

**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 27, 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
Fire Chief Dean Kapler
Police Chief James Way
Economic Development/Marketing Manager Aaron Backman
Environmental Coordinator/Planner Chris Anderson
City Clerk Jo Thieling

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ramsey called the City Council Work Session to order at 5:30 p.m.

APPROVE AGENDA

The agenda was approved as submitted.

COUNCIL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Police Chief Way presented a video of an accident at Sunfish Lake Boulevard and Highway 10. QCTV added voiceovers and this video will be presented to the County.

Public Works Director Olson stated the video was presented to the Council to gain consensus that it was appropriate to show and distribute. It will be included with grant applications if the Council agrees. He said this type of accident is common along Highway 10 and is the most dangerous.

Consensus was reached that the video is appropriate to use for grant applications.

1) Fee for Police Services at End Zone Tent Party on June 3, and June 4, 2011

Finance Officer Lund reviewed the staff report.

Mayor Ramsey stated the City did provide police services when Mr. Gruber owned a facility named Diamonds.

Mr. Gruber, owner of End Zone, stated the fees for the services provided by police at Diamonds were waived because the proceeds went to charity. Other than two events, he said he had in-house trained police. He said he did not get the agreement for police services in writing for this particular event, and he only asked whether the services were the same as what was provided at Diamonds. He said the Police Chief confirmed it was. He then assumed it was about the same rate as they paid earlier which was the \$50 to \$55/hour range. He said he immediately questioned the bill when he received it because it was almost \$1,000 assessed per night. He indicated they had a loss of \$21,000 at this event. He said he was also surprised to be charged with 5 hours of services, when the police were present for 4 hours. He asked if anything could be done with the fee. He requested the City look at why their fees are higher than neighboring cities. He said he was not refusing to pay, but wanted to discuss it.

Chief Way explained the 5 hours included travel time to get the officers in place. He noted he reviewed the entire permit with Mr. Gruber, and the fees. The minutes from the Council meeting where the permit was requested reports the number of people needed, onsite security, for a few examples. This is the amount charged for any event.

Councilmember Strommen questioned when this rate was established.

Finance Officer Lund answered the rate was established in the 1990s.

Mayor Ramsey stated it was clear when the Council approved the permit what the rate was.

Councilmember Wise suggested setting up a payment schedule.

Finance Officer Lund asked if she could bring the case forward to add this to the tax rolls if payment is not made by the end of the year.

Consensus was reached to not assess taxes at this point, to allow payments over three months, and to bring to the Council if not paid at the end of the year.

2) Fire Suppression System for City-Owned Property at 6701 Hwy. 10

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman reviewed the staff report.

Councilmember McGlone pointed out the building is marked for demolition at some point in the future so any investment in the property does not seem prudent. He said there are no guarantees how long the church will be there and suggested the City could lease that property to other entities for market rate. He stated he is not in favor of this deal.

Mayor Ramsey commented he has an issue that this is not a benefit to the City. The City would have to spend money up front so the State can recapture those dollars. He questioned whether there is other property in the City the church could use.

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman noted he has had multiple conversations with the Pastor and they are willing to sign on for two years. They are not in a position to sign on for longer at this point.

Pastor Lyndy Zabel explained they did look at other sites and are attracted to the Highway 10 property. He said they are fairly confident they would be there longer than two years.

Mr. Backman indicated the church would be responsible for their share of the utilities and improvements on the building. He explained it would take eight years to recapture the money the City would put into the building.

Mayor Ramsey questioned if the City makes improvements on a RALF property, can the City capitalize on it.

Environmental Coordinator/Planner Anderson explained there is an active application on file. If the applicant does not withdraw their request, the staff must bring the application forward. They do need to pay the permit and application fees.

Consensus was reached to refund the money the church has already invested in permit fees and application fees.

MAYOR, COUNCIL AND STAFF INPUT

Mayor Ramsey noted the last meeting included a discussion for the Ramsey Rotary Memorial and he had questioned how it was marketed. He explained that representatives from the Rotary came to his Town Hall meeting to discuss this and he is happy with the change he has seen.

Councilmember McGlone stated he did not think this use belongs on public property. He asked whether it was discussed to put it in front of the DEA since this is military as well. He said he cannot see giving land for this use.

Councilmember Tossey stated there are a lot of memorial parks, which are public ground. This won't be a memorial for several people but would be more of a public service memorial.

Denny Frederickson and Deb Thatcher from the Rotary presented a drawing of what the memorial would look like. Ms. Thatcher noted they met with the Veterans groups and former County Commissioner Dennis Berg. They will also meet with a group from the County.

Councilmember Elvig stated he sees it as a terrific opportunity.

Mayor Ramsey stated the project should move forward.

City Administrator Ulrich noted there is a tour of different developments in the Metro area on October 3; therefore, there will be no Council Work Session on October 4.

ADJOURNMENT

The Work Session of the City Council was adjourned at 6:40 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.