for the ecosystems. He also highlighted Transgender Day of Visibility.

Member Parisian shared Member Greenberg's sentiments related to both the presentations and Transgender Day of Visibility.

Member Wagner thanked Staff for all the preparation they do prior to meetings, echoed the sentiments towards Transgender Visibility Day, and wished those who celebrate Ramadan a happy Eid. He also wanted to make note of the microphone feedback and asked to mitigate that in future meetings.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackledge thanked Staff for their time and expressed appreciation for other Council Members.

ADJOURNMENT
Mayor Pro Tem Blackledge MOVED, seconded by Wagner to adjourn the meeting at 9:44 p.m. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Signed by:
Chase Peterson-Etem
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Chase Peterson-Etem, City Clerk

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