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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 22, 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

Members Absent: None

Also Present: City Administrator Kurtis Ulrich
Deputy City Administrator Heidi A. Nelson
Fire Chief Dean Kapler
Public Works Director Brian Olson
Senior Planner Timothy Gladhill
City Engineer Tim Himmer
Police Chief James Way
Parks Supervisor Mark Riverblood
City Attorney William Goodrich
Human Resources Representative Colleen Lasher
Planning Intern Patrick Brama
MN State Rep of the Government Finance Organization Darren Nelson
Isanti County Commissioner Alan Duff
Anoka County Commissioner Matt Look
County Attorney Tony Palumbo
Fridley Chief of Police Don Abbott

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ramsey called the regular meeting of the Ramsey City Council to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by students from Elk River High School.

2. PRESENTATION

2.01 Presentation of Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting

Mr. Darren Nelson, Minnesota State Representative of the Government Finance Organization, presented the award to Finance Director Diana Lund.

3. CITIZEN INPUT

Mr. Alan Duff, Isanti County Commissioner and Candidate for the Conexus Board of Directors introduced himself and stated his intentions if elected to the Board.

4. APPROVE AGENDA

Mayor Ramsey noted Item 5.13 Authorize Credit Card Contract with RevTrak will be removed from the consent agenda and added as a regular agenda item as Item 7.6. Also, Item 7.7 Consider Televising the HRA Meetings will be added.

Motion by Councilmember Elvig, seconded by Councilmember Backous, to approve the agenda as amended.

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

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Elvig, seconded by Councilmember Tossey to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- 5.01 Note the following commission and boards meeting minutes:
 - a. Planning Commission dated February 3, 2011
 - b. Environmental Policy Board dated February, 7, 2011
 - c. Economic Development Authority dated February 10, 2011
 - d. Economic Development Authority dated February 24, 2011
- 5.02 Approve Exemption for a Gambling License for the Knights of Columbus Council #14984 to Operate Bingo at the Church of St. Katharine Drexel
- 5.03 Approve Exemption for a Gambling License for the Isanti County Chapter of Minnesota Deer Hunters to Operate a Raffle at Game Fair
- 5.04 Approve License Applications
- 5.05 Approve the following City Council Meeting Minutes:
 - 1) January 18, 2011 City Council Work Session
 - 2) January 24 - 25, 2011 Strategic Planning Session
 - 3) February 1, 2011 Special City Council
 - 4) February 1, 2011 City Council Work Session

- 5.06 Approve Anoka County Connectivity Services Agreement for Broadband Services
- 5.07 Adopt Resolution #11-03-073 Approving Cash Disbursements Made and Authorizing Payment of Accounts Payable Invoicing Received During the Period of March 3, 2011 through March 16, 2011.
- 5.08 Adopt Resolution 11-03-074 Authorizing 1st Partial Payment to Dryden Excavating for IP 10-24 656W Drainage Outlet
- 5.09 Adopt Resolution 11-03-075 Authorizing Final Payment to New Look Contracting for IP 09-22 2009 Storm Sewer Projects
- 5.10 Adopt Resolution #11-03-076 Supporting Trail Grant Applications for Trails Along T.H. #47 and Co. Rd. #83
- 5.11 Approve Request Capital Funds from QCTV and Approve the Purchase of Equipment and Applications Utilizing QCTV Funds
- 5.12 Adopt Resolution #11-03-077 to Prohibit Parking on Armstrong Boulevard NW (CSAH 83), from Sunwood Drive NW to Alpine Drive NW in the City of Ramsey, Minnesota, for State Aid Project 199-020-005 (IP 11-21) and Adopt Resolution #11-03-078 to Prohibit Parking on Bunker Lake Boulevard NW (CSAH 116), from Armstrong Boulevard NW (CSAH 83) to 955 Feet East of Armstrong Boulevard NW (CSAH 83), in the City of Ramsey, Minnesota for State Aid Project 199-020-005 (IP 11-21) and Resolution #11-03-079 to Prohibit Parking on Bunker Lake Boulevard NW from Armstrong Boulevard NW (CSAH 83) to Puma Street NW, in the City of Ramsey, Minnesota for State Aid Project 199-121-001 (IP 11-21)
- 5.13 ~~Authorize Credit Card Contract with RevTrak~~ **(Placed on Regular Agenda)**
- 5.14 Authorization to Seek Proposals for Abatement Services
- 5.15 Authorization to Seek Proposals for City Towing Services

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

6. PUBLIC HEARING

None.

7. COUNCIL BUSINESS

7.01: Request Support for a County-Wide Integrated Public Safety Information System

Police Chief Way reviewed the staff report.

County Commissioner Matt Look stated he was present to ask for the Council's support as this project advances. This is a public safety project as identified by the County.

County Attorney Tony Palumbo, Chair of Joint Law Enforcement Council, reviewed the JLEC.

Fridley Chief of Police Don Abbott stated he is the Chair of the committee that is working on getting this project funded. He commented each discipline in Anoka County has its own system, and the systems do not communicate well. It would be beneficial to have one system in the County that all entities can put information into, and get information out of. He gave an example

of an emergency call and how it is handled through all disciplines. Currently, the information is transferred from digital to handwritten and vice versa. Anoka County has one of the highest error rates.

Councilmember Jeffrey stated he serves on JLEC and is in full support of this system.

Motion by Councilmember Jeffrey, seconded by Councilmember Backous, to adopt Resolution #11-03-080 showing support of a comprehensive shared public safety information system and legislative change to allow specific bonding authority for the project.

Further discussion: Councilmember Tossey questioned what records are currently kept. He further asked whether a Ramsey officer has record of a citation issued in Fridley, for instance. Police Chief Abbott responded records are shared among cities. Citations are shared, whereas, warnings are not. He said they do follow Chapter 13 of the statues and only share information that is allowed. The new system would have protections built in to preserve confidentiality. Councilmember Elvig asked what this project would mean to the residents of Ramsey, or the City in terms of finances. Police Chief Abbott explained there is no money requested now. All that is requested now is support as they go to the legislature for the bond issue. He clarified on a \$200,000 property, there would be a tax impact of \$7 per year. It will be made clear to residents that it is a specific county wide public safety measure. Police Chief Abbott stated the vision for this project is to help our police and firefighters work smarter, faster, safer and better.

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

7.02: Consider a Resolution to Appoint a Member to the Economic Development Authority or to Continue the Current Recruitment

Human Resources Representative Lasher reviewed the staff report.

City Attorney Goodrich advised the state statute guidelines are that until the Mayor makes an appointment, the Council has no ability to make a decision on this process, other than have an interview.

Councilmember Jeffrey explained every decision made by the EDA has to come to Council for a final decision. The HRA has independent spending authority, but the EDA spending goes through the Council.

City Attorney Goodrich clarified further that they are distinctly different bodies. When the EDA makes a decision, it does have to come to the Council for final approval. When the HRA makes a decision, it does not have to go through Council.

Mayor Ramsey stated he had just learned that he is to appoint a member to the EDA. He said he would like to request more applicants and interviews and will make a decision after that.

Councilmember Elvig said he was confused as to why there is a review process. He commented the Council as a body will not be interviewing.

City Attorney Goodrich explained the Council has to approve the Mayor's appointment, so the Council as a body would want to interview as well.

Mayor Ramsey stated he would like to review the policy on interviews at a future work session.

Motion by Mayor Ramsey, seconded by Councilmember Wise, to direct staff to continue the current recruitment specific to the EDA as described below:

- A) Applications will be accepted until the second review date of April 5, 2011
- B) All applications for the EDA received by April 5, 2011 will be provided to the City Council for confidential review
- C) New applicants will be invited to interview with the City Council on April 12, 2011
- D) A member will be appointed to the EDA on April 26, 2011 to begin serving in May 2011 and ending March 31, 2017

Further discussion: Councilmember Wise suggested term limits on all commissions be discussed at a future work session. Councilmember Jeffrey announced he will not support the motion. He said at the last meeting, it was decided there would not be more interviews. He said there is a good candidate, who has been present at the meetings, and should be approved. Councilmember Elvig expressed his frustration at the process, though there is no reason not to support the Mayor's decision. Councilmember Tossey inquired whether the information regarding the process of the Mayor making the appointment was just discovered, as there had been discussions about the interviewees in the past. City Attorney Goodrich explained it was known all along that the Mayor is to make the appointment. Councilmember Backous expressed his frustration since many interviews had taken place. He requested that the election be based on the current interviewees. Mayor Ramsey stated he was out of town during the interviews and was not part of them so he is not prepared to make a decision at this point.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Mayor Ramsey, Councilmembers Wise, Elvig, McGlone, and Tossey. Voting No: Councilmembers Backous and Jeffrey.

7.03: Request for Waiver of Paving Requirements to Allow a Class V Parking Surface at 8110 Highway 10 NW; Case of Chad Lundquist

Senior Planner Gladhill reviewed the staff report.

Motion by Councilmember McGlone, seconded by Councilmember Jeffrey, to approve the waiver of paving requirements and request for a Class V parking surface as noted on the site plan.

Further discussion: Senior Planner Gladhill noted the property will have to go through a formal grading permit. Any questions will be addressed on the final review of the permit. Councilmember Elvig inquired if this gives more solid ground to enforce other issues on other

properties. Senior Planner Gladhill replied this is the first request the City has processed. Other properties have made the same request but have not brought forth information for a discussion. Councilmember Wise indicated that since the MnDOT's transportation plan has changed, the City should be more proactive on having the fronts of places along Highway 10 up to code, and give them more options for the use of the back of their property. Senior Planner Gladhill inquired if this property should be required to have a screen to shield the inoperable vehicles from view of adjacent property. Mayor Ramsey commented he would like them screened, but at the minimum, have the vehicles lined up to look better. Chad Lundquist, 8110 Highway 10 NW, property owner, stated he had a situation with a violation last July 9 and has had none since then. He admitted he did not allow for this amount of snow, which is unusual, and makes it more difficult to keep the property cleaned up. He noted there is natural screening on his property and the adjacent property has not had any complaints. Mr. Lundquist said he has driven around and witnessed inoperable vehicles on other properties that are not screened. Mayor Ramsey clarified that he did not intend to make a motion to require screening on his property, but he would like to see it more organized.

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

7.04: Introduce Ordinance to Amend Section 117-90 “map” of Chapter 117 of the Ramsey City Code Related to the 2030 Comprehensive Plan; Case of the City of Ramsey

Senior Planner Gladhill reviewed the staff report. He acknowledged rumors about forced City sewer and water hookup, and issues with taxes. He explained the Charter protects citizens from forced City sewer and water. In terms of impact to taxes, that is a focus of market conditions.

Mayor Ramsey invited citizens to speak.

Lonnie Gray, 17530 Nowthen Boulevard, stated the initial concerns were the economic implications due to taxes, though much of this has already been clarified. He sought clarification on the ultimate implications to move from rural zoning to residential zoning and questioned why this is being done. He pointed out there is an individual that has a lot of acreage and wants to sell some and asked if it would be better to grant that individual a variance to divide his land rather than rezone everyone's property. Mr. Gray stated he is concerned about the wetlands behind his home. He stated many residents did not receive proper notification; many were unaware of what was going on. He requested a continuance so residents can understand the implications.

Senior Planner Gladhill explained this is part of an intense process driven by the residents. He explained the notification system that was used and indicated that natural resources will be protected. He added the City is working with the individual that would like to sell some property and no rezoning has been done with that area.

Mayor Ramsey indicated he was part of this process before becoming the Mayor. He explained that because it is being reclassified does not mean it will develop. It is an opportunity for those landowners to develop.

Mr. Gray commented there are a lot of residents whose properties are not amenable to develop. He asked that these properties be excluded from the zoning.

Mayor Ramsey explained if property is not durable for development, it would not be developed. However, if neighboring property is feasible, it could be developed.

Phil Lattero, 17540 Nowthen Boulevard, said he did not know about this issue until a couple of weeks ago. He expressed concern regarding his property taxes and said he was pleased to hear the information presented tonight.

Motion by Mayor Ramsey, seconded by Councilmember Jeffrey, to introduce an Ordinance to amend Section 117-90 "Map" of Chapter 117 of the Ramsey City Code related to the 2030 Comprehensive Plan.

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

7.05: Introduce Ordinance to Amend City Code Section 117-118 (Town Center) of the Ramsey City Code; Case of City of Ramsey

Senior Planner Gladhill reviewed the staff report.

Motion by Councilmember Wise, seconded by Councilmember Tossey, to introduce an Ordinance to amend City Code Section 117-118 (Town Center) of the Ramsey City Code.

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

7.06: Authorize Credit Card Contract with RevTrak

Finance Director Lund reviewed the report.

Motion by Mayor Ramsey, seconded by Councilmember Jeffrey, to authorize a contract for credit card services with RevTrak, based on the City Attorney's review of the contract.

Further discussion: Councilmember Wise raised the point that there is an expense to the City by taking credit cards, but this is alleviated by the fact that the City will capture funds it wouldn't otherwise have gotten quickly. Mayor Ramsey explained the citizens will be able to pay City utility bills online. Councilmember Jeffrey pointed out the information is secure. The Council discussed security measures at length and the City will not hold any confidential information. City Administrator Ulrich noted this service will not apply only to utilities; there will be other uses as well.

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

7.07: Discussion and Vote on Whether to Televis HRA Meetings

Mayor Ramsey explained the Council has discussed whether the HRA meetings can be televised. This issue is brought forward tonight to ask the Council to vote on whether these meetings can be televised starting tonight and moving forward.

Motion by Councilmember Elvig, seconded by Councilmember Jeffrey, to approve televising HRA meetings held after the regular Council meetings.

Further discussion: Councilmember Jeffrey explained that the Councilmembers form the body of the HRA. He is the Chair and supports televising these meetings. Mayor Ramsey warned that many of the items to be discussed are confidential, and those items will be scheduled for later in the agenda so the meeting can be closed.

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

8. MAYOR, COUNCIL AND STAFF INPUT

Planning Intern

Mayor Ramsey introduced the new Planning Intern, Patrick Brama.

Census Data

Mayor Ramsey reviewed the new census data, noting that Anoka is the fastest growing county in Minnesota, and Ramsey is the second fastest growing city in the County.

Local Government Officials Meeting

City Administrator Ulrich said the Government Officials meeting is Wednesday, March 30.

Mayors Prayer Breakfast

City Administrator Ulrich stated the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast is Friday, April 1, and will support Youth First.

HRA Goals Discussion

Councilmember Elvig indicated the City Council wears a different "hat" than the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), which is the development entity of the City. He requested a conversation of what the HRA's goals and what it wants to accomplish. He said he would like to know if the goals of the Council are the same.

Mayor Ramsey responded it was a big step for the HRA to purchase the property. This would not have been his first choice for the City to engage in this project, but in the state it was in, it

was the only choice and there are exit strategies. He said there is nothing he would deviate from what has been done so far.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember Jeffrey, seconded by Councilmember Tossey, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the City Council adjourned at 8:36 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.