

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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a work session on Tuesday, June 7, 2011, in the Lake Itasca room at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

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

Also Present: City Administrator Kurtis G. Ulrich
Deputy City Administrator Heidi A. Nelson
Director of Public Works Brian Olson
Senior Planner Tim Gladhill
City Engineer Tim Himmer
IT Manager Dean Busch
Parks Supervisor Mark Riverblood
Management/Planning Intern Patrick Brama
Marketing Manager Darren Lazan
Anoka County Commissioner Matt Look

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ramsey called the work session to order at 5:32 p.m.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

2.2 Facebook Updates

Management/Planning Intern Brama stated that staff has been investigating options available for Facebook in an effort to keep communication open with the residents. He noted this was discussed previously with regard to improving communications about Public Works projects, more specifically, the upcoming road maintenance and reconstruction efforts. Mr. Brama presented a PowerPoint talking through the different “pages” of Facebook. He summarized the current structure and discussed the use of pages and events. He proposed the following structure: 1) redirect users to the City’s home page; 2) Use events rather than pages; and 3) establish standard disclaimer or uniform language.

Mayor Ramsey stated that it looks good but Mr. Brama should check with other departments on what they want their page(s) to look like.

Councilmember Elvig inquired what we are trying to do. Is it all information that is available – are we trying to market something – trying to direct – trying to coordinate?

Management/Planning Intern Brama responded this will be limited to one-way communication. We ask them to contact the City.

Councilmember McGlone added it would be sending out messages and controlling that message.

Councilmember Backous inquired if the ability to comment has been shut off to which Mr. Brama replied not on the existing Facebook page.

Councilmember Backous stated he would be weary of them visiting this versus our website. This could be used for eye level points but always direct them to the website.

Councilmember Tossey stated he set one up like this for his place of employment.

Deputy City Administrator Nelson stated that we would use it like “In the News” on the City’s website – for public hearing notices and more like what’s happening. It’s another tool to interact with the residents.

Councilmember Backous stated he is leery of getting too many events that we are inviting people to – they will get tired of this too.

Council expressed a consensus to go ahead with this.

Director of Public Works Olson asked if we will have to redirect people to the new page to which Mr. Brama replied yes.

Mr. Lazan stated he would work with Mr. Brama on The COR page.

Mayor Ramsey stated we will let staff take care of this.

2.6 Update on Legacy Christian Academy Project

Deputy City Administrator Nelson noted there were several members of the Legacy Christian Academy present to talk about the Academy project. She noted that a summary was sent out to Council from a meeting regarding the Legacy construction project and the issues they are facing. She stated that the City is proceeding with grading and public improvements, infrastructure, etc. She introduced Michael Altamari, Casey Breen and Mike Hageman. Mr. Breen walked through some slides, talking about the timing of the project. He talked about the vision, promise, etc. plus the number of students and the small space they currently have in Andover. He presented the timing when they started with the plan and met with the Council – looking at an April 1 groundbreaking date. They ran into environmental issues on the land as well as financial issues and added that they have not yet secured the financing. They were told they could not operate the way they intended to finance. He stated we do plan to go at full grading and have a pad

ready to go so when financing is available we are ready to move. He explained the shell is ready to go for bid. He added that they are looking at fundraising and doing a study on tuition.

Councilmember Elvig asked about their original intent for financing.

Discussion ensued relating to the financing/private partnership with Hagemen Holdings. Councilmember Elvig commented that now Legacy is going back for a more conventional type of financing and that's not as appealing.

Mr. Green stated they are working through to get pro forma stronger – and in September, we should be able to start re-approaching banks.

Financing options were talked about. It was stated by Legacy there is a gap in there – we are working through pieces –we need to put this back on a regular pace.

City Administrator Ulrich stated we have a road project with Armstrong and Bunker Lake Boulevards. That project is moving ahead. Our concern is the assessments. Legacy has indicated they will still pay assessments guaranteed on the value of the land. The City Attorney is looking at that with a change in the schedule and we will update the Council. This should not cause any problems with the project in planning a spring groundbreaking.

Councilmember Elvig stated there may be a request for a pass-through bond and wondered if that is still an intention. It still has to go through the bank and he wondered if the City could do something for Legacy.

Mr. Breen stated they have two fund streams but if the City knows of anyone who has a heart for that project, they would be interested. Mr. Ulrich added that our financial advisor was at that meeting as well. Discussion continued about seeing what is a value and a pledge to look for potential partners.

Mayor Ramsey stated that he knows they have done a lot of work but he guesses we will have to wait another year, but added that, at least the project will happen.

Councilmember McGlone commented about the mass grading, etc. and wondered if there could be any construction at all – such as ballfields, etc.

One of the representatives from Legacy stated that we are working through that but he rather doubted it. The key focus is to go forward with the road, etc.; and they do not want to hold that up.

2.4 Consider Cost Participation for Access Improvements on Sunfish Lake Boulevard Near Trunk Highway #10

Director of Public Works Olson stated that, in 2008, Anoka County upgraded the capacity of the intersection of Sunfish Lake Boulevard between Highway #10 and Bunker Lake Boulevard with financial assistance from the City of Ramsey. He pointed out that this improvement

accomplished a number of things. This intersection operated at an unacceptable delay and had a significant safety problem, as it was the fifth most dangerous intersection in the entire metropolitan area. There were also safety improvements installed at the rail crossing that allowed the City to move forward with the implementation of a quiet zone on the eastern side of the City. There were many positive aspects of this project, however, it had impacts to the access of the businesses located on the northwest quadrant of the intersection of T.H. #10 and Sunfish Lake Boulevard. He talked about another project further north at Bunker Lake Boulevard and Sunfish Lake Boulevard with no additional accesses between McKinley and Bunker. City staff has been working with County staff to look at access guidelines to determine where we can work with these guidelines. If a study is done on the project and there is a benefit to the Anoka County Highway system, accesses are allowed. Mr. Olson noted that Frank Yamoutpour of Sunfish Express was present. Sunfish Express is a business at the northwest quadrant of Sunfish Lake Boulevard. Mr. Olson stated that the purpose of this topic report tonight is to discuss the potential for City participation for the design and construction of an improvement to the access for Sunfish Express and the multi-tenant commercial use directly to the west. City staff met with the Anoka County Engineer and Attorney, the City Attorney and business owners on May 16. Consensus of the meeting was that the business owners agreed to pay up to \$7,500 for the study only if the City was willing to participate in the construction costs. Since that meeting, Mr. Yamoutpour met with the City Administrator, indicating he spoke to the mall owners, they have agreed to pay half of the engineering study, and Sunfish Express would pay the other half. The condition they have of paying for the study is that they want the County and/or the City to commit to paying for the recommended changes, ranging from \$50,000 to \$400,000, that might come out of the study. Mr. Olson reported that County staff was planning to bring this issue to their Public Works Committee on May 31, to see if they were interested in participating, but that meeting was canceled. It is now tentatively scheduled for June 20, but that may be rescheduled too.

Councilmember McGlone expressed his concern is with the probability that the County will change anything without seeing some changes in spacing guidelines. He didn't think we were to that point yet and he wondered how we could do anything until the County has their meeting.

Mr. Olson stated that we will not commit to anything ahead of time. The study is the first step and Council can make motions "contingent upon"...

Councilmember McGlone stated that the spacing guidelines are not changing at this point and until we get something out of the County, we are being premature.

Mayor Ramsey stated that if the business owners on Sunfish Lake Boulevard put forth money, would we be interested in putting up the money to get the improvements – is Council interested in putting some money toward the construction.

Councilmember McGlone stated he was all for looking for a way to help but when the group met, did the group understand that until spacing guidelines are changed, they are out of luck.

Director of Public Works Olson reported there are provisions that allow for exceptions if you can prove there is an overall County benefit.

Councilmember McGlone inquired if Mr. Olson believes that to be true.

Mr. Olson stated that you have to give the County a reason to say yes.

Councilmember Elvig stated he sees it as working the system and making a variance for us. It sounds good to him if the County is at least trying to look at this.

Mr. Olson inquired if Council is willing to contribute up to 50 percent of a dollar amount for the construction if the County is willing to do that.

Councilmember Wise stated that his understanding was that the mall is in foreclosure process. His concern is if we are talking to a bank, they will be trying to unload this. They will be committing someone to funds they may not be willing to spend. We might be sticking one property owner with it and then who knows how long before we get funds from others. \$2.8 million was our original total for Sunfish Lake Boulevard and we paid all but \$247,000 except that the County made a commitment to the City to pay \$4.5 million for all improvements that were affecting Town Center at the time. The \$300,000 they pay per year goes to the total costs they were willing to pay on all the improvements. The County led the charge on this but they submitted a bill to us that was paid for with State Aid funds.

Mayor Ramsey stated he would like to see the study done. Maybe we should say the City pays 1/3, the mall pays 1/3 and the County pays 1/3 of the construction costs.

Councilmember Elvig expressed concern about leaving it open-ended. He talked about the \$250,000 from Federal and was concerned about that as well. He would like to understand more about that before he commits to money.

Councilmember McGlone expressed agreement with Councilmember Elvig and asked if the County has intimated that they would participate also.

Councilmember Tossey stated he did not care if we lost the grant money. The government made the ability to access that mall horrible. We need to look at a solution.

Mayor Ramsey stated this gives a level of confidence for the business owners that if they can show the ability do to a study, we can help.

City Administrator Ulrich suggested that since we do not know the cost, maybe it would be better to participate in the study – pay one half or one third of the study and to not make a commitment to the cost of construction. Participate on the front end and negotiate at the back end.

Mayor Ramsey felt that the purpose of this case is they want to have an idea if we would help – they are not looking for a commitment of money.

Mr. Yamoutpour asked if the City and County are willing to fix that median for the businesses, and who approves this. It was stated that Doug Fischer, Anoka County, has to approve it.

Mayor Ramsey talked about the interest in helping with the construction if the study shows.

Mr. Yamoutpour stated that the owners are willing to participate in the study if they know something will happen.

Councilmember McGlone stated that the comments Mr. Yamoutpour mentioned from the County Engineer doesn't sound too promising. So, again, until the study happens, there is a big roadblock.

Mayor Ramsey reminded Council that Unity Street couldn't happen either until the study was done. We would probably help with participating in this project and most likely if there is benefit to the County, they would help out too. He stated he would say yes we would be interested in participating to some level, but he was not interested in putting an amount out there yet for a commitment.

The City will contact Sun Tide and Sierra asking for money to do the study, knowing that Council is willing to support construction if the study shows benefit.

2.1 Update from Anoka County Commissioner Matt Look

Anoka County Commissioner Matt Look was present. He thanked Council and staff for all their hard work in The COR and the overall City. He talked about the strengths of the City and about bringing in the VA Clinic, Allina Clinic, etc. He talked about redefining the role in Economic Development, gave a road and park update, talked about the County Board's directions, cutting spending and noted that they are spending on roadway infrastructure. He talked about cutting expenses and being more responsible and that the levies are going down. He gave road updates on C.R. #116 to Sunfish Lake Boulevard to Thurston, C.R. #57, #5, #116 and #83, #64 and #27. He noted roads are very important to people who want to invest in property, etc. He gave a property update on the northern portion of The COR – to sell tax forfeit property to the City of Ramsey for \$15,000. He talked about the Regional Rail – the County has preserved \$3.1 million for the Ramsey station, contingent on the County vote and added that the law restricts the County's participation to a percentage of the project. It appears the best idea would be to include that in the bonding bill. He talked about the consensus of CTIB being in support of the Ramsey Rail and the Met Council is very supportive – in Federal or State funding – but we want to stay away from Federal money. The commitment is there – the Met Council does not want us to discontinue the bus service. We continue to be in negotiations with Burlington Northern-Santa Fe, trying to leverage Ramsey's portion with an overpass on Armstrong. He also talked about the VA Clinic and touched on the Anoka County Broadband Connect.

Councilmember Elvig thanked Commissioner Look for coming here and added it's nice to have his support.

2.5 Update on Ramsey Rail Station

Director of Public Works Olson stated that he and City Administrator Ulrich have been working with Commissioner Look, participating on the Ramsey Rail Station Project Management Team (PMT), over the past months. There are four topics staff would like to discuss with Council this evening: Request for additional capital from the Metropolitan Council; Waiving of the building and plan review fee; Ridership marketing campaign to manage transition of riders to rail; and continue contract for bus service. With regard to the request for additional capital from the Met Council, they indicated they expect to see approximately \$295,000 annually from Ramsey residents when the City opts into the transit-taxing district. He pointed out that with the uncertainty of the Governor's bonding bill and the lack of a \$4 million investment from the State, the PMT has discussed the possibility of requesting additional money from the Met Council in the form of a revenue bond that would run over the course of ten years. An annual payment of \$295,000 over 10 years could generate \$1.81 million in capital that could be requested instead of the \$1.32 originally discussed. We will make that request as we go through the transit tax agreement but we are not so sure it's worth requesting.

Mayor Ramsey stated they do not even know if they will have a job – why are we sending them a request for money.

Mr. Olson talked about not moving forward with anything until July.

City Administrator Ulrich stated that with regard to the Met Council, this brings operational money into their system – so in working with us and building a station, they are making operational dollars. Timing is important but we do not need this agreement signed for a year or so. We will continue to negotiate that with this in mind.

Councilmember Elvig stated that if we are generating them money for capital expenditures, we want to be first to the door to get that back.

Mr. Olson stated reiterated Mr. Ulrich's statement that we are going forward and asking but we have a year or so to make that decision.

Mr. Olson continued with the second topic – waiving of the building and plan review fee. There has been a request by the PMT to ask for Council authorization to waive the building permit fee to try to keep costs of the project down. Staff researched other public buildings that has been constructed in recent years and there have been various methods of paying for the building permits. In all but one example, the contractor was required to pull a building permit and pay for it within their overall bid. The exception was the Ramsey Municipal Facility. Staff has estimated that waiving of the fee would amount to a decrease of the project costs by \$44,382.64.

Councilmember Wise inquired how that would work if we contract our inspections out.

Mr. Olson responded that it's more building permits and plan reviews that we contract out.

Deputy City Administrator Nelson stated that the electrical piece, because we contract with him and it's fee based, that might be something we need to look at. It's a different fee schedule than our normal fee.

Mayor Ramsey asked how soon.

City Administrator Ulrich stated not soon – not until we have the funding wrapped up. Non-contracted City expenses the City could waive. We did it with City Hall. He inquired can fees be waived like City Hall or should we say we are putting enough forward so we have fees in place.

Mayor Ramsey suggested maybe cut them in half and we will not lose money on it.

Councilmember Elvig stated that in concept, it sounds fine. On top of x million dollars, maybe we would do another \$44,000 but we have already put in \$2 million.

Mr. Olson referred to the cost estimate summary contained in Council's topic report. He went over the fees. We will take the information and we will look at potentially decreasing the total cost of the project but making sure we do not waive any fees we would contract out for.

Mayor Ramsey asked if any other agencies would be asked to reduce fees or waive them to which Mr. Ulrich responded we will do that.

Director of Public Works Olson continued with the third discussion point: Ridership marketing campaign to manage transition of riders to rail. He stated there has been a lot of discussion about making sure the ridership stays consistent on the bus as is currently. The concern is that we do not want ridership to leave public transit altogether. They want us to explore raising our fees to something that is closer to Anoka, for example. There's a chance we will lose ridership now. When we went from \$4 to \$2.75, the ridership nearly doubled. We cannot attribute all that increase to a fare decrease but it is fair to say that is a lot of the reason.

Councilmember Wise stated he has always advocated that people who use mass transit get by way too cheap so he had no problem increasing the fee and aligning it with the marketing study.

Mr. Olson stated we are at \$3 – Anoka is at \$4. We will be meeting with Matt Harrington to talk about transferring bus riders to train. We do not want to overpromise. Mr. Olson added – or maybe decrease fare and increase ridership.

Mayor Ramsey stated he would be in favor.

Councilmember Tossey stated that if you raise it a dollar, that's an extra \$48,000 a year, but if you do not keep riders . . . that's a tough one. He stated he would be cautious about raising it – if we raise it too much, we will see a loss.

Councilmember Elvig stated that with the NorthStar, when Elk River proposed \$1 a ride – a lot of people came to fight against that difference in cost. He noted that the bus is considerably less

expensive than the rail and thought that it could be raised to \$3.50. He felt though that there is a bigger issue – and that is we are basically competing against ourselves.

Councilmember Backous stated he would advocate for a smaller increase. It is our leverage - the more riders we have on the bus, the better off we are.

Councilmember McGlone asked if we have to raise the fee.

Director of Public Works Olson stated you are in control – you do not have to do anything. The thought was once we go from bus to train, that difference in cost will remove transit users.

Councilmember McGlone stated he disagrees – mass transit users will continue to use it.

Mr. Olson stated that this concerns us – we need to rely on at least the ridership we now have on our bus service.

Mayor Ramsey felt there should not be any concern at all. He felt we will not have any less riders than we have now. The question is, if we would lose any riders on the bus now if we bump up the fee.

Councilmember Tossey stated that the central corridor is going to be opened in 2014. You will add a few new riders. He is not concerned that ridership will go down when we finally get the train stop.

Consensus of the Council was to keep the fee the same.

Mayor Ramsey stated that there could be two stops downtown and drop people off where they really want to go. We could look at that if we really want to increase ridership.

Councilmember Elvig suggested having a meeting with the riders to see what they want.

Mr. Olson reminded Council that a survey was done with the riders last year.

Councilmember Elvig suggested an open house.

Councilmember Backous suggested another survey – putting it on the bus seats.

Mr. Olson stated that we have talked about negotiating with the bus service contractor. There has been no increase since 2007. We have put per gallon gas limits on - if it's \$2.90 we pay a little extra. If it's less, then he compensates us. There's an equalizer on gas. He said he would be willing to continue for however long we want, providing he gets a 3 percent annual increase. We feel the time line is less than when we were doing the RFP. Maybe we should formalize discussion that we would continue this until we have the rail station.

Mayor Ramsey said to continue the contract.

Councilmember Elvig stated the key here is what are we doing to raise ridership.

Mr. Olson reiterated we did a survey and brought that back to the Council for discussion.

Senior Planner Gladhill talked about the different marketing that has been done.

Councilmember Elvig asked if we are doing this on a regular basis. We could put a “ride our bus” message at the end of every Council meeting.

Deputy City Administrator Nelson stated that we have talked about a “get on board” campaign – for bus and rail. We have done a lot of things we talked about. She did not know if we have seen great gains from any of these efforts. Maybe we should tap into finding out how to spread our efforts to glean results. We can revisit that and see if there is a desire to tackle marketing.

Councilmember Elvig stated he would like to do that. “Get on board” seems more like for rail – maybe use just “ride our bus” instead.

Councilmember McGlone talked about the sign (marquis) plus all the talking on camera about the bus service. He suggested doing more of what we started and advertising it at each City Council meeting.

Mr. Lazan gave an update of the timeline for the marquis sign.

Ms. Nelson added that we promised we would have the sign up by Game Fair.

Mayor Ramsey stated, getting back to increasing ridership – do a survey with the riders, quickly, as they get off the bus and then give them something for answering the questions. He added that he would like staff to check into two more stops downtown as well.

Councilmember Backous stated that there would be a captive audience on the bus so maybe we should have them fill out the survey on the bus.

Mr. Olson reported there was great participation in the last survey – 97 percent.

Councilmember McGlone commented that there are multiple kinds of riders – the daily riders and the event riders.

Discussion ensued relating to things that could be offered from local businesses for filling out the survey and a direction was given to have staff do some marketing about how much one is saving riding the bus versus driving.

Consensus of the Council was to keep on with the bus service, no fare increase, keep the contractor the same, and work on marketing.

2.3 Issue RFP for Contract Maintenance Services for The Draw

Parks Supervisor Riverblood stated that the bulk of The Draw was completed last fall. A full-time employee, who is assigned to the parks, has submitted his resignation for midsummer. Staff is not bringing forward a request for replacing the FT worker but rather performing a detailed analysis of how several aspects of park operations may be contracted out; and re-examining how operations may be realigned. Mr. Riverblood stated that the first step would be to identify baseline costs for any particular activity. Staff is keeping detail of every minute spent on the maintenance of that park. This topic report is to request a consensus from the Council about the detail in the RFP and if how staff is going about it makes sense. The intention would be for the contractor to be selected for sometime in early August. In subsequent years, the term would be a full maintenance season.

Mayor Ramsey inquired why we are only asking for a year - we should increase that. He felt they would just be getting to really know the job after a year.

Mr. Riverblood responded that if it is done with the understanding they can do this another year – he felt the bids would be more competitive.

Director of Public Works Olson offered that staff looked at a contract done by St. Francis and that was annually.

Mayor Ramsey stated that he understands part of the reason we got such high prices before is because of the amount of investment one has to make to take on this contract. We need to talk about this.

Councilmember McGlone expressed agreement. One of the concerns is the term – it's not as attractive to bid on if it's such a short term.

Councilmember Wise inquired if you could ask for a one-year and a three-year for that exact reason. He did not feel it would be that much more work putting that RFP together. He asked about the options for renewal. If they do a good job, it would be nice to be able to lock them in.

Mayor Ramsey suggested a one-year contract with four, one-year extensions.

Councilmember Elvig suggested writing it for one year and then maybe do a three year.

Mr. Riverblood stated that if we know by adding seasonal workers, we can get it done, that might be a lot cheaper and then we might not want to contract it out.

Mr. Lazan talked about structure for bids for a special services district.

Councilmember McGlone stated that the ideal for The COR is to be private anyway and have these costs picked up by the taxpayers.

Mr. Olson stated he thought we were trying to be as competitive as possible which means it might not necessarily be private. He thought the goal all along was to keep it at the best price.

Mayor Ramsey stated he did not know if we will ever get a true cost for City employees to do that.

City Administrator Ulrich stated we are a ways from implementing a special services district. The intent was that it would fund over and above what the regular maintenance would be. At this point, we are considering it a City Park and going with private. He suggested going out for an RFP for one year and a three-year option.

Mayor Ramsey stated he would like to qualify the numbers it would cost to have City staff do this.

Councilmember McGlone talked some more about true costs and how difficult it is to come up with that. He stated he is an advocate for privatizing this and he did not really care if it costs more money.

Councilmember Tossey stated it may be done cheaper than the City can do it.

Mayor Ramsey stated he would agree. You cannot project what it would cost the City – especially if a mower breaks, etc.

Director of Public Works Olson stated he would suggest when we come back we will have a very detailed work session topic about costs we anticipate for seasonal to do it and if there is anything we are missing, Council can let us know at that time.

Mayor Ramsey reiterated he felt it was too difficult to come up with true costs.

Councilmember Elvig stated that we have done this before. There is 20 years of history on how many lawnmowers break down, etc. When we do it this time, then let's quit doing this. Our information is good – we have been pushing to get this project and we have done a good job.

Mr. Riverblood added that he did not know anyone on staff who would be opposed to contracting, but we also need to inspect. If they cut corners and we have to inspect, etc., there are other costs to that.

Councilmember Tossey felt that the cost of City employees should be available and asked staff to get the RFP to Council so we will know where we are at.

Councilmember McGlone stated that when you farm it out you do not have the capital investment costs. If it costs a little more, it's worth it in the long run.

Consensus of the Council was to go ahead and issue an RFP and follow up with the true costs prior to opening the bids.

Mr. Olson reminded everyone that this is a quote.

Councilmember Elvig commented on The Draw and stated that he really liked that all the brush is cut down. He was concerned about the algae however,

Mr. Riverblood stated that we will be getting a full recommendation of experts in the field as to how to address the algae. It's a problem in all communities. He talked about how algae grows and what from. It's a storm water pond and fertilizers, etc. all end up in there.

Councilmember Elvig stated that he is still anticipating we are supposed to have fresh water and no new costs – we put money into stuff that doesn't seem to be working right now and it was supposed to take care of the algae problem.

Mr. Olson stated that we will ask for clarification that there will be no new costs.

Mr. Riverblood added that we do have the irrigation system up and fresh water has been added now and he hopes it will be taken care of.

Discussion ensued relating to aeration.

2.7 Review 2012 State Bonding Requests

City Administrator Ulrich stated that the governor is soliciting the bonding requests for 2012. The City's highest priority project would be the Armstrong interchange with a likely request of around \$10 million. Other requests might be for a water treatment facility or to work with the City of Anoka and request funding for Highway #47 or the Highway #10 overpass – or old town hall relocation is possible.

Mayor Ramsey suggested asking for \$10 million.

Councilmember McGlone suggested giving them a menu and seeing what we get.

Councilmember Elvig suggested you may get \$6 million if you ask for \$10 million.

Mr. Ulrich commented that there is some wisdom in not being greedy and asking only for your top priority.

Councilmember Tossey stated that one item that you know we have always wanted is the overpass. If we got to the legislature with that one request, it shows that's most important to this City right now.

Mayor Ramsey stated he feels we have a better shot at that than the rail stop.

Councilmember Wise stated that he has advocated in the past to tie the Armstrong overpass to properties we have already taken down on Highway #10. It's a way to recoup some of our lost tax base.

Councilmember Tossey stated this will be a need for the City – a help with Highway #10.

Councilmember Elvig suggested we need to make sure they understand about the economic development and the safety.

Consensus of the Council was to ask for the bridge and look for grant opportunities.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion carried. All in favor. The regular meeting of the Council Work Session was adjourned at 8:02.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurtis G. Ulrich
City Administrator

Staff is not bringing forward a request for replacing the FT worker but rather performing a detailed analysis of how several aspects of park operations may be contracted out; and re-examining how operations may be realigned. Mr. Riverblood stated that the first step would be to identify baseline costs for any particular activity.

ATTEST:

Jo Ann M. Thieling
City Clerk

Minutes taken and transcribed by Jo Thieling, City Clerk