

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

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

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

Members Absent: Mayor Bob Ramsey
 Councilmember David Jeffrey

Also Present: Deputy City Administrator Heidi A. Nelson
 Public Works Director Brian Olson
 Parks Supervisor Mark Riverblood
 Senior Planner Tim Gladhill
 IT Manager Dean Busch

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Mayor Wise called the City Council Work Session to order at 6:15 p.m.

COUNCIL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

1) Go-Kart Track Proposal

Senior Planner Gladhill reviewed the report. He noted the applicant, Karl Jansen, is present to answer any questions.

Councilmember McGlone noted that Mr. Jansen is working with the engineering firm of Hakanson Anderson with all costs borne by the City. He questioned whether there are any requirements that Mr. Jansen must work with an engineering firm, citing the high cost.

Associate Planner Gladhill explained this development is just under an acre and the requirement to work with an engineering firm is one acre. Nevertheless, the City must be sure the stormwater management is being maintained. Scaled drawings are needed and the City has limited staff time available to create these drawings so it is easier to outsource this part.

Discussion took place regarding the \$8,000 that would be used for funding the project, the repayment plan, and the use of the monies.

Mr. Jensen informed the Council that the repayment would be \$8,000 the first year.

Councilmember Elvig clarified the track would be operational this summer and the proceeds would be designated for Happy Days.

Deputy City Administrator Nelson noted the City budgeted \$7,000 for Happy Days last year from the General Fund.

Associate Planner Gladhill explained the funding source would be from Council Contingency.

Councilmember Elvig indicated he would like the proceeds tagged to Happy Days if it is to fund Happy Days now and in the future.

Councilmember Tossey further clarified that \$8,000 will be taken from Council Contingency for the funding request and Mr. Jansen will repay that amount in the next year. Any proceeds in the future will be designated for Happy Days beginning in 2012.

Associate Planner Gladhill noted he and City Administrator Ulrich will oversee this process.

Councilmember Wise questioned if there will be opportunity to conduct winter races.

Mr. Jansen responded he is anticipating there will be four races, though that number could change depending on various factors.

Mr. Jansen noted spectators would each pay \$5 to watch a race. Most tracks average 60 to 80 people in the stands. He emphasized these are conservative numbers and races would be conducted every other Friday night. He explained he has a lot of experience in this industry.

Councilmember Backous inquired about a fence.

Mr. Jansen explained there would be a fence along the Armstrong Boulevard side, so the track couldn't be seen from Armstrong Boulevard.

Councilmember Tossey clarified the track would not have any impact on the ability to realign Armstrong Boulevard, noting there could be construction in as little as a few years.

Mr. Jansen responded it would be exceptional if this project could be in place for two to three years. He suggested by then, there could possibly be another site in the City to work with.

Councilmember McGlone inquired how the numbers of visitors would be tracked.

Mr. Jansen explained every participant must sign an insurance sheet at each visit. This is one method to track numbers.

Consensus was reached to continue to consider the expenditure.

Deputy City Administrator Nelson noted the item will come back to a regular Council meeting to authorize the Council Contingency Fund expenditure. She noted the Staff does have concerns that this project would be at the entrance of the community and concerns related to noise, dust, and traffic. The COR Development Team is raising issues regarding the project being so close to the downtown area. These items will be discussed further and be presented for Council consideration on March 22, 2011.

2) Resolution #11-01-XXX Supporting Trail Grant Applications for Trails Along T.H. #47 and Co. Rd. #83

Parks Supervisor Riverblood reviewed the report. He noted it will be on the consent agenda for the City Council meeting on March 22, 2011.

Consensus was reached to move the Resolution forward for consideration at the next Council meeting.

3) Consider Approving the Purchase of Equipment and Applications Utilizing QCTV Funds

IT Manager Busch reviewed the staff report.

Councilmember Elvig suggested staff spend \$20,000 on the necessary items, and reserve \$10,000 for any needed repairs.

Councilmember Backous asked if there was a stipulation that the funds are spent rather than held for potential repairs.

Deputy City Administrator Nelson explained the funds must be used to conduct enhancements to the City. The list of possibilities is prioritized and there is a stipulation that the funds be spent.

Councilmember McGlone suggested the entire amount be spent on solving any technical issues.

Mr. Busch noted this item will be brought back to the Council on March 22, 2011.

4) Schedule Meeting and Review Agenda for Joint Meetings with Adjacent Cities and City Commissions

This topic was moved to be discussed at the City Council meeting.

FUTURE TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

1) Review Future Work Session Topics/Calendar

MAYOR, COUNCIL AND STAFF INPUT

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember Backous, seconded by Councilmember McGlone to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Acting Mayor Wise, Councilmembers Backous, McGlone, Tossey, and Elvig. Voting No: None. Absent: Mayor Ramsey and Councilmember Jeffrey.

The Work Session of the City Council was adjourned at 6:55 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.