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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a regular meeting 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 Timothy Gladhill
City Engineer Tim Himmer
Finance Officer Diane Lund
City Attorney William Goodrich

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.

2. PRESENTATION

Mayor Ramsey read in full a resolution proclaiming October 2011 Domestic Violence Awareness Month and noted this resolution is on this evening's Consent Agenda.

3. CITIZEN INPUT

Jim Bendtsen, 14131 Junkite Street NW, Ramsey, inquired if the anticipated walkway will lead to the proposed apartment project in The COR. Mayor Ramsey said the elevator will connect from the train stop to parking ramp.

Mr. Bendtsen asked how the walkway will be paid for. Mayor Ramsey said the project will be paid for by all of the partners, through a grant, and through a portion of the City's contribution.

City Administrator Ulrich said the total project cost is \$14.2 million, so with the connection to the ramp the City's portion would be \$4.7 million. He stated this amount includes the County's contribution to other projects within the District that supports the rail station of \$3 million, adding the County can only fund up to 10% of the project, therefore their money will be used in other locations.

Mayor Ramsey said the County's Regional Rail Authority wants to contribute \$3 million but by State Statute is allowed to only contribute \$1.3 million, so they will give us another \$1.7 million more for use in other projects, totaling \$3 million.

Finance Officer Lund stated that one existing TIF District is coming offline in a couple years and if there is a shortfall, we can do short-term borrowing against our existing TIF District to pay back that debt service.

Mayor Ramsey noted the funds for this project are not coming from the City's general fund but from TIF District funds.

Mayor Ramsey noted the Consent Agenda should be approved prior to approving the Regular Agenda.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

City Administrator Ulrich stated Items 5.7 and 5.8 were being removed from the Consent Agenda and included as Items 7.6 and 7.7 under Council Business.

Motion by Councilmember Wise, seconded by Mayor Ramsey to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda as amended:

- 5.1 Receive Cash & Investments for Period Ending August 31, 2011
- 5.2 Receive July 2011 Financial Reports – General Fund and Enterprise Funds
- 5.3 Approve the Following Meeting Minutes:
 - 1) City Council Work Session – August 9, 2011
 - 2) City Council Regular – August 9, 2011
 - 3) City Council Special – August 15, 2011
- 5.4 Approval for Exemption for a Gambling License for the Church of St. Katharine Drexel to Hold a Raffle on October 1, 2011
- 5.5 Approval of Application from the Ramsey Women of Today to Conduct Bingo at Ramsey Happy Days on September 16 & 17, 2011
- 5.6 Approve Rental License Application
 - Rental License
 - Rivers Bend Apartments, 13929 St. Francis Boulevard NW, Ramsey, MN 55303
- ~~5.7 Approve Memorial Site Easement Agreement – Ramsey Rotary and the City of Ramsey~~
- ~~5.8 Consider Change Order for Improvement Project 10-22 Parking Ramp Expansion~~
- 5.9 Authorize Requests for Proposals for Audit Services
- 5.10 Approve Rescheduling November 8 City Council Meeting to November 1, Due to School District Election

- 5.11 Adopt Resolution #11-09-154 Approving Cash Disbursements Made and Authorizing Payment of Accounts Payable Invoicing Received During the period of August 18, 2011 through September 7, 2011.
- 5.12 Adopt Resolution #11-09-155 Declaring Cost to be Assessed and Calling for a Public Hearing on Proposed Assessment for Past-Due Charges on Municipal Utility Bills (which may include water, sewer, street lighting, recycling, storm water charges and penalties incurred) an Current Services Rendered
- 5.13 Adopt Resolution #11-09-156 Proclaiming October 2011 Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- 5.14 Adopt Resolution #11-09-157 to Assign a Councilmember to Boards and Committees
- 5.15 Adopt Resolution #11-09-158 Accepting the City Administrator's Annual Performance Evaluation
- 5.16 Report from Public Works
 - 1) Review Standard Contract Language Related to Construction Projects – *Ratify the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to include a 3% construction contingency, up to \$15,000, on all projects with City Administrator approval. This would give staff the ability to effectively manage projects to account for unforeseen conditions and necessary project revisions.*
 - 2) Update on Recent Storm and Flooding Complaints – *Ratify the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to authorize staff to prepare the necessary plans and specifications, and receive quotes, to address the immediate corrective actions identified in staff's summary.*
 - 3) Discuss Grading Permit Requirements – *Ratify the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to verify if the grading portion of the State Building Code had already been adopted and that an administrative grading permit process be developed.*

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

5. APPROVE AGENDA

City Administrator Ulrich stated that Item 7.05 is being removed from the agenda and Item 7.08 is being added to Consider Change Order for Improvement Project 11-09 Revised Project Scope Bituminous Overlay for Alpine Drive.

Motion by Councilmember Wise seconded by Councilmember Backous to approve the agenda as amended.

Further discussion: City Attorney Goodrich asked that Item 7.06 be moved first under Council Business.

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

6. PUBLIC HEARING

6.01: Public Hearing to Consider Request of Wells Catering, Inc. d/b/a/ Wells Catering for Liquor License at 7533 Sunwood Drive

Presentation

City Attorney Goodrich reviewed the staff report.

Public Hearing

Mayor Ramsey closed the regular portion of the City Council meeting at 7:10 p.m. in order to conduct a public hearing.

Citizen Input

Mayor Ramsey called the public hearing to order at 7:10 p.m.

There was no citizen input.

Motion by Councilmember Wise, seconded by Councilmember McGlone, to close the public hearing at 7:10 p.m.

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

Council Business

Mayor Ramsey called the regular City Council meeting back to order at 7:10 p.m.

Councilmember McGlone inquired how they are serving alcohol now. City Attorney Goodrich said Wells Catering has a caterer's license, which allows them to serve alcohol at various locations.

Motion by Councilmember Backous, seconded by Councilmember Strommen, to approve an On-Sale and Sunday Sales Liquor License for Wells Catering, Inc. d/b/a/ Wells Catering at 7533 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Further discussion: None.

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

7. COUNCIL BUSINESS

7.01: Adopt Resolution #11-09-XXX Approving Proposed 2012 EDA Levy

Finance Officer Lund reviewed the staff report.

Councilmember Backous left the dais at 7:32 p.m.

Councilmember Tossey confirmed that the proposed EDA levy can only be decreased.

Mayor Ramsey inquired about the savings considering what was levied last year. Finance Officer Lund stated the levy is about \$30 on a \$200,000 valued home, or almost half.

Motion by Councilmember Wise, seconded by Mayor Ramsey, to adopt Resolution #11-09-159 approving the recommendation of the EDA and approve the proposed EDA Levy for Payable 2012 in the amount of \$169,853.

Further discussion: None.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Mayor Ramsey, Councilmembers Wise Elvig, McGlone, Strommen, and Tossey. Voting No: None. Councilmember Backous absent for vote.

7.02: Adopt Resolution #11-09-XXX Approving Proposed 2012 Payable Tax Levy

Finance Officer Lund reviewed the staff report. She stated the proposed levy can only be decreased; adding the final levy will be brought forward on December 13, 2011, for adoption and to hold the truth in taxation hearing. She added this is the first year since 2008 that Ramsey has had no levy limits.

Mayor Ramsey said the levy is proposed at a slight increase because we did not have the Market Value Homestead Credit (MVHC) calculations right. He added we are not done with the budget and if we cut too far there is no control and no recourse. He stated that although this is not much of an increase we have every intention of keeping taxes the same or less than last year.

Motion by Councilmember Wise, seconded by Councilmember Elvig, to adopt Resolution #11-09-160 Approving the Proposed 2011, Payable 2012, Tax Levy.

Further discussion: Councilmember Elvig said there have been many changes in the tax structure and while this may look high, Council is still trying to cut costs. He said that the last legislative session changed a lot of things for Ramsey. Councilmember Tossey stated we are not going to raise the levy even 1.2% and will likely decrease it instead.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Mayor Ramsey, Councilmembers Wise, Elvig, McGlone, Strommen, and Tossey. Voting No: None. Councilmember Backous absent for vote.

Finance Officer Lund explained that this is a preliminary levy because the Department of Revenue wanted to respond to cities wanting an extension because the State's numbers are not available at this time.

Councilmember Backous returned to the dais at 7:39 p.m.

7.03: Review and Adopt Proposed 2012 General Fund Budget

Finance Officer Lund reviewed the staff report.

Mayor Ramsey noted this is a preliminary 2012 General Fund Budget and not a final budget at this time

Motion by Mayor Ramsey, seconded by Elvig, to adopt Resolution #11-09-161 Adopting the Proposed 2012 General Fund Budget.

Further discussion: Councilmember Strommen invited the public to attend the truth in taxation hearing, adding that the State finishing their budget so late made it harder on the cities. Finance Officer Lund stated the preliminary budget will be posted on the City's website. Mayor Ramsey noted the truth in taxation meeting schedule is also posted on the website. Finance Officer Lund stated that after the County sends their preliminary numbers, they set the tax rate, so final numbers should be available around Thanksgiving.

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

7.04: Adopt Ordinance No. XX to Amend City Code Section 117-90 Entitled Map; Case of Stoney River

Associate Planner Gladhill reviewed the staff report.

Motion by Councilmember McGlone, seconded by Councilmember Wise, to waive the Charter requirement to read the ordinance aloud and adopt Ordinance #11-12 Approving the Zoning Amendment to R-3 Residential.

A roll call vote was performed by the Recording Secretary:

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

Motion carried.

~~7.05: Consider Sanitary Sewer Options for the Property Located at 5220 156th Lane NW~~

Item removed from the agenda.

7.06: Approve Memorial Site Easement Agreement – Ramsey Rotary and the City of Ramsey

City Attorney Goodrich reviewed the staff report.

Mayor Ramsey said he requested that this item be removed from the Consent Agenda because he understood this memorial was to be for a memorial park and not about the building explosion on Highway 10. He said it is not appropriate to do a memorial for a specific event on public property.

Councilmember Backous said the intended memorial is to be all-inclusive; adding the outer ring of pavers is intended for veterans and others. He stated that Police and Fire have a vested interest in both this event as well as the anniversary of 9-11 and this memorial is a wonderful model.

Mayor Ramsey said the explosion predicated the entire idea but the Council at that time wanted any memorial to be all-encompassing. He stated that Rotary's marketing is only focusing on the specific event.

Councilmember Backous said there may be an issue with the marketing but the monument itself doesn't specify that specific event.

Councilmember Strommen agreed that while a specific event led to the idea she agrees we can't have memorials everywhere so this could create one place in the City for such a memorial. She stated she saw this as a much broader scope.

Councilmember McGlone said the intent changed over time from a public memorial to a memorial for a "private disaster," adding there seems to be a disconnect in the intent.

Councilmember Tossey asked if this project was to be included in The Draw across on Sunwood Drive. Mayor Ramsey said the idea came up in 2009 and was going to be included in the park that in Ramsey Town Center, but when that project did not materialize, the Rotary began searching for an alternative; now the park is available in The Draw.

Councilmember Tossey stated that most memorials are for public service such as military and officers and that he is opposed to a memorial to private citizens on City property.

Mayor Ramsey said the proposed design depicts three women looking upward, which makes him believe the memorial is for the one event. He suggested that Council postpone consideration in order for Rotary to reconsider their design.

Councilmember Elvig agreed with the postponement, stating there needed to be something to inspire this action, which this project does. He said the rings depict everyone and that he would hate to see the concept thrown out. He likened the City's change in The COR's marketing to Rotary's change in marketing which should help the project move forward.

Motion by Mayor Ramsey, seconded by Councilmember Wise, to postpone Approval of the Memorial Site Easement Agreement for Ramsey Rotary and the City of Ramsey.

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

7.07 Consider Change Order for Improvement Project 10-22 Parking Ramp Expansion

Public Works Director Olson reviewed the staff report.

Motion by Mayor Ramsey, seconded by Councilmember Wise, to Approve Change Order for Improvement Project 10-22 Parking Ramp Expansion.

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

7.08: Consider Change Order for Improvement Project 11-09 Revised Project Scope for Bituminous Overlay for Alpine Drive

Public Works Director Olson reviewed the staff report.

Motion by Councilmember Backous, seconded by Councilmember Tossey, to Approve Change Order for Improvement Project 11-09 Revised Project Scope for Bituminous Overlay for Alpine Drive.

Further discussion: Councilmember Elvig noted the road is fairly new and asked why it deteriorated so quickly in 12 years. Public Works Director Olson stated that Alpine Drive was built in the mid 1990s, but although the deterioration is still early, this road carries a lot of traffic volume of the City. Councilmember Elvig asked if there are different methods we should be tiling. Public Works Director Olson stated there has been discussion about utilizing technology for overlays for certain segments but stated staff reserved that option for the east side of the City as it stood up much better. Councilmember McGlone said the Public Works Committee discussed this process so we will know how to get a better road next time by utilizing the full depth reclamation rather than a band aid approach.

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

8. MAYOR, COUNCIL AND STAFF INPUT

City Administrator Ulrich outlined the following events, adding that due to this schedule there will be no Council meetings held on September 20.

Mayor's Town Hall Meeting

The Mayor's Town Hall Meeting will be held Wednesday, September 14, 2011, instead of Thursday, September 15, 2011. The meeting will be held in the Trott Brook Room, adjacent to the Lake Itasca Room.

Ribbon Cutting/Open House

The Ribbon Cutting/Open House for MultiSource Manufacturing, 6690 Sunwood Drive NW, will be held on Thursday, September 15, 2011.

Farmer's Market

The Farmer's Market will be open on Thursdays, 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., at The Draw.

BOB FM Live Broadcast, Community Picnic

Residents are encouraged to shop at the Farmer's Market and receive free food from the grill - The Amphitheater at The Draw.

Taste of Community

The Youth First Community of Promise Fundraiser will take place at the Greenhaven Golf Course, 2800 Greenhaven Road in Anoka from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Proceeds will benefit Youth First and tickets are \$30 per person.

RoofRaiser Event

Mayor Ramsey noted that several Councilmembers will be participating in an event called RoofRaiser to raise money and awareness for the Lee Carlson Center for Mental Health and Well Being. They, along with Senator Jungbauer, will be camped out overnight on the roof of Coborn's. The festivities begin at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, September 16, and end at noon on Saturday. Everyone is invited to stop by to visit and donate, if they would like. He stated he was scheduled to attend but no longer can due to another commitment.

City of Ramsey Happy Days Festival

The City of Ramsey Happy Days Festival will begin with Family Fun Night at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, September 16. There will be events all day Saturday, September 17, and end with a bike tour on Sunday, September 18, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Interested parties can contact City staff or visit the City's website for the schedule of events.

Statement from Councilmember Elvig

Councilmember Elvig read a statement into the record regarding issues surrounding the closure of his business, stating that while he has been served a complaint he is still in full capacity to serve on the City Council.

More on Happy Days

Councilmember McGlone stated the Happy Days carnival has been discontinued but is being replaced with free inflatables sponsored by a local church.

Councilmember Elvig added that a bonfire will be held on Friday night of Happy Days as well.

Happy Days, Concert Events & Town Hall Meeting

Mayor Ramsey stated that Ramsey Foundation will be hosting a pancake breakfast after the 5K run at City Hall. He added that the final concert of the season will be held this week and is sponsored by BOB FM. He also invited residents to attend his Town Hall meeting on September 15.

County Road Project(s) Update

Public Works Director Olson stated the County Board met today and awarded a contract for County Road, which will begin soon. He stated the project will be done under traffic and will be a County road project. He said there will be a temporary road closure this week on Bunker Lake Boulevard in order to conduct an emergency culvert replacement for Anoka County, which will require some rerouting. Public Works Director Olson stated that Sunfish Lake Boulevard and Alpine Drive is also a County road project and will continue through the week of September 12 with final paving on Wednesday and striping on Thursday, with full closure until complete. He concluded that they are working through Dysprosium Street underground utility issues but that they hope to pour curb by the end of this week, which will be followed by sidewalks and paving.

Councilmember Elvig confirmed that the final lift will occur on the pavement prior to winter.

Public Works Director Olson shared that a traffic change on Armstrong Boulevard occurred last week but completion will likely be next month. He added that there will be progress on the change order soon as well.

Councilmember McGlone confirmed that Armstrong will include two left turn lanes so the new side of the road is not the completed road.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the City Council adjourned at 8:03 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.