



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; Jeffrey Lunde, Hennepin County Commissioner; Rachel Leen, Communications Coordinator; Richard McCoy, City Engineer/Public Works Director; Heather Rand, Community Development Director

MICROPHONE CHECK

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

Diane Jorde, 4231 Drew Ave. N., noted she is concerned about what happened on Sunday night and asked if there is a permit to hold events and the limits on the number of people who can attend. She also asked about other regulations in the parks as well as signage.

Jerry Blem, 2605 Parkview Blvd., asked about the park rules and signs, in particular around alcohol use signs and weapons signage.

Claudia Fuglie, 4556 Lake Dr., asked about accessibility throughout the city and noted that many convenient options, such as drive-throughs, do not offer a wheelchair-accessible option, and asked the Council to consider that during the planning process.

Carl Carrico, 4335 Unity Ave. N., noted his concern over the reopening of the transit center and also asked how the city plans to address the tents that have been spotted in the city.

Mayor Sutton noted the Council will be discussing the delicate process of the issues around homelessness, and the Council will meet to discuss it.

Jerry Blem, 2605 Parkview Blvd., noted the Robbinsdale Police Department has access to and utilizes a social worker, and noted that a person may be able to help in sensitive situations.

Mayor Sutton noted services are offered and available.

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 6, 2025, MEETING AGENDA

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

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Greenberg, to approve the May 6, 2025, City Council agenda as amended. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Approve City Council meeting minutes from April 15, 2025
- B. Receive Sustainability Committee Meeting minutes from February 19, 2025
- C. A Resolution Supporting the City of Robbinsdale to Host a Minnesota GreenCorps Member during the 2025-2026 Program Year
- D. Approval of Licenses
- E. 2nd Reading of an Ordinance Adopting Updates to Appendix B - Fee Schedule
- F. Receive Robbinsdale EDA Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2025 Meeting
- G. Receive Planning Commission Minutes of February 20th, 2025 Meeting
- H. Approval of Fiber Route Project for 2025
- I. Accept Funding from Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program, ECP Round 4
- J. Authorize staff to accept grant funds from AKC Reunite Program
- K. Miller Concessions at Hy-Vee

PRESENTATIONS

- A. Annual Presentation - Hennepin County Commissioner Lunde

Hennepin County Commissioner Lunde highlighted the Streets to Housing Program, team staffing, community safety, Cities United, youth intervention strategies, Blue Line extension, Commissioner Budget Amendments, and levy increases.

Member Wagner asked if Lunde received updates from County Staff when they came to City work sessions regarding light pollution and the Metro Transit Police substation. Lunde stated there was no current update, but he would work to secure more information.

Mayor Sutton asked when the County will request grant funding next year. Lunde stated the federal government will only provide up to 49%. He noted that Staff watch similar projects that are further in the process.

Mayor Sutton noted budget overruns in the SouthWest Transit project and asked what is being done to ensure budget adherence. Lunde noted a new governance structure, which allows the County to know expenditures ahead of time.

Mayor Sutton asked what would happen if the funding didn't come. Lunde stated that the County Board would need to meet and adjustments would need to be made.

Member Wagner expressed gratitude for Lunde's presence. Member Wagner asked for an update on the hiring of a Metro Transit Police Chief. Lunde stated the County is more of an advisory board to Metro Transit PD, and he has no insight on when the new chief will be hired.

Member Wagner asked what the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office's stance is regarding immigration enforcement. Lunde stated he does not want to speak for the Sheriff, but he believes the Sheriff's Office stance is similar to Robbinsdale in that immigration enforcement is a federal responsibility.

Member Wagner asked about the Herc disclosure timeline and legislative asks. Lunde noted County has received a bonding appropriation to add an anaerobic digester for organics, and there is a detailed plan in place. Member Wagner asked for clarification regarding Lunde stating they are repurposing. Lunde noted County received bonding money for a digester two years ago, and the County is looking to use that money in a different way.

Member Parisian thanked the Commissioner for his presentation and asked if this is the first year Hennepin County has been a part of the Cities United gathering. Lunde stated the County has attended in the past, but this is the first year of partnership. Member Parisian stated she would love to see the breakout topics and agenda.

Member Parisian highlighted interest in seeing the new Behavioral Health Center upon opening.

Member Parisian asked if there are plans for public involvement within the Birth Justice Community Advisory Board. Lunde stated the Community Advisory Board will be open to membership starting this summer.

Mayor Sutton asked why the organics fee goes up when participation in the program increases. Lunde noted that the State decided that everyone pays for organics despite usage and how the service is offered to residents is a city license.

City Manager Sandvik noted there is an additional charge for processing and carrying, and State statutes note service costs must be the same for each resident. Sandvik asked Mayor Sutton if he was referring to the chart provided by the hauler in the packet. Mayor Sutton stated yes. Sandvik noted that the reason fees increase as participation increases is due to additional truck and processing costs. Mayor Sutton stated that this does not make sense to him, but they can discuss this at a later time.

Member Blackledge asked what the definition of youth is in regard to the Crisis Intervention Center Hennepin County is looking to implement. Lunde stated that legally, it is very prescribed, but on the behavioral health side, they tend not to put limits on it because of brain development.

Member Greenberg asked what challenges are expected with the direction the Federal Government is headed. Lunde stated the County is taking on challenges as they come and not changing things preemptively. He did note the hiring freeze as one challenge.

Lunde noted the Council should expect a message in the near future regarding a meeting to hear Council priorities so he can best reflect those.

B. Robbinsdale Communications Annual Presentation

Communications Coordinator Leen highlighted the current communication methods used by the City, social media engagement, Newsletters, website redesign, internal and external branding efforts, communication changes implemented this past year, and future communication goals.

Member Wagner expressed gratitude for the work Leen has done and appreciated the focus on accessibility for all residents. He noted the Birdtown Brief and Utility Insert don't have social media contacts and asked for Leen's consideration to add them.

Member Parisian thanked Leen for her innovation and asked if the website being mobile-friendly was by design. Leen stated that Civic Plus built that in from the beginning. Member Parisian also noted how impressed she was with the quick turnaround of the redesign.

Member Blackledge echoed the sentiments of the Council.

Member Greenberg asked why the number of individuals accessing the Birdtown Brief is smaller. Leen noted there are various ways to access it, and the people who do access it enjoy the resource.

Mayor Sutton expressed his gratitude and enjoys the growth he's seen. He asked why the Police Department doesn't have an Instagram. Leen noted she runs the Police Department's LinkedIn, and the Police Department runs their Facebook page, but they could have that discussion.

C. National Public Works Week Proclamation

City Engineer/Public Works Director Richard McCoy introduced the theme for National Public Works Week as people, purpose, and presence. McCoy stated that meeting the needs of people is public works purpose, despite the lack of fanfare. He highlighted the daily and seasonal tasks Public Works does for the community, water treatment facility tours being offered on May 20 and May 22, and plans to promote Public Works to legislators.

Member Wagner expressed his gratitude to the Robbinsdale Public Works Staff.

Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Parisian, to adopt the Proclamation for National Public Works Week in the City of Robbinsdale. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

D. Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Proclamation

Sandvik introduced the Proclamation put forth by the DEI committee.

Member Parisian thanked the DEI committee for this addition.

Member Wagner echoed Member Parisian's sentiments.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Greenberg, to adopt the Proclamation for Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in the City of Robbinsdale. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Second reading of Ordinance No. 25-04 amending section 815.07 of the Robbinsdale City Code

Sandvik introduced the Ordinance history and updated language.

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

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

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Wagner, to waive the second reading and adopt Ordinance No. 25-04, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 815.07 TO THE ROBBINSDALE CITY CODE RELATING TO HOURS OF OPERATION OF CRYSTAL LAKE AND LOWER TWIN LAKE. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

B. Public Hearing on Proposed Water Rates for North Memorial

Sandvik introduced the history of the item. Staff recommends adopting a single change in the utility fee schedule.

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

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

Member Wagner asked if this is a preliminary rate and can be changed in the future. Sandvik noted they spent a lot of time over the past two years going over usage and aligning fees accordingly.

Member Greenberg asked what percentage of homes in residence use over forty thousand gallons of water. Sandvik noted an incredibly small percentage of households. He stated the rate schedule is set up to discourage that amount of water usage.

Member Greenberg highlighted the benefit of North Memorial's water usage due to its efficiency. McCoy stated that having a high-usage consumer who is consistent will be better for the water treatment plant.

Mayor Sutton asked if they could bring utility rates down or freeze them. Sandvik stated the long-standing intention is to level off increases, but they have a one-hundred-year infrastructure being replaced. McCoy echoed the sentiments regarding the age of infrastructure in Robbinsdale.

Mayor Sutton noted that some individuals have complained about the quality of their water. McCoy highlighted that he has heard similar things shared, but the City is willing to come and test, and they are all on the same water.

Member Wagner asked where the legislature is with sales tax for the City, and if building a second water tower would qualify as a project under the bill. Sandvik stated that the tax language noted it had to be for community good, including more than just the City of Robbinsdale.

Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Greenberg, to adopt Resolution NO. 8154 " A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING CITY WATER, RATES IN THE CITY OF ROBBINSDALE EFFECTIVE FOR ALL USAGE BEGINNING MAY 6, 2025." The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

C. Permit – Chickens – 4351 France Avenue North

Sandvik introduced the domestic animal application, noted the notification completion, and recommended approval.

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

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

Member Parisian asked if Staff received any comments from neighbors post notification. Sandvik stated Staff has not received any feedback.

Member Greenberg asked for clarification regarding the current status of the structure and the need for conditions a through f. Sandvik stated that the conditions are there so the resident knows what needs to be completed in order to be approved. Member Greenberg asked if the structure is complete. Sandvik stated a roughed-out area has begun, but nothing is complete.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Blackledge, to approve the request of up to six (6) chickens at 4351 France Avenue North, subject to conditions a through f. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Second Reading and Adoption of an Ordinance Adding Section 1165 Cannabis and LPHE Business Regulations to the Robbinsdale City Code Chapter XI, Business & Trade Regulations, and Amending City Code Chapter V, Planning and Land Use Regulations, Sections 520, 521, 525 for the Purpose of Establishing Zoning Requirements for State Licensed Cannabis and Lower Potency Hemp Edible Businesses in the City.

Community Development Director Rand introduced the history of the Ordinance, discussed licensure and registration, and partnership with the State. Staff recommends approval of the Ordinance.

Member Wagner expressed gratitude towards Staff for staying on top of changes.

Mayor Sutton stated that before this point, there were no laws surrounding smoking cannabis in public parks and public settings, and now there will be. Sandvik noted there is a no drug use policy and no smoking policy, and the language currently proposed it clear that it is a prohibited act. Staff are prepared to react as appropriate based on community feedback.

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Parisian, to waive the second reading and adopt Ordinance No. 25-07 "AN ORDINANCE ADDING SECTION 1165 TO CHAPTER XI, BUSINESS AND TRADE REGULATIONS OF THE CITY CODE REGARDING THE REGISTRATION OF CANNABIS AND LOWER POTENCY HEMP EDIBLE PRODUCT BUSINESSES AND RELATED REGULATIONS INCLUDING FEES, AND AMENDING TEXT IN CHAPTER V, PLANNING AND LAND USE REGULATIONS, SECTIONS 520, 521, 525 FOR THE PUROSE OF ESTABLISHING ZONING REQUIREMENTS FOR THESE STATE LICENSED CANNABIS AND HEMP BUSINESSES." The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

- B. Second Reading of an Ordinance Amending Chapter IV, Building, Housing, and Construction Regulations

Rand highlighted the redundancies in licensing that this Ordinance would address.

Member Greenberg noted that while the City is waiving the licensing fee, some offsets are happening in other areas. Rand highlighted fee increases for basic construction project permits as noted in the consent agenda.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Greenberg, to waive second reading and adopt Ordinance No. 25-06, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER IV, BUILDING, HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION REGULATIONS, SECTION 405, LICENSED CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES OF THE ROBBINSDALE CITY CODE." The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. First Reading of an Ordinance Amending City Code Sign Ordinance (Chapter V, Planning and Land Use, Section 410 - Signs)

Rand provided an overview of the item, detailed the history of the current city code, and brought the code up-to-date. She stated there was a public hearing held on April 17 and no members of the public came forth to comment. Staff recommends approval.

Member Greenberg asked for clarification regarding the wording of 15 square feet per parcel. Rand stated the intent of cumulative is in terms of the sign face. Sandvik stated that if someone does interpret it that way, it should not cause issues in way of enforcement.

Member Blackledge noted his thanks for the work done.

Mayor Sutton asked if signage had been a problem in the past. Sandvik stated they have received complaints in the past, but compliance enforcement is difficult. Mayor Sutton is concerned about limiting freedom of expression and isn't sure there is a need for this code.

Member Greenberg stated it's good to be clear and have rules in place, and it allows for recourse if an issue arises.

Member Sutton asked if there is language regarding duration. Sandvik didn't address duration, but highlighted that this Ordinance gives them standing.

Rand stated that there is a provision for businesses in commercial areas.

Member Wagner stated this clarifies existing language and that residential banners can be rediscussed if desired.

Mayor Sutton noted he would like to discuss residential banners further in a work session.

Member Greenberg reiterated his support for the Ordinance and noted that they could address residential banners if it becomes an issue.

Member Parisian highlighted that this is just clarifying the City Code and until hearing feedback from the City she would hold on discussing further in a work session.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Blackledge, to approve the first reading of an Ordinance Amending Section 410 Pertaining to Signs in Residential Zoned Districts, Chapter V, Planning and Land Use. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Voucher Requests Pending Approval for Disbursement

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Blackledge, to approve voucher disbursement requests for the period ending May 6, 2025. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Peterson-Etem noted that if a resident has a Waste Management bin, to contact the City so that it can be changed over. He also highlighted that starting April 25, residents can now change garbage bin sizes if desired.

Sandvik highlighted the Arbor Day event, the Lions events, the Public Safety barbeque, the movie in the park, and Whizbang Days.

COUNCIL GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

Member Blackledge expressed thanks to the City for its mindfulness after a recent incident in the City and encouraged residents to be neighborly.

Member Greenberg noted it has been a heavy week due to the incident that occurred in Ward 2. He stated he is available and willing to talk to residents. Member Greenberg highlighted that with everything happening in the National Government, he wants people to know the City Staff are here for residents and their voices will be heard.

Member Parisian highlighted May being Mental Health Awareness Month and discussed crisis resources available.

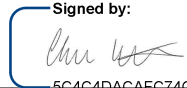
Member Wagner echoed Member Parisian's sentiments regarding mental health and thanked the Mayor for his statement regarding the recent shooting. Member Wagner, addressing Sandvik, asked for a work session update on park signage, accessibility requirements in business districts, and a City update on the Herc timeline. Member Greenberg reminded residents that they are invited to walk with the Mayor on Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m. at Graeser Park.

Mayor Sutton encouraged positivity online and seeking to understand one another.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Greenberg, to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 p.m. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

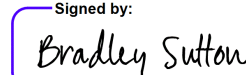
Signed by:



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Chase Peterson-Em, City Clerk

Signed by:



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Bradley Sutton, Mayor