

**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 6, 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

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Ramsey called the City Council Work Session to order at 6:46 p.m.

**COUNCIL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

1) Review Clothing Donation Box Requirements

Senior Planner Gladhill reviewed the staff report. He reviewed the locations of some of the donation boxes.

Councilmember Wise suggested this may be an issue that 1% of the citizens are interested in and it may not be a large enough issue to label as a case for the Council.

Councilmember McGlone pointed out if there are overflows, it is not the City's responsibility to monitor it.

Councilmembers Backous, Elvig, Tossey and Mayor Ramsey agreed that if the donated goods are sold at a profit, it is not the City's responsibility.

Direction was given to staff to explain to any interested citizens this is not the City's responsibility to monitor, though the City will monitor to assure the issue does not become a nuisance.

## **2) Review Rail Station Funding and Schedule**

City Administrator Ulrich reviewed the report. He introduced Jim Lasher, Financial Consultant, who was present to review the item.

Mr. Lasher referred to the memo in the Councilmembers' packet and reviewed the background of the funding, and the use of CMAQ funds. He noted the grant supports transportation by bus from Ramsey to downtown. When the transportation converted to rail, the content and validity of the rail grant was changed. The grant cannot be used for a skyway and this is the first time there is a conversion from bus to rail at an existing station.

Councilmember Elvig noted there has been discussion to run the bus morning and night to supplement what the train was offering.

Mr. Lasher explained the proposal to supplement the train schedule can be added to the current request. This would not jeopardize the CMAQ grant.

Councilmember Elvig suggested since the CMAQ funds have been designated, the request for funds for the skyway should be omitted.

Mayor Ramsey stated his approval for the rail stop is retracted without the skyway.

Mr. Lasher explained the use of the grant becomes an issue in two years when the train starts and the bus stops. Having to consider the issue now mitigates some of the unknown in the future.

Public Works Director Olson added the approval process is different according to the way the funds are used.

Mr. Lasher stated some of the funds will be dispersed into the City's bank account as there are partial payment requests. If there are change orders, there are funds added to the account. In June 2012, MnDOT could take the money out and use it for something else. It is allocated to the City of Ramsey until the funds are taken out as needed by MnDOT. The last date to send in the skyway design is Tuesday, September 13.

City Administrator Ulrich stated he would brief the MnDOT representative on the issue.

Public Works Director Olson cautioned while it is good to discuss the issue with the MnDOT representative, he would have a limited relationship with this grant.

Councilmember Wise questioned if there are other funding sources.

City Administrator Ulrich reviewed the proposal and the funding sources.

Mayor Ramsey suggested Finance Officer Lund present the “what if?” scenarios, which can be discussed at the next meeting along with the financial dashboard.

Mr. Lasher advised the Council should decide whether to go ahead with the change. He pointed out there have been seven minor scope changes since the original proposal, and only one has been approved.

Consensus was reached to move forward with Plan B to have MTC maintain the station, and request they continue the bus from Anoka Tech to Ramsey.

Discussion took place regarding the safety of the ramp and the elevator in the ramp. Further discussion involved a possible kiosk in the parking ramp, and the use of TIF Districts.

### **FUTURE TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

See calendar.

### **MAYOR, COUNCIL AND STAFF INPUT**

None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Councilmember Backous, seconded by Councilmember Wise to adjourn the Work Session of the City Council 8:05 p.m.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kurtis G. Ulrich  
City Administrator

ATTEST:

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Jo Ann M. Thieling  
City Clerk

Drafted by Chris Moksnes  
*TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*