



City of Robbinsdale

City Council Work Session
Tuesday, November 14, 2023

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Murphy, Mayor Blonigan, Mayor Pro Tem Wagner

Absent: Parisian

Staff: Tim Sandvik, City Manager; Kayla Kirtz, Assistant to City Manager - Communications; Diaa Tahoun, Finance Director; Rick Pearson, Community Development Coordinator

DISCUSSION

A. Closing of Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC)

Sandvik explained a resolution recently passed by Hennepin County that establishes their intention to close the HERC. Hennepin County is looking for feedback from cities. Mayor Blonigan noted that the city would need to notify residents of the closing and that it would cost the city money.

Sandvik noted Ramsey County's waste management plans. Mayor Pro Tem Wagner proposed that the city request that the county have a plan for waste management following the closing of the HERC. Member Murphy discussed the reallocation of fees that the city currently pays to the county to operate the HERC.

Sandvik confirmed that their feedback to Hennepin County should include that Robbinsdale would like Hennepin County to notify residents, map out a plan and goals for waste management after the HERC is no longer operational, and determine what is going to happen with existing funding. Sandvik said he will draft a letter for the Council to review and workshop at the December work session.

B. Discuss Organized Labor Negotiations - AFSCME, LELS groups (3), Operating Engineers Local 49

The Council entered into a closed session at 7:30 p.m. The Council returned from the closed session at 8:08 p.m.

C. 2024 Levy, Enterprise Funds, and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Updates

Sandvik stated he is seeking direction from Council on the 2024 levy. Council will approve the levy at Truth-in-Taxation meeting on December 5. Sandvik and Council discussed the general fund and 2024 levy options. Blonigan requested information on a 7% levy increase. Blonigan shared support for the proposed new positions.

Staff and Council discussed the \$35 annual fire permit fee.

Member Murphy expressed support for a 6% levy. Mayor Pro Tem Wagner shared that compensation and

supporting personnel are important to him. Mayor Pro Tem Wagner expressed support for a 7.95% levy and for updating the fire permit fee.

Staff and Council discussed the facilities study in the Capital Improvement Plan. Council and staff discussed a potential sales tax to fund the updates to public facilities.

Sandvik confirmed that the Council's preference generally is for a 6% levy.

Sandvik highlighted the proposed changes to the fee schedule. Blonigan asked if Robbinsdale's fee schedule is aligned with other cities. Sandvik responded yes.

Tahoun explained the proposed changes in utility rates. Sandvik noted the organics recycling rate and explained that in 2024 the city will charge everyone for organics recycling due to a change in state statute. As a result, residents will opt in to receive the service and everyone will be charged \$3.50 a month. Staff discussed how utility rates will be impacted when North Memorial Hospital becomes a Robbinsdale water customer. Staff and Council discussed switching from bimonthly to monthly utility billing.

Sandvik noted one change to the CIP - the DMV project is being removed. Staff and Council discussed electric vehicles and electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Staff and Council discussed the DMV remodel, alternative options, and other facility needs.

STAFF UPDATES

A. Problem Properties

Pearson and Sandvik provided updates on properties.

B. Other

Sandvik notified Council that an at-grade option for the Lowry Avenue station of the Blue Line Extension project will be presented to the Corridor Management Committee. The project office is intending to meet with the hospital. Sandvik informed Council that they will discuss the Blue Line Extension project at the January work session or they will schedule a special work session.

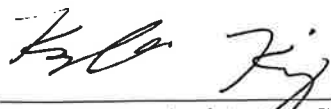
Sandvik provided an update on a property that was recently flooded.

COUNCIL UPDATES

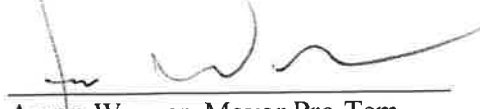
None.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Wagner adjourned the meeting at 9:42 p.m.



Kayla Kirtz, Assistant to City Manager - Communications



Aaron Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem