

City of Robbinsdale
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
February 16, 2016
Meeting No. 4

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

2. Present: Rogan, Selman, Backen, Blonigan, Mayor Murphy
Staff: Marcia Glick, City Manager; Rick Pearson, Community Development Coordinator

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC

3. Mayor Murphy opened the floor to anyone wishing to speak on any items not on the agenda and hearing none, he closed the floor.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. City Manager Glick noted distribution of copies of Power Point presentation for Public Hearing A related to Municipal Consent for the Blue Line Extension Light Rail Transit Project.
5. Member Selman **MOVED**, seconded by Member Backen to approve the agenda with the addition as noted above. **The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

CONSENT AGENDA

6. Member Selman **MOVED**, seconded by Member Blonigan to approve the Consent Agenda. **The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**
7. Items approved are as follows:
 - A. Motion to approve and order placed on file minutes of the regular City Council meeting of 02/02/1, City Council Regular Monthly Work Session of 02/02/16, City Council Work Session of 02/09/16 and City Council Special Meeting of 02/09/16.
 - B. Motion to acknowledge receipt and placing on file minutes of the following Commissions and Boards:
- Senior Commission of 01/04/16.
 - C. Motion to approve issuance of licenses from list dated 02/16/16.
 - D. Motion to approve the Street Spanning Banner proposed by Birdtown Half Marathon, which may be installed May 16, 2016 thru May 23, 2016 (Annual Birdtown Half Marathon).

- E. Motion to approve the Street Spanning Banner proposed by Robbinsdale Chamber of Commerce, which may be installed March 7, 2016 thru March 21, 2016 (Annual Eggstravaganza).
- F. Motion to authorize the Mayor and City Manager to enter into a contract with Structural Buildings of Becker, MN for metal re-siding and re-roofing of the Pole Barn in the Public Works compound for the amount of \$41,191.00.
- G. Motion to authorize the Mayor and City Manager to execute the Schedule of Compliance Agreement between Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and City of Robbinsdale.
- H. Hold the second reading of Ordinance No. 16-01: "AN ORDINANCE RENAMING 46 ½ AVENUE NORTH CUL-DE-SAC IN SCHULTZ NATURE VIEW ADDITION TO NATUREVIEW CIRCLE."
- I. Motion to authorize the joint purchase of a Cimline Crack Router and Asphalt Melter with the City of Crystal for a total City share of cost of \$27,125.00; and approve the Joint Powers Agreement for the purchase and use of the equipment, and authorize the Mayor and City Manager to sign the document on behalf of the City.
- J. Motion to authorize use of the City logo for the Robbinsdale Whiz Bang Days Float identifying the Whiz Bang Days Ambassadors as ambassadors for the City of Robbinsdale.
- K. Motion to approve the January 2016 payment for City credit card charges.

PUBLIC HEARING A: Public Hearing on Municipal Consent for the Blue Line Extension Light Rail Transit Project

- 8. **Alicia Vap** from Metro Transit gave an overview of the Municipal Consent Plans. She reviewed the Blue and Green Line routes and extensions as well as the projected lines for Bus Rapid Transit. Plans for the Blue Line Extension include 11 stations (1 in Robbinsdale) with 13 miles of track. Ridership is expected to be about 27,000 by 2040 serving 5 communities: Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal, Golden Valley and Brooklyn Park. There would be one seat riding going all the way to the Mall of America and the airport.
- 9. Ms. Vap reviewed the consent process and Minnesota Statute requiring local jurisdiction review and approval of physical design component of preliminary design plans. The design plans include LRT track location, station location and layout, roadway features, sidewalks, pedestrian crossing, operations and maintenance facility location, freight track location and system elements.
- 10. Ms. Vap covered the municipal consent schedule with approval of the preliminary design plans by all cities and counties completed by March 4, 2016. Next steps would encompass design advancement of the physical design components. There will be continued coordinated work with all cities and stakeholders through the process.

11. Glick mentioned there are plans for some noise walls along the railroad to help with the noise impacts as well as the possibility of closing the 39 ½ crossing.
12. Mayor Murphy noted that after the public hearing is closed, Council will set a Work Session to discuss comments heard tonight before voting on the Municipal Consent Plan on March 2nd.
13. Mayor Murphy opened the public hearing.
14. **Nancy Berg**, Lilac Parkway Apartments, stated it's about time Robbinsdale got some new stuff in town connecting everyone together and getting transportation. She said she is glad the City is doing this.
15. **Mike Frye**, 3831 Lee Avenue North, asked about the advantage to the City and what is the City getting out of this.
16. Mayor Murphy responded that there is expected to be 1,500 boarding as well as a 500+ car ramp downtown and an additional 30,000 square feet for commercial space. This provides an opportunity for the downtown corridor to have increased business along Hubbard Avenue. The Hubbard Marketplace building will no longer belong to Met Transit and will be open for another type of business. He indicated that the advantage to Robbinsdale will be an increase in growth and that the station area planning will include development for both retail and residential.
17. Member Selman said the biggest advantage with the light rail would be improved housing values. He noted that in touring the Hiawatha line and talking to area residents, who at first were opposed to the line, found their housing values increased. Member Selman mentioned one couple who ended up selling both their cars finding they didn't need them anymore.
18. Mr. Frye asked about plans to clean up the appearance of the fence along Railroad Avenue.
19. Mayor Murphy indicated that there are plans to improve that area with more details coming in the future.
20. Mr. Frye asked about the closing of 39 ½ and having a tunnel.
21. Mayor Murphy noted that if 39 ½ was closed, traffic would be diverted to 41st and Noble, and the intent is to make sure it's safe for pedestrians.
22. Glick noted that unlike the fully viewable tunnel under 81, a railroad tunnel would be deeper and would have a switch backed trail to get deep enough. Without the visibility through the tunnel, it did not seem like an option people would use.

23. Mr. Frye said he is in favor of closing 39 ½. He also said his biggest concern is noise at the crossing.
24. Mayor Murphy said the noise concerns for adjacent properties are on Council's radar and they will be conscious of it as the process moves forward.
25. **David Ulbrich**, 3700 Hubbard Avenue North, said the light rail would have a positive economic impact for the City bringing in retail space and more people to the area businesses. He thanked City Staff, Council and others for their work in bringing the project to Robbinsdale.
26. **Kate Richardson**, 3965 West Broadway, asked why they chose Sohacki Park and how the LRT bridge would work. She stated that she is against closing 39 ½, and asked about who is paying for the project.
27. Mayor Murphy said a LRT bridge is being built across Grimes pond. He noted that funding for the project includes federal, state and Hennepin County Railroad Authority funding. Member Selman noted that 49% of the project cost will come from federal funding.
28. Ms. Richardson asked how much the City would have to pay.
29. Mayor Murphy said the City is not paying for the project but noted some cities may add funding for other amenities.
30. Ms. Richardson asked about aesthetics for the utility boxes and her concern is that they would be an eyesore.
31. Mayor Murphy noted that the location of the boxes can be seen on the maps located in the back room of Council Chambers.
32. Ms. Richardson asked why the light rail is not going down 81 instead of Sohacki Park.
33. Mayor Murphy said other locations had been looked at for light rail, and the current location was chosen due to cost and the existing corridor. He noted other areas would require taking more roads and homes along with more costs associated with building a new corridor.
34. Member Selman said 14 years ago many options were looked at and with the success of the Hiawatha line, it was decided to start planning and utilizing the railroad corridor.

35. Ms. Richardson asked about soundproofing and possible traffic jam at 41st and 42nd with the closing of 39 ½.
36. Mayor Murphy said plans include a general idea for noise walls but at this time not sure what that would look like.
37. Glick noted that traffic simulations were looked at and found that timing of the traffic lights is about the same as the light rail crossing itself.
38. Glick noted plans for turning lanes on West Broadway to help with traffic flow.
39. Mayor Murphy pointed out that models looked at different peak times on days and weekends, and hours were spent looking at traffic.
40. Ms. Richardson asked about security for the parking ramp.
41. Mayor Murphy said security will be added as an item of concern for discussion.
42. Member Selman **MOVED**, seconded by member Rogan to close the public hearing. **The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**
43. Member Blonigan said he would like to be sure that the pedestrian barriers are wire cut proof and should be added to the list of concerns.
44. Date and time for the City Council Work Session were discussed.
45. Member Rogan **MOVED**, seconded by Member Blonigan to schedule a City Council Work Session on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.
46. Member Blonigan asked staff to email a reminder to Council about the meeting.
47. **The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**

OLD BUSINESS A: 2016 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
Application to Consolidated Pool

48. Community Development Coordinator Pearson reviewed the staff report and request from Bridgeway Apartments for CDBG funding for improvements to the 45-unit affordable housing building located south of 38th and Hubbard Avenue. The CDBG funding breakdown to cities was reviewed. One goal of the CDBG funding is to preserve affordable housing. This request is for \$400,000 for improvements including replacing the retaining wall, adding retention ponds, replacing cupboards, windows and upgrading open spaces for tenants. The improvements will provide an opportunity for the City to ask for repair of a sump pump problem.

49. Staff recommends adopting a resolution approving the application and directing staff to include it in the Consolidated Pool Application.
50. Glick noted security cameras are included in the improvements. She also noted that getting approval for CDBG funds may help Bridgeway Apartments get access to other funding sources.
51. Member Rogan asked what the total cost is for the improvements. Pearson said \$2.25 million.
52. Member Rogan clarified that funding would come from other sources not City money. Pearson said that was correct.
53. Member Blonigan **MOVED**, seconded by Member Rogan to waive the reading and order the adoption of Resolution No. 7473: "A RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROPOSED APPLICATION FOR 2016 URBAN HENNEPIN COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM FUNDS AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENT WITH HENNEPIN COUNTY AND THIRD PARTY AGREEMENTS changing the "Now Be It Resolved" clause to say "Now *Therefore* Be It Resolved."
54. Member Selman indicated he would not support the motion as he is opposed to continuing support of cluster low income housing.
55. Member Blonigan indicated he somewhat agrees with Member Selman but will support to ensure repairs to the property so it does not become an eyesore. He noted that Robbinsdale has avoided a large cluster of this type of housing compared to its neighbors.
56. Mayor Murphy said in the short term it will be a benefit.
57. **Upon a vote being taken the motion carried 4-1. (Selman Nay)**
58. Member Rogan **MOVED**, seconded by Member Backen to direct staff to include the resolution in the CDBG Application to Consolidated Pool. **The motion carried 4-1. (Selman Nay)**

NEW BUSINESS A: Solar Garden Subscription Opportunity

59. Glick reviewed the staff report noting a solar garden is part of a Community Solar Subscriber Collaborative Administered by Great Plains Institute in cooperation with the Metropolitan Council, Hennepin County and City of Minneapolis. Robbinsdale participated in a lottery and was selected to be assigned one 200kWh garden and one specific vendor (US Solar). The garden is expected to produce 330,000 kWh annually or 27,500 kWh monthly for partial energy use at the Public Safety and City Hall buildings. The subscription rate is the product of the monthly energy

produced by the garden times a set subscription fee. A \$35 monthly net credit is

expected with a conservative estimate of \$10,000 net credit over 25 years. The decision to move forward needs to be made by February 29th.

60. Member Rogan asked about other cities participation. Glick noted there was a huge lottery including Metropolitan Council, Minneapolis, Hennepin County, St. Paul and Ramsey County. She said there are about 25 solar garden plots assigned in Hennepin County.
61. Member Rogan indicated support as long as there is an adequate termination agreement in the contract, and if it becomes too complicated, it can be re-evaluated. He is in support of green energy.
62. Member Blonigan also indicated support. He attended a meeting explaining the process and shared what he had learned.
63. There was further discussion on the costs, credits and risks.
64. Member Selman indicated support of moving forward.
65. Member Rogan **MOVED**, seconded by Member Blonigan to affirmatively move forward on the agreement by February 29th. **The vote was unanimous and the motion carried**

OTHER BUSINESS A: Disbursement Requests for Period Ending 02/16/16

66. Member Rogan **MOVED**, seconded by Member Backen to approve disbursement requests for period ending February 16, 2016. **The vote was unanimous and the motion carried**

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS/COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

67. Glick mentioned an article in the Sun Post on the Victor Donato Memorial Garden which displayed a preliminary concept of the garden. The garden is continuing to evolve and will come to the City for approval. A fundraiser will be held on February 27th (Mardis Gras party) which is open to the public. Memorial bricks are also being sold as a fundraiser.
68. Glick noted the Eggstravaganza will take place on Saturday, March 19th. The banner advertising the event will go up downtown a week before. The Chamber is looking for volunteers and those who can commit may contact her.
69. Member Blonigan noted Consent Item I for a joint purchase with Crystal for road maintenance equipment and entering into a joint powers agreement. He asked staff to check on any administrative fees.

70. Member Blonigan noted that Consent Item J for the Whiz Bang Days banner had the Whiz Band Days Committee listed as a 501c3 organization. He said they are a 501c4 organization.
71. Member Rogan noted last weekend there were 65 people using the Sanborn ice rinks.
72. Member Selman gave a reminder that there are 2 openings on the Senior Commission and those interested can either go to the City's website or contact City Hall. He noted the Commission meets the 1st Monday of the month at 6 p.m. (no meetings July, August and September).
73. Mayor Murphy commented on how nice Robbinsdale's ice rinks are compared to others. He noted a lot of kids using the Triangle Park rink and said 1 day there were seventeen 9-year-olds from a local hockey association using the rink.

ADJOURNMENT

74. Member Rogan **MOVED**, seconded by Member Blonigan to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m. **The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.**



Millie Marsh, Recorder

* Millie retired 2-29-16



Regan L. Murphy, Mayor