

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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a City Council Work Session on Tuesday, September 13, 2011, 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 Sarah Strommen
Councilmember Jason Tossey
Councilmember Jeffrey Wise

Members Absent: None

Also Present: City Administrator Kurtis Ulrich
Deputy City Administrator Heidi A. Nelson
Public Works Director Brian Olson
Senior Planner Tim Gladhill
City Engineer Tim Himmer
City Attorney William Goodrich

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ramsey called the City Council Work Session to order at 5:43 p.m.

APPROVE AGENDA

The agenda was approved as submitted.

COUNCIL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

1) Consider Sanitary Sewer Options for the Property Located at 5220 156th Lane NW

City Engineer Himmer reviewed the staff report.

Jason Obermeier, 5220 - 156th Lane NW, Ramsey, stated they would like to see the sanitary sewer hooked up.

Dean Kramer, 5200 - 156th Lane NW, Ramsey, said the well was proposed to be moved to the lowest point of property. He shared photos of standing water in his yard, stating that when the water receded it left the area dry, resulting in lost trees. He said he would like to have the system

stay, adding the water was within the drainage easement. Mr. Kramer said he hoped for a solution until the downstream solution can be taken care of.

Mayor Ramsey stated the easement is intended for situations such as these.

Mr. Kramer said he understood that, but stated that sanitary sewer usually runs in a culvert but had to be left as is, adding they likely wouldn't change the grade. He requested that he be kept informed because the drainage would be very close to their well. He asked if it would be possible to bring the press sewer line across the back of the property and leave the elevation as it is currently.

Councilmember Elvig asked why they have to change the elevation.

City Engineer Himmer said the reason was to maximize the existing 75 foot easement, adding that to go back the full 75 feet would result in this being located at their back door so this would be an alternative. He noted there are two separate basins in the park and that the water table at 862 is ground water and not surface water.

Mr. Kramer explained the slope of his yard and possible ponding enlargement as a way to address the problem. He noted there is a lot of property in the park to work with.

Public Works Director Olson said there are a number of options, one being to lower the pipe to the river as the downstream option to direct the water where they want it to go. He stated digging an open ditch would not be an option, adding the groundwater is high in Ramsey and the only way to get water out of this basin area is to lower the pipe.

Councilmember Elvig said unless there are health or safety concerns maybe they can review this again in a year.

Public Works Director Olson said they are trying to buy an easement for sewer connection and monthly charge, adding some of the demands in the neighbors' letter would not be possible without purchasing an easement.

Mayor Ramsey noted that this meeting can move into closed session to discuss the City's alternatives.

Motion by Councilmember Tossey, seconded by Councilmember Wise, to move to closed session.

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

The Council Work Session meeting moved into a closed session at 6:01 p.m.

The closed session ended at 6:27 p.m.

Councilmember Strommen inquired if the sewer has been inspected.

Mr. Kramer, 5200 - 156th Lane NW, stated two legs of the system are broken because of the standing water over the summer, adding there is no backup system and there is now drainage into the groundwater.

Public Works Director Olson stated the City will inspect the systems with the owners' consent.

Consensus was reached that Mayor Ramsey and City Administrator Ulrich will speak with City Engineer Himmer and the neighbors to discuss possible solutions.

Mayor Ramsey confirmed that the property owners will be notified of any future meetings or developments.

Councilmember Wise said he would like to see a solution that doesn't just delay the problem until a future time.

Councilmember McGlone noted this item will be removed from the regular Council agenda for consideration until a solution can be determined.

2) Discuss Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization (LRRWMO) Proposed Wetland Protection Standards

City Engineer Himmer reviewed the staff report.

Mayor Ramsey stated these standards will likely dictate what the City can and cannot do, such as in the example of drainage easements.

Councilmember Strommen said that wetland buffers and stormwater are important in light of the last item and that we need to be concerned with these issues. She said we need to monitor what people are doing in the easements as the cost comes back to the City either way.

Councilmember Elvig agreed, stating we don't issue permits for things in the easement such as retaining walls, adding if we had a lot of unknown obstructions we would have had more problems with backup. He stated the standards are important to review though.

Councilmember Wise said he understood why fencing is a problem but asked why we don't allow retaining walls in the easement. City Engineer Himmer said retaining walls have to be filled in behind which results in the water having to squeeze out somewhere else.

Councilmember Wise said he does not want to have to permit for these types of items. City Engineer Himmer noted these standards are on the LRRWMO Board's agenda for approval later this week. He added that the building process requires silt fence removal and two rounds of landscaping for an unmaintained area, which would result in a building process change in the City.

Consensus was reached to vote against the Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization (LRRWMO) Proposed Wetland Protection Standards unless the restrictions can be changed in the drainage and utility easement to be individual city decisions.

3) Consider Change Order for Improvement Project 10-22, Parking Ramp Expansion

Public Works Director Olson reviewed the staff report.

Councilmember Elvig asked why the City wasn't aware of the soil concerns under the parking ramp, resulting in the two columns being affected that have to be driven and pinned.

Bill Fossing, LSA Design, said that soils tests were conducted on that based on the geology; there is a small local pocket of glacially deposited silts and sands affected. He stated that based on Braun's additional tests they conducted two borings which resulted in a prediction of the extent of the soft material.

Councilmember Elvig said engineers need to be held accountable to what is in the ground, adding the borings should go right where the columns are constructed.

Public Works Director Olson said this is the reason why we had the preliminary study done, and that once the soils were found we had to determine the extent and how it would impact the design. He stated that based on the report there is no other reporting or design needed for this apartment project, adding they will request soil borings right at the columns.

Motion by Councilmember Ramsey, seconded by Councilmember Strommen, to recommend the City Council approve Change Order for Improvement Project 10-22, Parking Ramp Expansion.

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

Public Works Director Olson noted there will be an item added to the Council agenda to authorize change of scope of project for Alpine Drive. He said staff will be requesting authorization of mill and overlay for Alpine Park by Ramsey Boulevard. He said this will be a large change order to fill some spots that are too extensive, adding that the bidding climate is great right now so we can do the whole depth of bituminous for approximately \$60,000 and be able to use \$35,000 worth of Class V material at Public Works.

FUTURE TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

1) Review Future Topics / Calendar

None.

MAYOR, COUNCIL AND STAFF INPUT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

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 Cathy Sorensen
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.