



City of Robbinsdale

City Council Special Work Session
Tuesday, October 17, 2023

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Wagner called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Murphy, Parisian, Mayor Blonigan, Mayor Pro Tem Wagner
Absent: Webb
Staff: Tim Sandvik, City Manager; Kayla Kirtz, Assistant to City Manager - Communications; Chase Peterson- Etem, City Clerk/Assistant to City Manager; Richard McCoy, Public Works Director/City Engineer; Diaa Tahoun, Finance Director

DISCUSSION

Robbinsdale Parkway United Church of Christ (UCC) representative voiced concerns about stormwater drainage fees. They stated that their charged rates far exceed rates charged to other churches in neighboring communities. The representative said there is a need for relief and is requesting that the Council reduce the stormwater drainage fees charged to churches.

Member Murphy asked the Public Works Director if churches are being charged the same as commercial properties. McCoy clarified that properties have different equivalencies, as specified in the City Code, and properties such as large commercial properties have a higher fraction of impervious surfaces.

Robbinsdale Parkway UCC noted that their church donated land on their property to the city for a rain garden. Sandvik clarified with McCoy whether or not the land was officially donated to the city. McCoy clarified that the land was passed as an easement and therefore the city does not own it, the church does.

Mayor Blonigan asked the other churches to share their concerns. Peace Lutheran noted that the churches were built before the city instigated the requirement of retention ponds for all new developments. Faith-Lilac Way noted that part of their impervious surface is also part of a city right-of-way.

Robbinsdale UCC clarified that churches are not expected to be treated differently from other land uses but are nonprofits and are seeking help from the Council to find a way to reduce stormwater fees for churches in a manner that achieves equity.

Member Murphy noted that the process for calculating charges for impervious surfaces could be made more specific with technologies like GIS.

Robbinsdale UCC shared an anecdote about recently replacing the roof of the church.

Sandvik thanked the representatives for coming in and discussing the topic, and noted that each city has different and aging infrastructure, so it is not easy to make direct comparisons with other cities. Sandvik recommended that the Council review the packet materials, including the proposed utility fees.

Mayor Pro Tem Wagner stated that he would be open to considering a financing option for converting parking lots if spaces are no longer needed.

A. Enterprise and Capital Project Fund Budgets, Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), Fee Schedule, and General Fund Updates

Sandvik introduced the attachments.

Mayor Pro Tem Wagner clarified the percentages on page 15 of the packet. Staff and Council discussed rate increases and revenue sources.

Member Murphy discussed the city's sources of revenue and proposed asking the state legislature for project funding.

Tahoun noted American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Sandvik and Council discussed plans for the city's use of ARPA funds.

Council and staff discussed proposed utility rate adjustments for 2024. Mayor Blonigan stated his support for the water rate charges and is in support of looking into options for church stormwater fees. McCoy and Council discussed stormwater fees and replacement of aging city infrastructure.

Tahoun reviewed revenue from the municipal liquor store and the license center.

Tahoun reviewed Capital Improvement Funds.

Blonigan stated support for including the Parks, Recreation, & Forestry Commission in conversations about future parks planning.

Staff and Council discussed the solid waste management contract.

Member Murphy requested an addition to utility bills that breaks down the purpose of each charge.

Staff and Council discussed the special assessment process.

Sandvik encouraged the Council to reach out to staff with questions.

Sandvik introduced the 10 Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). McCoy highlighted different items included in the 10 Year CIP: civic campus, public works garage, solar panels on city hall, EV charging stations, central garage equipment, Lakeview Terrace Park sport court, Sanborn Park improvements, and Lee Park north end enhancements. McCoy discussed infrastructure replacement. McCoy highlighted upcoming street projects: Shoreline Drive, 36th Avenue, and West Broadway.

McCoy stated that decisions will need to be made about Water Tower 1, such as hosting community discussions about keeping the tower as a landmark or otherwise. Staff and Council discussed financial options for maintaining the water tower.

McCoy highlighted PFAS reduction projects and the demolition of existing Tower 2.

Mayor Pro Tem Wagner transitioned the discussion to the proposed fee schedule. Sandvik discussed the proposed fee schedule.

Sandvik suggested that Council consider scheduling a special work session in December and encouraged the Council to come to staff with questions.

STAFF UPDATES

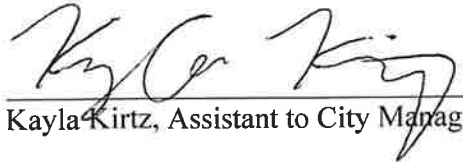
None.

COUNCIL UPDATES

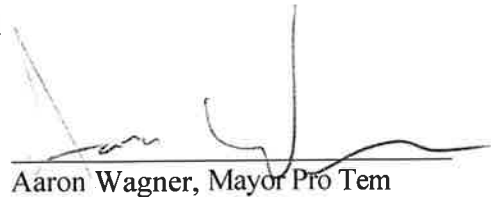
None.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Wagner adjourned the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kayla Kirtz", written over a horizontal line.

Kayla Kirtz, Assistant to City Manager-Communications

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aaron Wagner", written over a horizontal line.

Aaron Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem