



City of Robbinsdale

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:26 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Murphy, Webb, Parisian, Blonigan, Mayor Pro Tem Wagner
Absent: None
Staff: Chase Peterson-Etem, City Clerk; Richard McCoy City Engineer/Public Works Director

DISCUSSION

A. Telework Policy Discussion

Peterson-Etem introduced the item and noted this policy is being created in response to the City's goal session earlier this year which identified staffing as an area to focus on. He noted increased recruitment and retention as two areas where this policy could help to meet staffing goals. It was also mentioned that a city-wide survey was conducted and teleworking received a positive response from staff members and department heads.

Member Webb stated she thinks every organization needs a telework policy and that it is the way the workforce is heading now. She asked if there would be specific people who would be a part of the pilot. Peterson-Etem noted several factors that would determine who could telework.

Member Wagner asked who completed the survey and if there was leadership support. Peterson-Etem stated the survey was available to all staff and that leadership was in support of this policy.

Member Parisian stated she supports a telework policy, especially if the goal is for employee retention and recruitment. She also recommended the pilot be increased to staff teleworking two days a week. She also inquired about on-site inspections of the work area.

Mayor Blonigan stated the policy is well drafted and noted this is something that the Council did push for.

Member Webb asked that language be added that addresses what employees who are teleworking can expect from the city.

Member Wagner asked about the need for laptops in order for staff to telework. Peterson-Etem stated there could be some cost associated with supplying laptops, but noted laptops would be supplied to employees as their work stations are being updated on an equipment replacement schedule.

Member Parisian suggested staff create a survey to determine if a teleworking pilot is successful.

McCoy provided his thoughts on the policy, including staff coverage, security, and equity. Member Wagner noted staff could add language if there is a staff member unexpectedly out and coverage that would be needed.

Mayor Blonigan asked if other cities are allowing employees to telework. Peterson-Etem noted several cities

around the metro are offering telework options.

B. Zenith Avenue Traffic Controls

McCoy presented the item and provided background to the Council. He noted this has been presented to the Council previously and staff has been gathering additional information related to the traffic on Zenith Avenue. He noted the traffic speeds are being followed and staff recommends taking no action, but to continue to have the police department monitor the vehicle speeds and enforcement.

Mayor Blonigan mentioned the possibility of having sidewalks, but stated the raw data shows this street doesn't have an overwhelming number of people speeding and agrees with staff's recommendation.

Member Webb stated she also thinks sidewalks would be helpful and is interested in reducing the speed limit. She noted the biggest hurdle is enforcement.

Member Murphy noted in 2023 there were significantly more vehicles and asked why that may be. McCoy stated it is most likely from other roads being closed.

McCoy noted there is still a percentage of people that will not abide by the posted speed limit and anything under 10-15 percent is acceptable.

Mayor Pro Tem Wagner asked if that street is on the schedule for reconstruction soon. McCoy stated not anytime soon.

Mayor Blonigan asked how much it would cost to add sidewalks. McCoy stated it would cost between \$100,000 to \$150,000, but that the topography would make adding sidewalks challenging. Mayor Blonigan asked about an assessment to add sidewalks. McCoy stated he would need to look at the policy.

Member Webb asked staff if they could provide numbers for the potential cost of an assessment. McCoy noted whatever the City decides to do here, has to be something the Council is comfortable doing everywhere in the City.

Mayor Pro Tem Wagner stated he would like to look into an assessment option for future use. McCoy noted there is currently a process to do this through a petition.

Member Parisian asked if there are any plans for follow-up communications and if the staff would send updates to residents. McCoy stated staff could send information to residents based on Council feedback, but would want to connect with the City Manager first to get his direction.

STAFF UPDATES

None.

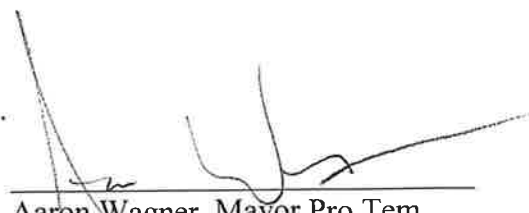
COUNCIL UPDATES

Mayor Blonigan stated there is a program called the Livable Communities Advisory Commission through the Met Council and that he will be the Chair of it. He noted the City of Robbinsdale should seek money through this program.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Wagner adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.


Chase Peterson-Item, City Clerk


Aaron Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem