



City of Robbinsdale

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Blonigan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Wagner, Murphy, Blonigan
Absent: Parisian
Staff: Tim Sandvik, City Manager; Chase Peterson-Etem, City Clerk; Rick Pearson, Community Development Coordinator

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

Noelle Beigle, 4467 38th Ave. N., stated she works for the City of Robbinsdale and is here tonight representing the AFSCME union group. She expressed that this union group is asking the Council to consider discussing the percentage at which their wages will increase this year. She noted rising inflation costs, as well as their frustrations with how wages are determined, and that a budget shouldn't be set until union negotiations are complete. She stated they are seeking to increase wages by 5.25% for 2024 and 3.25% in 2025.

Claudia, 4556 Lake Drive, LRT, stated she is here tonight to represent the riders who use the LRT and how the light rail is a safer and more reliable mode of transportation for folks with large mobility issues. She encouraged the Council to approve the light rail extension versus adding more buses.

Katie Troy, 3840 Hubbard Ave. N., mentioned water and storm sewer charges and showed the Council a graph of utility prices based on other communities. She asked questions about the utility bills and wanted transparency in what they are paying for.

Lisa Richardson, 3836 Hubbard Ave. N., also asked the Council why their utility bills are higher and questioned what they are paying for. She thought the prices were inflated compared to other cities and noted others have old infrastructure too.

Mayor Blonigan acknowledged the unions' concerns and stated they will discuss with the administration at a later date. He also stated he was going to the quarterly LRT meeting tomorrow and that he would take Claudia's opinions there.

Sandvik referenced the AE2S survey that Ms. Troy discussed and noted that some of that information was gathered without compiling all the facts. He also mentioned that Robbinsdale recently put out a sample utility bill explaining line-by-line what each of the charges was for.

Member Murphy thanked the AFSCME members and stated he values both sides. He also referenced the utility payments and noted different cities use different methods to pay for ongoing and upcoming infrastructure projects.

Member Wagner thanked the AFSCME union members for standing up for what they believe is fair and wants Robbinsdale to be a good place to live and to work. He also thanked Claudia for attending the Council meeting and showing support for the light rail extension.

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 8, 2023 MEETING AGENDA

Peterson-Etem noted the addition of the voucher disbursement report to Other Business Item A.

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Wagner to approve the November 8, 2023 meeting agenda. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Blonigan removed Item L from the Consent Agenda.

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Wagner to approve the Consent Agenda for November 8, 2023. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

- A. Approve City Council meeting minutes from October 17, 2023.
- B. Approve City Council special work session minutes from October 17, 2023.
- C. Receive Planning Commission meeting minutes from September 21, 2023.
- D. Receive Parks, Recreation, & Forestry Commission meeting minutes from September 26, 2023.
- E. Receive Human Rights Commission meeting minutes from September 28, 2023.
- F. Deputy Registrar's Monthly Financial Statements
- G. Robbinsdale Wine & Spirits' Monthly Financial Statements
- H. Resolution utilizing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.
- I. Quarterly Financial Information for General, Water, Sanitary Sewer, Storm Sewer, and Solid Waste
- J. Approval of Credit Card Charges and Payment
- K. Extension of Bond issuance and related services contract
- L. Removed
- M. Authorize Agreement with Axon for Body Cameras, Dash Cameras and data plan
- N. Second reading of an Ordinance amendment for retail financial services
- O. Variance request V23-2 for fence height at 4249 Unity Avenue North
- P. Approval of Licenses

Q. Resolution adopting the 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update

CONSENT ITEM REMOVED

L. Appointment of Human Rights Commissioners (HRC)

Mayor Blonigan recognized and thanked Jennifer Birkhofer and Carlos Wallace Smith Jr. for serving on the Human Rights Commission and noted they would be great additions.

Mayor Blonigan MOVED, seconded by Wagner to appoint Jennifer Birkhofer and Carlos Wallace Smith Jr. to the Human Rights Commission. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

PRESENTATIONS

A. None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. None

OLD BUSINESS

A. None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Ward 2 Vacancy and Special Election

Peterson-Etem provided an overview of this item. He stated former Council Member Webb submitted her resignation on October 5, 2023, for the effective date of October 10, 2023. He noted the Council did acknowledge the resignation at a previous Council meeting, but tonight they will formally declare the vacancy and set a special election to fill the Ward 2 Council seat. He noted the recommendation was to hold the special election on May 14, 2024. However, if there are more than 2 candidates, a special primary election will also be held. In that case, the special primary election would be on May 14, 2024, and the special general election would be pushed to August 13, 2024.

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Wagner to declare the Ward 2 vacancy and set a special election for May 14, 2024. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

B. Proclamation Re-affirming Commitment to Beyond the Yellow Ribbon

Sandvik noted that in 2014, Robbinsdale was one of four cities that joined together in a commitment to Beyond the Yellow Ribbon. He stated no resources are being requested by the City, rather it's connecting existing resources with people who need them. He continued that tonight's proclamation is to re-affirm Robbinsdale's commitment to this program.

Mayor Blonigan noted the Mayor of New Hope has taken an initiative to help promote and reestablish the work this organization is doing.

Member Murphy stated he would like to see a connection made with North Memorial, as they have been

helpful with this mission in the past.

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Wagner to recognize the proclamation Re-affirming our commitment to Beyond the Yellow Ribbon. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

C. Conditional Use Permit request C23-4 for 3815 Crystal Lake Blvd. involving the Floodplain

Pearson provided an overview and noted the conditional use permit is for the addition of a sunroom to the back of the house. He noted the backyard of the property is in the floodplain, however, since the sunroom would be attached to the house, it would not be in the floodplain. He did note the posts needed for the addition would be in the floodplain. Pearson stated staff is recommending approval with the condition that the space under the sunroom remains open in case there is ever water that high. He also noted that in past conditional use permit applications the City has allowed this use, and so there are no grounds for denial.

Mayor Blonigan asked if there was a public hearing at the Planning Commission meeting. Pearson stated yes, and noted that no neighbors came to the meeting.

Member Wagner asked if this request could be withdrawn. Pearson stated yes, that could be done.

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Wagner to adopt Resolution No. 8067 "A resolution approving Conditional Use Permit request C23-4 to allow posts supporting a sunroom addition in the floodplain at 3815 Crystal Lake Blvd." The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

D. First Reading of an Ordinance amendment to allow Cannabis retailers

Pearson provided an overview and noted last year the Council established zoning areas in the City for the sale of Hemp-derived THC products. He mentioned the recent legalization of adult use cannabis and that the state is still working on the details of the licensing. He noted that this ordinance is preemptively updating the current zoning code to include adult use cannabis, so the City is prepared when the state finalizes licensing standards.

Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Murphy to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 23-14 "An ordinance amending Section 520.03 of the City Code pertaining to B-2 Limited Community Business and Section 521.01 Downtown District Permitted Uses to include cannabis retailers as a permitted use." The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Voucher Requests Pending Approval for Disbursement

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Wagner to Approve Voucher Requests Pending Approval for Disbursement. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Peterson-Etem noted that On December 5, 2023, the City will be hosting the annual tree lighting at 6:00 p.m. He encouraged folks to attend and noted there would be a Toys for Tots drive, as well as a bin for non-perishable food items.

Sandvik provided a brief outline of upcoming meetings related to the 2024 budget and noted these

conversations have been happening for months. He also encouraged folks with any questions to call City Hall and staff would be happy to answer any questions.

COUNCIL GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

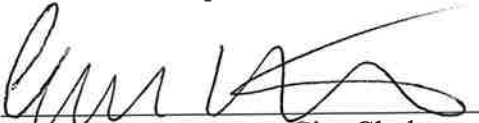
Member Wagner recognized and congratulated the many candidates that ran for office in the November 7 election.

Member Murphy asked staff if they could have two items prepared for the next Work Session, including a discussion on union negotiations and problem properties.

Mayor Blonigan noted on Friday November 10, 2024, there will be a breakfast at Robbinsdale Cooper High School honoring veterans and encouraged people to RSVP. He also thanked staff for their work on elections and noted that working within the guidelines of the City Charter and State law can make this process confusing.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Murphy to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.


Chase Peterson-Etem, City Clerk
William A. Blonigan, Mayor