



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, Assistant City Manager/City Clerk; Joanna Brookes, Human Resources and Risk Management Manager; Heather Rand, Community Development Director

MICROPHONE CHECK

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

None.

APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 16, 2025, MEETING AGENDA

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

1. Addition to Old Business Item 9B, Updates to the Employee Handbook
2. Update to Old Business Item 10A, Preservation of Qualifying Census Tract for Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) and Preliminary Conduit Bond Financing for Potential Affordable Housing Project at 3839 Lakeview Avenue North
3. Update to Consent Item 6J, Approval of Licenses
4. Addition of Other Business Item 11A, Voucher Requests Pending Approval for Disbursement

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Approve City Council Meeting minutes from December 2, 2025, City Council Meeting Agenda, December 16, 2025, Page 2
- B. Resolution updating procedure to tally write-in votes
- C. Second Reading of Ordinance No. 25-17 Updating the Fee Schedule
- D. Deputy Registrar's Monthly Financial Statements

- E. Robbinsdale Wine & Spirits' Monthly Financial Statements
- F. Quarterly Financial Information for General, Water, Sanitary Sewer, Storm Sewer, and Solid Waste
- G. Authorize City Manager to Execute Organized Labor Agreement
- H. Update to City Manager Contract
- I. Non-union Pay and Insurance
- J. Approval of Licenses
- K. Approval of Credit Card Charges and Payment
- L. 2026 License Renewals for The Birdhouse Eat & Drink
- M. 2026 License Renewals for Broadway Pizza/Eagles Nest Lounge
- N. 2026 License Renewals for Taqueria El Parian
- O. 2026 License Renewals for Hy-Vee, Inc.
- P. 2026 License Renewals for Marna's Eatery & Lounge
- Q. 2026 Liquor License Renewal for Pig Ate My Pizza
- R. 2026 Licenses for Travail Kitchen & Amusements
- S. 2026 License Renewals for Wicked Wort Brewing Company
- T. 2026 License Renewals for Robbinsdale Wine & Spirits
- U. Police Department Property Room Upgrade

PRESENTATIONS

- A. Human Rights Commission Annual Presentation

Human Rights Commission (HRC) Chair Julie Ralston-Aoki introduced HRC Member Carlos Smith. Ralston-Aoki discussed HRC duties, HRC strategic planning process, and successes and challenges in 2025.

HRC Member Smith highlighted the Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast, noted the event's details, and thanked the Council for their support.

Ralston-Aoki further discussed public engagement work.

Smith commented on the hardships faced by apartment communities and the needs of those residents.

Ralston-Aoki discussed internal and external collaboration work, Policy recommendations, next steps for 2026, and asks of the Council.

Member Parisian emphasized the importance of highlighting the Commission's successes, events, and volunteer contributions. She acknowledged the risk of volunteer burnout and encouraged the Commission to support one another. She expressed support for continuing apartment outreach and training efforts, noting that the Commission's requests are very reasonable, and asked staff to schedule a work session to discuss what funding Council can allocate to Commissions. She also expressed interest in exploring grant funding opportunities.

Member Blackledge thanked the Commission for their work and stated he appreciated the presentation. He noted that he will encourage residents to join the Commission and echoed Member Parisian's comments.

Member Wagner stated that he agreed with the comments made by other Council Members. He expressed interest in increased collaboration with other Commissions and highlighted public transit as an area where he would like to see more work.

Member Greenberg expressed interest in deeper engagement with the school district and local businesses. He discussed the idea of fundraising to help support the HRC and noted that engagement helps residents feel connected to the community. He commented that he would like to hear feedback regarding population risk factors and emphasized the importance of engaging those populations.

Mayor Sutton expressed enthusiasm for the idea of fundraising and supported holding a work session. He requested information on what similarly sized cities are doing and asked for more quantified community feedback data, including what residents have said and how advancing equity is defined and measured. He expressed gratitude for the significant time and effort contributed by Commission volunteers.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Public Hearing – Finds on Broadway – Consignment & Secondhand Goods Licenses – 4180 West Broadway

Sandvik introduced the background of the Item and noted the Staff's recommendation of approval.

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

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

Member Wagner expressed his support of this license and thanked the business for remaining in the community.

Mayor Sutton echoed Member Wagner's gratitude for the businesses' continued engagement in the Robbinsdale community.

Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Parisian, to approve Consignment and Secondhand Goods 2026 licenses for Celeste M. Shahidi, dba Finds on Broadway, for 4180 West Broadway. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

B. Public Hearing – Pawn America – Pawnbroker & Secondhand Goods Licenses – 4134 West Broadway

Sandvik introduced the background of the Item and noted the Staff's recommendation of approval.

Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Parisian, 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 MOVED, seconded by Greenberg, to approve the 2026 Pawnbroker and Secondhand Goods licenses for Pawn America Minnesota, LLC at 4134 West Broadway. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

C. Public Hearing – Fly Vintage & Vinyl, LLC – Consignment and Secondhand Goods Licenses – 3900 36th Avenue North

Sandvik introduced the background of the Item and noted the Staff's recommendation of approval.

Member Blackledge MOVED, seconded by Greenberg, 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 Wagner expressed gratitude towards the business for being a part of the Robbinsdale community.

Member Greenberg stated that Fly Vintage & Vinyl is a great place to buy used records.

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Parisian, to approve Consignment and Secondhand Goods 2026 licenses for Betsy Kay Ruppert-Kan and Daniel Sung-Tak Ruppert-Kan, dba Fly Vintage & Vinyl, LLC, 3900 36th Avenue North. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Consider the Letter of Community Support

Sandvik provided a brief background of the Item and the discussion that occurred between the Council during the December 9, 2025, work session.

Member Parisian expressed thanks to the Staff for drafting the letter and having it translated into many different languages, expressed thanks to the Human Rights Commission for advocating for the creation of the letter, and stated she supports the letter as it is written.

Member Wagner echoed the sentiments shared by Member Parisian.

Member Blackledge also echoed the sentiments shared by Member Parisian and noted the intentionality behind the Council's discussion regarding the language in the letter.

Member Greenberg echoed comments shared by Council Members.

Mayor Sutton commented that he appreciates the tone of the letter and highlighted that all people are welcome in the City; he is not in favor of putting the City in the Federal arena.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Blackledge, to approve the Letter to Congressional Representatives as written in the Letter of Community Support dated December 16, 2025. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

B. Updates to Employee Handbook

Human Resources and Risk Management Manager Brookes discussed the changes and updates to the Employee Handbook.

Member Wagner asked if employees could find information about unpaid leave and FMLA within the handbook. Brookes noted that there is a section in the handbook that covers that topic.

Member Greenberg thanked Brookes for presenting the updates.

Mayor Sutton asked if the paid time off accrual is 200 hours for new hires. Brookes stated that it was correct. She noted that the Staff increased vacation time due to feedback received from applicants and through comparison with similar-sized cities.

Mayor Sutton noted that he'd like to have a work session to go through an end-of-year talent report with headcounts, turnovers, etc.

Member Parisian **MOVED**, seconded by Blackledge, to accept the Staff's recommended updates to the Employee Handbook. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Preservation of Qualifying Census Tract for Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) and Preliminary Conduit Bond Financing for Potential Affordable Housing Project at 3839 Lakeview Avenue North

Community Development Director Rand provided an overview of the Item and outlined the history of pursuing an affordable housing project. She explained that the current action would allow the developer to apply for Low-Income Housing Tax Credits and to pursue bond financing. She commented that while many additional steps would follow, approval of the Resolution would preserve opportunities for future funding.

Member Blackledge asked about the project timeline. Rand stated that bond applications would occur within the next 12 months, followed by approximately 18 months of construction.

Member Wagner emphasized the importance of the project and asked the developer to provide examples of successful past projects, clarify whether the company plans to maintain ownership, explain their vision for the development, and describe what attracted them to this site.

Marty O'Connell responded by discussing the company's background, ownership plans, and examples of other successful affordable housing projects they have completed.

Member Wagner stated he was pleased with the responses and expressed his support for the Resolution.

Member Parisian commented that she was pleased to see affordable housing options coming before the Council and noted her support for the project.

Member Greenberg asked how the current pause on bonding might affect the project. Sandvik clarified that conduit bonding and general obligation (GO) bonding are different and that this project would not add to the City's debt service.

Member Greenberg also asked whether the project would seek Tax Increment Financing. Director Rand responded that TIF was not anticipated, though other funding options are being explored.

Member Greenberg further inquired whether the business owner of a parcel identified for redevelopment was supportive of the project. Rand stated that the developer had approached the Mai Tai business owners, who appeared open to the proposal, and that she had encouraged the development team to continue discussions with all parcel owners.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Wagner, to adopt Resolution No. 8194, A RESOLUTION PROVIDING PRELIMINARY APPROVAL TO THE ISSUANCE OF REVENUE BONDS UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, CHAPTERS 462C AND 474A, AS AMENDED, FOR THE BENEFIT OF VELAIR DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, OR AN AFFILIATE, SUCCESSOR, OR ASSIGN, AND TAKING OTHER ACTIONS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, and Resolution No. 8195, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FORM AND EXECUTION OF A QCT PRESERVATION LETTER FOR A MULTIFAMILY HOUSING PROJECT TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY VELAIR DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, OR AN AFFILIATE, SUCCESSOR, OR ASSIGN. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

B. Consider 2026 Legislative Priorities

Sandvik provided an overview of the item and highlighted key priorities, including the public works facility, PFAS, broadband internet providers, local option sales tax, congregate care, affordable housing, Local Government Aid (LGA), and public safety.

Mayor Sutton asked where social districts would fall within the list, noting that they could help boost local option sales tax. Sandvik responded that social districts need to be approved at the legislative level, but progress has been occurring at a slow rate.

Member Wagner stated he would consider an amendment to include social districts and emphasized the importance of Local Government Aid.

Member Greenberg expressed support for social districts and stated he appreciated the focus of the list. He asked whether the list could be presented in a way that helps the community better understand the reasons behind the identified needs.

Member Parisian expressed support for adding social districts and commented positively on the interconnected nature of the list and how it reflects Council priorities.

Member Blackledge echoed the sentiments expressed by other Council members.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Greenberg, to approve the attached Legislative Priorities for 2026. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

C. First Reading of an Ordinance Updating Various Sections of the City Charter

Peterson-Etem provided an overview of the item and detailed the reason for the changes.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Wagner, to hold the first reading of an Ordinance Adding a "Birth Year" Column to Sections 5.04, 5.11, and 5.14 of the Robbinsdale City Charter. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Voucher Requests Pending Approval for Disbursement

Member Greenberg MOVED, seconded by Parisian, to approve voucher disbursement requests for the period ending December 16, 2025. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

B. Letter of Resignation from Ward 4 Council Member Aaron Wagner

Member Wagner read his letter of resignation.

Mayor Sutton expressed appreciation for Council Member Wagner's thoughtful approach to asking questions and stated that he will be missed.

Council Member Parisian thanked Council Member Wagner for his statement and requested a copy. She stated it has been an honor to serve alongside him and noted his calm and empathetic presence. She shared that she has learned from his ability to offer recognition and praise and to apply leadership in this space, and wished him and his family all the best.

Council Member Greenberg stated it has been an honor to serve with Council Member Wagner. He noted that his passion for Robbinsdale is clear, expressed appreciation for the perspective he brought to the Council, and congratulated him on what lies ahead.

Council Member Blackledge congratulated Council Member Wagner on this new chapter, thanked him for his support over the past year, and stated that he pushed the Council in ways that were needed. He also thanked him for his contributions to Robbinsdale.

Sandvik stated that the past three years have gone both fast and slow and recalled shared experiences with Council Member Wagner. He expressed appreciation for Wagner's genuine and kind approach to asking questions and his consistent support of City Staff.

Peterson-Etem echoed the sentiments expressed by the Council and the City Manager. He noted that serving as a Council Member requires significant time and sacrifice, stated that Wagner's questions prompted thoughtful discussion, and acknowledged that his appreciation for City Staff has been noticed.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Greenberg, to accept Council Member Aaron Wagner's letter of resignation. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Peterson-Etem wished everyone Happy Holidays, thanked Council for a great year, and expressed gratitude for the amount of work Sandvik has done throughout the last year and his continued leadership.

Sandvik shared the process post Council Member Wagner's resignation, thanked Staff for their continued excellence, thanked Council for all they've accomplished through the year, and wished everyone a happy holiday season.

COUNCIL GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

Council Member Blackledge expressed gratitude to City Staff and fellow Council Members. He encouraged residents to support one another and strive to become the best versions of themselves.

Council Member Greenberg thanked City Staff and Council Members, noted the significant transitions that occurred throughout the year, wished everyone happy holidays, and briefly discussed the recent school board meeting.

Council Member Parisian echoed the sentiments shared by fellow Council Members, highlighted the culture of respect on the Council, expressed gratitude for Council Member Greenberg's advocacy related to the school district, and wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Mayor Sutton thanked the Council and City Staff, expressed his love for and care about the City of Robbinsdale, and shared additional details regarding the school board situation.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Blackledge to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 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