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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, August 9, 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 Jason Tossey
Councilmember Jeffrey Wise

Members Absent: Council Vacancy

Also Present: City Administrator Kurtis Ulrich
Deputy City Administrator Heidi A. Nelson
Public Works Director Brian Olson
Economic Development/Marketing Director Aaron Backman
Senior Planner Tim Gladhill
City Engineer Tim Himmer
City Attorney William Goodrich
Planning Intern Patrick Brama

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ramsey called the regular meeting of the Ramsey City Council to order at 7:00 p.m., and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

2. PRESENTATION

None.

3. CITIZEN INPUT

None.

4. APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Wise, seconded by Councilmember McGlone, to approve the agenda as presented.

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

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 5.01 Receive Cash & Investments for Period Ending June 30, 2011
- 5.02 Receive Cash & Investments for Period Ending July 31, 2011
- 5.03 Note the following Boards and Commissions meeting minutes:
 - a) Joint Planning Commission and City Council meeting minutes dated Thursday, June 2, 2011
 - b) Planning Commission meeting minutes dated Thursday, June 2, 2011
 - c) Environmental Policy Board meeting minutes dated Monday, June 6, 2011
 - d) Economic Development Authority meeting minutes dated Thursday, June 9, 2011
- 5.04 Approve for Exemption for a Gambling License for the Wounded Warriors Guide Service, Inc at Game Fair
- 5.05 Approve Assignment and Assumption of Agreement between Northstar Corridor Development Authority and the City of Ramsey
- 5.06 Approve License Applications

Temporary On-Sale Liquor

Ramsey Rotary Club, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, MN 55303 (To allow Ramsey Rotary Club to serve alcohol in The Draw Park on August 18, 2011)

Peddler/Solicitor

Amy Jo Olson, 8711 60th Street SW, Willmar, MN 56201 (to sell puppies at Game Fair)

- 5.07 Consider Designation of Prize Proceeds to Employee Year-End Appreciation Banquet
- 5.08 Adopt Resolution #11-08-139 Requesting Grant from State's 2012 Capital Budget for US 10/CSAH (Armstrong) Interchange Project
- 5.09 Adopt Resolution #11-08-138 Approving Cash Disbursements Made and Authorizing Payment of Accounts Payable Invoicing received during the Period of July 21 through August 4, 2011
- 5.10 Report from Public Works
 - 1) Consider Stormwater Solutions for Woodland Green Pond – *Consensus to move forward with relocating the septic field or hooking up to sewer and in the meantime work with the homeowner to extend the easement back as far as we can.*
 - 2) Consider the sidewalk snowplow policy – *Consensus for townhome developments to maintain their own sidewalks.*
 - 3) RFP for the parking ramp and parking lot snow removal at the Municipal Center – *Ratify the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to authorize staff to do RFPs for contracted snow removal services for municipal parking ramp and parking lot at the municipal center.*
 - 4) Review the dirt road elimination policy – *Consensus to continue eliminating dirt roads when development opportunities present themselves.*
 - 5) Update on Anoka County Access Spacing Guidelines that Determine Locations

for Hard Channelization – *informational only; no action necessary.*

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

6. PUBLIC HEARING

None

7. COUNCIL BUSINESS

7.01: Consider Sanitary Sewer Options for the Property Located at 5220 156th Lane NW

City Engineer Himmer reviewed the staff report. He introduced the homeowners, Jason and Ruth Obermaier.

Mr. Obermaier stated he did not want his property hooked up to only City sewer. He expressed concern that this alone would not be of much help and inquired whether the mound system could work.

City Engineer Himmer explained how that system would work, and added it was not the direction of the Council.

Mayor Ramsey indicated the option of hooking up to City sewer would necessitate the regrading of the yard, and the sale of the easement to the City.

Mr. Obermaier stated he would not sell any land.

City Administrator Ulrich noted there is a process for negotiation, and the City would like to meet with the homeowners to discuss more details.

Motion by Councilmember Tossey, seconded by Councilmember Wise, to table this item to allow further discussion.

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

7.02: Consider Installation of Permanent Power for City Happy Days Event

City Engineer Himmer reviewed the staff report. He explained Connexus has modified their costs, and they proposed \$18,000 on the low end, to run three separate locations within the park. They also proposed \$16,000 for two locations. He suggested the \$18,000 proposal was the best to get the entire project done.

Councilmember Wise said he has been on the Happy Days Committee for two years, and this issue had been discussed then. He agreed it was a good idea to get this done. The City would

recover \$3,500 each year in rental expenses. Most of the locations designated are in City easements and lot lines, which means the electricity would not need to be moved in the future. The benefit is to not hear generators run.

Mayor Ramsey stated he was somewhat in agreement with this when the proposal was \$13,000. He noted the expense is now higher than anticipated from when he was on the Public Works Committee. He stated he is no longer in favor of this. He suggested the electricity be put in at the time of the roads to save costs.

Councilmember Elvig noted the original proposal said it could be as high as \$13,000, and the low proposal was \$8,300. He questioned why there was a change.

City Engineer Himmer explained the numbers were first calculated through a private contractor the City worked with, and the contractor was going to help to come up with a proposal. This contractor has since become too busy and staff is now working with Connexus.

Councilmember McGlone stated he would not approve of spending \$18,000 when there is a dirt road that needs to be finished. He said he prefers to keep the expenditure lower.

City Engineer Himmer noted that based on the most current plans, the power feed would not be in the right-of-way and would not be impacted by roadway alignment. He added there is existing power on the east side of the right-of-way for the Veterans Clinic. In the future, to extend the power, the cost would not change. The cost from Connexus is fixed.

Motion by Mayor Ramsey, seconded by Councilmember Tossey, to deny staff to negotiate agreements/contracts with Connexus Energy and a private electrical contractor for the installation of electrical power to support the City's Happy Days event.

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

7.03: Consider Introducing Ordinance to Change Civic Center Drive to Veteran's Drive

Senior Planner Gladhill reviewed the staff report. He noted the request is to drop the apostrophe in "Veterans" and make it plural.

Motion by Mayor Ramsey, seconded by Councilmember Tossey to introduce the ordinance to change Civic Center Drive to Veterans Drive.

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

7.04: Ordinance to Amend City Code Section 117-53 Entitled Variances

Planning Intern Brama presented the staff report.

City Attorney Goodrich explained any variance granted by the City must comply with State Statute; the City is given some latitude.

Senior Planner Goodrich further explained the City's ordinance was consistent with the State statute. The direction from the Planning Committee was to remove older language in descriptions and use less strict language.

Councilmember McGlone questioned whether the State could change the rules and make every city comply.

City Attorney Goodrich replied that scenario could happen. In that case, the City would fall back on its Charter and may opt out of the rule, depending on the language of the charter.

Motion by Mayor Ramsey, seconded by Councilmember Wise, to waive the City Charter requirement to read the ordinance aloud adopt the Ordinance #11-10 amending City Code Chapter 117, Section 117-53 (Variances) of the city code of Ramsey, Minnesota.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Elvig	aye
Councilmember McGlone	nay
Councilmember Wise	aye
Councilmember Backous	aye
Councilmember Tossey	aye
Mayor Ramsey	aye

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

7.05: Consider Award of Contract for Improvement Project #10-22, Ramsey Municipal Parking Facility

Public Works Director Olson reviewed the staff report. He stated the Anoka County Regional Transit Authority approved a grant request for an additional \$2 million. They originally offered \$1 million contingent upon the City raising the rest of the money. The Met Council has contributed up to \$1.3 million for the rail station. The funding is becoming more complete, and emphasizes the need to move forward.

Councilmember Elvig stated he is pleased the City has been working on this for the better part of the year, and many of the funds the City has been working toward in this time have gotten approved. He stated part of the reason for the expansion is because a larger ridership is anticipated, and there will be more ridership when this comes to reality.

Motion by Councilmember Elvig, seconded by Mayor Ramsey to approve the Contract to Knutson Construction for \$2,734,000 while reserving a 5% construction contingency of \$136,700 and to approve the contract with Braun for a cost not to exceed \$55,453 for specialty

inspections and to adopt Resolution #11-08-139A defining the limits of authority for change orders on the project.

Further discussion: Councilmember Tossey indicated there are 100 riders a day, and the existing parking ramp is more than adequate. He stated to take the money is irresponsible, and he would oppose the motion. Councilmember Elvig respectfully responded that part of the job of the Council is to look forward 5 to 10 years and plan for infrastructure. In the future, the land will cost double. Councilmember McGlone stated the zoning in The COR is for vertical parking. The zoning required the ramp parking to be used by all structures within the zone. The ramp is needed now and in the future. Other ramps will need to be built in the development and this is one of a total of five. Public Works Director Olson explained when the Town Center was envisioned, there were three parking ramps. Councilmember Backous suggested some of the funds be used for a pedestrian overpass. Mr. Olson stated this was mentioned before, and because the timing was not clear, this was not included in the cost staff bid out. He said the meeting with MnDOT went well, and they are supportive of the City's endeavors. All indications at this point look positive for an overpass, but he said he could not say if it would be supported in the future. The cost will be around \$1 million. Councilmember Backous stated he agreed with Councilmember Tossey; he declared he would oppose the motion as well. Councilmember Elvig commented without accepting the grant, it is a guarantee that the overpass will not be built. The applications for the CMAQ funds are competitive. There are many areas fighting for this grant. This project was awarded at the top of the list, which means that this is worthwhile. He stated the City fought hard to win the competition and he felt it would be irresponsible to turn this back. Councilmember Wise noted the money would not go back to taxpayers if the City did refuse it. Mayor Ramsey concurred and noted it could be reallocated. He explained the City's intent is to build The COR, which the City owns, and it needs to be put back into private development. If the funds are refused, the City will have to come back to the taxpayer at some point and ask them to add on to the parking ramp. He said he felt it seemed foolish to turn the money away.

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

8. MAYOR, COUNCIL AND STAFF INPUT

City Administrator Ulrich noted the following events:

Game Fair

August 12 through 14 is the annual Game Fair at Armstrong Kennels. The City will have a tent at the event.

Business Appreciation Day / Special Election Day

The Business Appreciation Day is August 16 at the Links at Northfork. It is also the day of the special election for the seat vacated by Councilmember Jeffrey.

Anoka County Board

The Anoka County Board will hold a meeting at the Ramsey City Hall on September 13 in the Chambers.

Broadband Fiber Optic

The groundbreaking ceremony for the landmark infrastructure, which marks the beginning of broadband fiber optic, is September 13 at Connexus at 1:30 p.m.

Happy Days

Happy Days is scheduled for September 17, 2011. There will be a craft show, car show, parade, food vendors, street dance, fireworks and kids events.

The Draw

The Farmers Market and Concerts take place in The Draw on Thursday afternoons/evenings. Adult beverages are allowed in The COR.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember Wise, seconded by Councilmember Backous, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the City Council adjourned at 7:51 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.