

**CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
CITY OF RAMSEY
ANOKA COUNTY
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

The Ramsey City Council conducted a City Council Work Session on Tuesday, February 8, 2011, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Mayor Bob Ramsey
Councilmember Randy Backous
Councilmember David Elvig
Councilmember David Jeffrey
Councilmember Colin McGlone
Councilmember Jason Tossey
Councilmember Jeffrey Wise

Also Present: Deputy City Administrator Heidi A. Nelson
Finance Officer Diana Lund
Public Works Director Brian Olson
Community Development Director Amber Miller
Parks Supervisor Mark Riverblood
City Engineer Tim Himmer
Associate Planner Tim Gladhill
Planning Manager Amber Miller
Economic Development/Marketing Manager Aaron Backman

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ramsey called the City Council Work Session to order at 6:05 p.m.

APPROVE AGENDA

Mayor Ramsey stated Item 2 will be changed to Bury and Carlson Property, and Item 2 will be changed to Item 3. The agenda was approved as amended.

COUNCIL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

1) Great River Energy Proposed Transmission Line Project

Planning Manager Miller presented the staff report. She introduced Mark Strophis from Great River Energy. Mr. Strophis reviewed the presentation.

Councilmember McGlone questioned why the transmission line cannot go along Highway 10.

Mr. Strophis explained the most logical route was Highway 10. However, MnDOT classifies this as a freeway design, which means the easements along the freeway cannot be occupied. There are back yards butting up to the easement. Mr. Strophis explained they would prefer to avoid residential neighborhoods, and they cannot follow railroad lines. Businesses are situated along the railroad lines, and it would entail condemning businesses to take over that land. The easement cannot simply be purchased.

Councilmember Jeffery express concern this was running through the park.

Mayor Ramsey noted the park land was not that big of an issue for him. He requested the lines going back and forth over Bunker be looked at again.

Public Works Director Olson brought up the possibility of a future project to the north and questioned whether this project would set a precedent.

Mr. Strophis responded GRE will work closely with the City, keeping this in mind.

Rick Hiring noted a fair compensation amount should be discussed for easements along the proposed line. It would be better to occupy a piece of land without an easement.

Public Works Director Olson stated since Bunker Lake Boulevard is being rebuilt in 2011, the grades and other utilities will be in place. This will be a good time to run these lines.

Mr. Strophis indicated GRE tries to follow existing easements and lines.

Councilmember Elvig asked about the new substation going in Anoka.

Mr. Strophis explained Anoka will charge for the capacity to use the station and have their own distribution system. A new substation is necessary to get the capacity to new customers. This would benefit more of the northwest area than just Anoka. Mr. Strophis explained the State will serve as the third party decision maker. Since it is going through the State process, the City of Ramsey does not have a vote, but their opinions are valued and considered.

Councilmember Backous said he is opposed to this proposed project. He would rather see it go along Highway 10. He understands the benefit, but does not want it to wind through Ramsey where it is not wanted.

Mr. Strophis proposed to keep the Council and Staff updated as this item passes through other discussions.

It was the Council's consensus to bring the item back for discussion as warranted.

2) Proposed Manufacturing Site on the Bury and Carlson Property

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman reviewed the staff report. He asked if the Council had any interest in selling the property to a manufacturer that is interested. This manufacturer would employ 300 people.

Councilmember Backous stated he approved that option and questioned the current lease.

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman explained they are beginning the third year of a 10-year lease. It would cost roughly \$440,000 to end the lease early.

Councilmember Elvig brought up the issue of having only one site Public Works can move to.

Deputy City Administrator Nelson explained if there is a desire to continue this discussion, it will be brought back to Council next week. She noted there was a discussion in 2005 or 2006 regarding this property and it is important to not ignore the process that took place at that time.

Mayor Ramsey said he would be in favor of selling.

Councilmembers Elvig and McGlone stated their agreement.

It was the Council's consensus to look at the offer and discuss this item at a future meeting.

3) Discuss Design Considerations for City Project 11-21; Intersection Signalization at Armstrong and Bunker Lake Boulevards, and Associated Infrastructure Improvements to serve the Legacy Christian Academy Development

City Engineer Himmer reviewed the staff report.

Councilmember McGlone asked what the size is the property they want to purchase.

Public Works Director Olson said it is 35 acres. He explained if both the seller and the City are unwilling, this trail may need to drop out of consideration. He also explained Conexus has overhead lines in that area, and they asked that the City consider burying those. Consideration should be given to the fact that if the interchange comes in, it is developable land and could cost up to \$100,000. It is a question of where those funds would come from.

It was the Council's consensus was to bring this item back at a future meeting.

FUTURE TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

1) Future Topics Calendar

MAYOR, COUNCIL AND STAFF INPUT

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mayor Ramsey, seconded by Councilmember Elvig, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried.

The Work Session of the City Council was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurtis G. Ulrich
City Administrator

ATTEST:

Jo Ann M. Thieling
City Clerk

Drafted by Chris Moksnes
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.