ROBBINSDALE

City Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 16, 2025
Meeting No. 18

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; Diaa Tahoun, Finance Director; Kayla Kirtz, Sustainability Coordinator

MICROPHONE CHECK

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

Marnie Stone, 3348 Chowen Ave. N., voiced concern over the amount of potential yard waste they could have and asked what potential solutions could be provided to homeowners.

Jack Chesney, 4118 Shoreline Dr., asked about the Shoreline project and noted his concerns about the proposed plans.

Patricia Karsten, 4118 Shoreline Dr, noted her concerns about the Shoreline project and asked the Council to consider the green space and parking.

Ian Elletson, 3358 Chowen Ave. N., asked that a traffic safety meter be installed in the alleyway near him as there are two retaining walls that make it difficult and dangerous to see oncoming traffic or pedestrians.

Dennis Chaplin, 3333 Chowen Ave. N., noted the parking by his alley and asked why they could no longer use their own bins for yard waste collection.

Dave Bannister, 4134 Shoreline Ave. N., stated his concerns about the Shoreline project and asked what could still be done. His daughter also expressed concern about project.

Falicia Gobernatz, 4120 Shoreline Dr., expressed her concern about the Shoreline Project and asked about the walking path and why they would be removing the bench across from her house.

The Council indicated they would like to discuss this at a future meeting.

Dan Elliott, 4142 Shoreline Dr., noted the Shoreline project and asked about easements, visuals, property values, and a set of steps on his property.

Member Blackledge noted these concerns are being heard and will be discussed.

Member Greenberg noted this project is in his ward and residents can contact him with questions too.

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2025, MEETING AGENDA

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

1. Addition of Consent Item A, Approval of Licenses
2. Addition of Other Business Item 11A, Voucher Requests Pending Approval for Disbursement

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Blackledge, to approve the September 16, 2025, City Council agenda as amended. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

A. Approval of Licenses City Council Meeting Agenda September 16, 2025

B. Robbinsdale Wine & Spirits' Monthly Financial Statements

C. Deputy Registrar's Monthly Financial Statements

D. Portable Radios for the Fire Department

E. Authorize Mayor and City Manager to Execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Pet Under Police Security (PUPS)

F. Consider Resolution Updating Guidelines for Attendance by Interactive Technology

G. Authorize Resolution to set preliminary levy, and Schedule the date for the Truth-in-Taxation Budget Meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

A. 2026 Proposed General Fund Budget

Finance Director Tahoun discussed tax levy deadlines, the proposed general fund levy increase, the general fund property tax levy, the debt service levy increase, the HRA levy increase, position requests, general fund revenue highlights, and general fund expenditure highlights.

Member Wagner asked for clarification regarding the numbers presented in relation to property tax levies. Tahoun stated these are the actual levy amounts that would be split between Residents.

Mayor Sutton stated Local Government Aid (LGA) for 2026 appears consistent with the previous year and asked what led to the significant increase in 2024. City Manager Sandvik explained that in certain years, the state allocates more funding to the overall pool; however, the distribution formula may result in individual cities receiving the same or different amounts. When asked if the City could influence these outcomes, Sandvik clarified that LGA allocations are determined at the legislative level, though factors like the age of the housing stock can affect eligibility. Sandvik assured the Council that the City will continue advocating to maintain LGA funding.

Member Parisian requested clarification on the notable increase in the debt service levy related to construction projects. Tahoun explained that the rise is due to necessary equipment replacements as well as the impact of inflation and ongoing street projects. City Manager Sandvik added that a substantial portion of the funding was allocated toward purchasing a new ladder truck, infrastructure improvements at Sanborn Park, and road construction.

Member Greenberg asked for clarification on the "Other Charges and Services" category within the proposed 2026 general fund expenditures. City Manager Sandvik explained that this category primarily includes operational costs associated with staffing and personnel.

Mayor Sutton asked whether the Assistant Police Chief position is eligible for overtime pay. Finance Director Dahoun stated the position does not receive overtime compensation.

Mayor Sutton asked what responsibilities would go unfulfilled if the Assistant Police Chief position were not filled. Sandvik responded that growing State and Federal reporting requirements have increased the need for leadership and administrative capacity within the department.

Member Greenberg thanked Tahoun for the presentation and clarified that the questions were not intended as opposition, but were asked in the interest of better serving the community.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. None

OLD BUSINESS

A. None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed 2026 General Fund and Debt Service Property Tax Levies

Tahoun provided an overview of the item and detailed the background of the work session discussion, aid, and the general fund reserve.

Sandvik gave a brief overview of the process and noted these decisions are not made lightly.

Member Wagner thanked Sandvik and the Finance Department. He asked for clarification regarding the memo options and which one was chosen. Tahoun stated Option 3 was chosen.

Member Blackledge stated this process has been insightful and thanked the Staff for answering questions.

Member Wagner commented that the percentage sets the ceiling, but would still like to see this come down more.

Member Greenberg pointed out that it's difficult to compare levies with those of nearby cities because the structure of their commercial and industrial sectors is quite different. The Council remains aware of the additional levy's residents are already managing.

Member Parisian emphasized the significance of these decisions and expressed appreciation for the thoughtful and engaging conversations that have taken place.

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Parisian, to waive the reading and adopt Resolution No. 8172 A RESOLUTION SETTING THE PROPOSED 2026 GENERAL FUND AND DEBT SERVICE NET

PROPERTY TAX LEVIES FOR CERTIFICATION TO HENNEPIN COUNTY. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

B. Proposed 2026 HRA Property Tax Levy

Tahoun provided an overview of the item and discussed the deadline and levy increase.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Blackledge, to waive the reading and adopt Resolution No. 8173 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE PROPOSED 2026 HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (HRA) PROPERTY TAX LEVY FOR CERTIFICATION TO HENNEPIN COUNTY. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

C. First Reading of an Ordinance Amending Sections of the Robbinsdale City Code Related to Electric Vehicle Charging Stations and Solar Energy Systems

Sustainability Coordinator Kirtz discussed the background of the item and the Ordinance language.

Mayor Sutton asked if there is specified language for Tesla chargers versus other EV vehicles. Kirtz noted yes, there is language stating 10% of chargers must be level one or greater.

Mayor Sutton voiced concern over the differences in EV chargers. Kirtz stated EV manufacturers are moving towards one charging plug.

Mayor Sutton expressed his opposition to the Ordinance, believing that these developments will occur naturally without government intervention. He noted that developers are already taking these steps on their own, and an Ordinance would be an unnecessary overreach.

Member Greenberg stated that if developers are already doing it anyway, then the City should create a framework.

Member Parisian is supportive of the Policy and is glad to see the maintenance upkeep addressed.

Mayor Sutton asked if the maintenance requirements would apply to existing stations. Kirtz stated she believes it is. Sandvik noted he would be happy to look into this further.

Member Blackledge commented on his appreciation for the changes made since the work session and is happy to support the Ordinance.

Member Wagner voiced his support for the Ordinance.

Kirtz noted the meetings with the Planning Commission were very in-depth.

Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Parisian, to approve the first reading of an Ordinance Amending Sections 505, 510, 515, 517, 520, and 525 of the Robbinsdale City Code Relating To Electric Vehicles, Electric Vehicle Charging Stations, and Solar Energy Systems.

A roll call was taken:
Ayes: Blackledge, Greenberg, Parisian, Wagner
Nays: Sutton
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 September 16, 2025. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

B. Enterprise Funds Budget, Capital Project Funds Budget, and CIP Plan Work Sessions

Sandvik recommended different dates for work sessions for the presentation and review of the proposed City Manager's Budget for the 2026 Enterprise and Capital Improvement Funds and the 2026-2035 Capital Improvement Plan.

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Wagner, to approve a work session meeting on October 21st at 6:00 p.m. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Sandvik thanked the Council for their work on the budget and thanked the Chamber of Commerce for hosting the meet and greet last night.

COUNCIL GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

Member Parisian echoed Sandvik's sentiments regarding the meet and greet.

Member Greenberg expressed his appreciation for those who attended the meet and greet and thanked the Residents for coming to speak this evening.

Member Blackledge noted it was fun to engage with Residents at the meet and greet and encouraged community engagement.

Member Wagner asked Sandvik to address what's acceptable in yard waste bins. Sandvik stated food and compostable household items.

Mayor Sutton stated the Community in Robbinsdale is something special.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Greenberg, to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

Signed by:
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Chase Peterson-Etem, City Clerk

Signed by:
E7B75791DA394D6...
Bradley Sutton, Mayor