



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 (Remote)

Absent:

Staff: Tim Sandvik, City Manager; Chase Peterson-Etem, Assistant City Manager/City Clerk; Richard McCoy, City Engineer/Public Works Director; Kayla Kirtz, Sustainability Coordinator; Will Bucheger, Assistant Planner

MICROPHONE CHECK

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

None.

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 4, 2025, MEETING AGENDA

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

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Wagner, to approve the November 4, 2025, City Council agenda as amended.

A roll call was taken:

Ayes: Blackledge, Greenberg, Parisian, Wagner, Sutton

Nays: None

The motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Greenberg, to approve the consent agenda.

A roll call was taken:

Ayes: Blackledge, Greenberg, Parisian, Wagner, Sutton

Nays: None

The motion carried.

- A. Approval of Credit Card Charges and Payment – June 2025
- B. Approval of Credit Card Charges and Payment – July 2025
- C. Robbinsdale Wine & Spirits' Monthly Financial Statements

- D. Deputy Registrar's Monthly Financial Statements
- E. A Resolution Approving a Change to the By-Laws of the Robbinsdale Fire Department Relief Association
- F. Receive Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of May 15, 2025
- G. Receive July 17, 2025, Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
- H. Receive August 21, 2025, Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
- I. Approval of Credit Card Charges and Payment – August 2025
- J. Approve City Council Meeting minutes from October 21, 2025
- K. Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) between Hennepin County, the City of Robbinsdale, and the Three Rivers Park District

PRESENTATIONS

- A. Robbinsdale Proclaims Saturday, Nov 29th, Small Business Saturday

Sandvik introduced the Proclamation declaring Saturday, November 29, 2025, as Small Business Saturday.

Member Parisian thanked the Staff for putting the Proclamation together and encouraged residents to support local businesses and restaurants.

Mayor Sutton echoed Member Parisian's sentiments.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. None

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Chowen Avenue Trunk Drainage - Project 73225 - Change Order

City Engineer/Public Works Director McCoy introduced the background of the Item and discussed the newfound challenges, proposed solution, and costs.

Member Greenberg asked if it was reasonable to assume that this type of material would be found, given what is known, and whether there were other ways to have known those materials were in the soil. McCoy stated that the only way to have discovered it earlier would have been to dig the pits themselves. He added that another perplexing aspect is that the debris is located below lake level, and the expectation to encounter that type of material at that depth did not make sense.

Member Greenberg then asked if any of the material found could be saved or sold to recoup money, noting he was trying to be creative in finding value in the material. McCoy replied that he was unsure how that could be accomplished and did not know anyone with expertise in that area. Sandvik commented that it was a creative idea, but that pursuing it would incur additional costs based on speculation. He noted that the material is primarily trash that has been dug up, but said they could revisit the idea.

Member Parisian echoed Member Greenberg's sentiments regarding hindsight and reflection on the situation. She asked about the aggregate ramp and whether there were any risks associated with that approach, specifically any additional costs that could arise from unforeseen circumstances. McCoy responded that he did not recall any additional issues with the Chowen project and did not foresee anything significant at this stage.

Member Parisian asked if aggregate ramps exist elsewhere in Robbinsdale and how common the practice is. McCoy stated that no other aggregate ramps currently exist in the city, but one was used during the Chowen Avenue project.

Member Parisian commented that this situation makes for a complicated decision process, but stated that she believes the risks are too great not to continue with the project. McCoy added that Staff have learned from this project and will apply this new knowledge to the Shoreline Drive project to better anticipate what they may encounter.

Member Wagner asked if the pipe depth could be changed or if there was an option to dig past the debris and lay the drain. McCoy explained that they are limited by the upstream grade where the pipe must connect and that altering the depth would likely result in similar or higher costs.

Member Wagner commented that if the Staff could prevent the trash from being reburied, that would be ideal. McCoy responded that the material appears to be fairly inert.

Member Wagner added that the discovery was disappointing, but said he recognizes the risks of delaying the project and appreciates McCoy's transparency, noting that lessons should be learned from this experience.

Member Blackledge asked if this could be turned into a community project focused on removing the debris. He acknowledged that it is unfortunate they could not have foreseen everything, but expressed appreciation for the clear next steps provided.

Mayor Sutton asked if sections of the Master Parks Plan could be used to offset some of the costs. Sandvik replied that some funds specific to stormwater could be used and stated his support for the proposed funding approach presented by McCoy.

Mayor Sutton concluded by noting that another Mayor had spoken highly of McCoy and highlighted his strong reputation across the City and State.

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Blackledge, to approve a Change Order to Project 73225 consisting of the provision of a supporting aggregate raft and the provision of an additional 40 lineal feet of 30" pipework to service the storm lift station for an increase of up to \$ 750,000.00.

A roll call was taken:

Ayes: Blackledge, Greenberg, Parisian, Wagner, Sutton

Nays: None

The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Energy Action Plan Addendum

Sustainability Coordinator Kirtz introduced Community Energy Planner Lidet Bayou from Partners in Energy and commented that the Staff is hoping to receive an addendum to the current Energy Action Plan.

Community Facilitator Bayou presented the focus areas and strategies of the new addendum and implementation

support offered by Partners in Energy.

Member Wagner noted that he is glad to see the program continuing to grow and appreciates the added community engagement.

Member Blackledge commented that he enjoys the educational aspect of the program, emphasizing that meaningful change can only occur when the community is informed.

Member Parisian expressed her support for the recommendations presented during the meeting and thanked Excel for their ongoing support.

Member Greenberg agreed with the sentiments shared by the other Council Members, noting that he has heard a great deal of excitement from residents and recognizes the value of the program.

Mayor Sutton stated that the program is progressing well toward its goals and shared that he participated in the energy audit, which he found to be excellent.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Greenberg, to adopt the Beneficial Electrification and Electric Vehicle Action Plan Addendum.

A roll call was taken:

Ayes: Blackledge, Greenberg, Parisian, Wagner, Sutton

Nays: None

The motion carried.

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Blackledge, to authorize the Mayor to sign the 2025-2027 Addendum Implementation Support Memorandum of Understanding with Xcel Energy.

A roll call was taken:

Ayes: Blackledge, Greenberg, Parisian, Wagner, Sutton

Nays: None

The motion carried.

B. First Reading for an Ordinance Amendment to City Code Section relating to the Domestic Animal Permit

Assistant Planner Bucheger discussed the current City Code and the desire to include quails within the domestic animal permit.

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Blackledge, to approve the first reading of an Ordinance Amending Sections 915.37 of the Robbinsdale City Code Relating to Domestic Animal Permits.

A roll call was taken:

Ayes: Blackledge, Greenberg, Parisian, Wagner, Sutton

Nays: None

The motion carried.

A. First Reading for an Ordinance Amendment to Allow Event Centers as Conditional Uses in the B4 District

Assistant Planner Bucheger discussed the background of the Ordinance, current zoning issues, and noted the recommendation of the Planning Commission.

Member Wagner asked for additional information regarding the conditional use permit application process. Bucheger explained that the process requires applicants to review the conditional uses approved in the City Code, pay the application fee, provide a site plan, and submit a description and letter outlining their intended use of the event center. Staff then review the application and prepare it for consideration at a Planning Commission meeting, where the proposal is discussed in detail. Bucheger added that liquor licensing must still be obtained separately through the City and is not part of the conditional use permit process. After hearing this explanation, Member Wagner stated that he felt very comfortable approving the request.

Member Greenberg asked whether there is wording in the City Code that specifically defines an event center and clarifies what constitutes such a use. Bucheger responded that the term "event center" is interpreted by staff as it is not currently defined in the Code.

Sandvik highlighted Bucheger's thorough knowledge of the City Code and noted that there have been past circumstances where community members were unable to move forward with their plans due to existing Ordinance limitations.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Blackledge, to approve the first reading of an Ordinance Amending Sections 520.07 of the Robbinsdale City Code Relating to Event Centers.

A roll call was taken:

Ayes: Blackledge, Greenberg, Parisian, Wagner, Sutton

Nays: None

The motion carried.

B. Conditional Use Permit to 4130 Lakeland Ave N City Council Meeting Agenda November 4, 2025
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Bucheger provided background on the Item, district zoning, parking standards, conditional use permit findings of facts, Planning Commission recommendation, and the action requested by Staff.

Member Wagner asked to hear from the applicant regarding what inspired the event center in question.

Jennifer VanRiper, the applicant, shared what inspired her to create the event space and provided details about the purpose and features of the proposed building.

Member Wagner stated he would love to come to an event sometime and highlighted the center as an asset to the community.

Member Greenberg voiced support for the center.

Member Blackledge expressed excitement for the event center and nonprofit.

Member Parisian noted the Council's unwavering support and excitement for this endeavor.

Mayor Sutton voiced his support and offered assistance if anything is needed.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Greenberg, to adopt Resolution No. 8182, A RESOLUTION TO ALLOW THE USE OF AN EVENT CENTER AT 4130 LAKELAND AVENUE NORTH.

A roll call was taken:

Ayes: Blackledge, Greenberg, Parisian, Wagner, Sutton

Nays: None

The motion carried.

C. First Reading of an Ordinance Amendment to the R1 Zoning District

Bucheger provided an overview of the item, detailed the background of the R1 zoning code, and noted legal concerns.

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Wagner, to approve the first reading of an Ordinance Amending Sections 515.01 Of The Robbinsdale City Code Relating to R-1, Single Family Residential District Conditional Uses.

A roll call was taken:

Ayes: Blackledge, Greenberg, Parisian, Wagner, Sutton

Nays: None

The motion carried.

D. First Reading for an Ordinance Amendment to City Code Section referring to the Tobacco Product Shop License

Bucheger provided an overview of the item, detailed the language the Staff would like to alter, and noted the Planning Commission recommendation.

Member Greenberg asked whether there is a minimum requirement for tobacco shops based on population, similar to the regulations related to cannabis. Bucheger explained that the Ordinance allows for two tobacco shops within the city. Member Greenberg asked if two is the maximum number permitted. Bucheger confirmed that it is. Member Greenberg expressed concern that a 500-foot separation between shops feels too close and suggested considering a greater distance.

Mayor Sutton asked for clarification on whether the City's Ordinance specifies a maximum of two shops. Bucheger confirmed that it does.

Mayor Sutton asked Council Member Greenberg why the distance between shops—whether 500 feet or 1,000 feet—matters to him.

Sandvik explained that the goal is to maintain consistency across different types of licenses and to ensure fairness in location requirements so that no single business is favored over another.

Member Greenberg suggested setting the distance at a half mile, as he has no desire for more tobacco shops if one of the two currently operating closes.

Sandvik expressed concern that doing so could create issues of preferential treatment. Member Greenberg asked if legal counsel shared that concern. Sandvik confirmed they did, explaining that allowing two shops but setting distance rules that effectively limit it to one could create inconsistencies. Member Greenberg stated that this was a reasonable explanation.

Member Wagner commented that he does not want the Council to act reactively, but agreed that the justification provided makes sense and supported the Staff's assessment.

Member Parisian thanked Bucheger for his effort and work on the City Code updates.

Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Parisian, to approve the first reading of an Ordinance Amending Sections 1132.13 Of The Robbinsdale City Code Relating to Tobacco Product Shop Setback Requirements.

A roll call was taken:

Ayes: Blackledge, Greenberg, Parisian, Wagner, Sutton

Nays: None

The motion carried.

E. Abatement to 3919 West Broadway

Bucheger provided an overview of the item, detailed the history of violations, noted the Code enforcement completed by the owner, and discussed the abatement process.

Member Wagner asked whether the contractor would also handle rodent removal if a nest is discovered during the project. Bucheger responded that the contractor would assess the situation and bring it back to the staff to determine the best course of action if rodents are found.

Member Greenberg expressed his appreciation for the thorough explanation of the situation and the abatement process.

Member Blackledge voiced his gratitude for the manner in which the situation was presented.

Mayor Sutton stated that he wants to approach the issue with compassion while also being mindful of residents' concerns and suggested having further discussion during a work session.

Sandvik stated he would be happy to bring the topic back for further discussion.

Member Greenberg supported revisiting the issue in a work session and said he would like to take a similar approach but with a faster timeline.

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Wagner, to waive the reading and order the adoption of Resolution No. 8183, A RESOLUTION TO ABATE PUBLIC NUISANCE AT 3919 WEST BROADWAY.

A roll call was taken:

Ayes: Blackledge, Greenberg, Parisian, Wagner, Sutton

Nays: None

The motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Voucher Requests Pending Approval for Disbursement

Member Greenberg asked for clarification on the large distribution to a PUPS facility in Maple Grove.

Sandvik noted this will be a facility where member Cities' police departments can bring lost pets. He stated the City exhausted options, and this distribution was approved by the Council a few weeks ago.

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Blackledge, to approve voucher disbursement requests for the period ending November 4, 2025. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

A roll call was taken:

Ayes: Blackledge, Greenberg, Parisian, Wagner, Sutton

Nays: None

The motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

City Clerk Peterson-Etem noted yard waste will end on November 28, 2025, but highlighted that Republic is also offering an additional pickup the first week of December and noted the details.

Sandvik offered his condolences to the family of Marjorie Johnson, and discussed the charging station coming soon, Manor Park updates, City Hall closure on Veterans Day, lighting of the holiday tree, and the City Council meeting on November 12.

COUNCIL GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

Member Blackledge thanked staff for their preparation, offered his condolences to the family of Marjorie Johnson, and encouraged members of the community to greet one another and stay connected.

Member Greenberg also offered condolences to the friends and family of Marjorie Johnson and thanked City staff for their work in arranging the additional yard waste collection date. He invited residents to attend the upcoming senior tech support sessions scheduled for November 10 and December 8.

Member Parisian extended her condolences to the family of Marjorie Johnson and shared a personal anecdote about her. She also highlighted the Blue Line Extension culture placemaking event and noted that another event is scheduled for November 19 at Elim Church.

Member Wagner echoed the condolences expressed by his colleagues and thanked Robbinsdale residents who volunteered during the recent election. He remarked that the Manor Park playground looks impressive and thanked staff for their work on that project.

Mayor Sutton thanked staff for their efforts related to the yard waste program and for their presentations during the meeting. He also offered condolences to the friends and family of Marjorie Johnson, sharing stories that reflected her lasting impact on the Robbinsdale community.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Parisian, to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 p.m. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

A roll call was taken:

Ayes: Blackledge, Greenberg, Parisian, Wagner, Sutton

Nays: None

The motion carried.

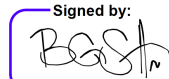
Signed by:



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Chase Peterson-Etem, City Clerk

Signed by:



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Bradley Sutton, Mayor