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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, October 11, 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  
City Attorney William Goodrich  
Economic Development/Marketing Manager Aaron Backman  
Development Manager Darren Lazan

### **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**

Don Kjonass, President of Stepping Stone Emergency Housing, reported the statistics of homelessness in Anoka County and described the services of Stepping Stones Emergency Housing, and the organizations they work closely with.

Mayor Ramsey read a resolution proclaiming November Homelessness Awareness Month.

### **3. CITIZEN INPUT**

Jim Bendtsen, 14131 Junkite Street NW, asked a series of questions regarding the bus service. He questioned how much the City is spending on bus subsidies, how many riders there are, the cost per rider, and how many months this is being subsidized.

Public Works Director Olson answered the City spends about \$52,000/month and there is about a \$10,500 return from Met Council. He stated there are about 4,800 to 6,000 riders per month and the bus has been in operation since January of 2007. The City received a federal grant for the first three years to operate that service.

Mr. Bendtsen inquired where the bus runs.

Public Works Director Olson answered from the 5<sup>th</sup> Street garage downtown Minneapolis to the Ramsey Municipal Center.

Mr. Bendtsen asked why other places are not subsidized. He said there are citizens that would like to go other places and asked how the Council justifies bus rides.

Mayor Ramsey stated the intent of the bus operation was to gain some ridership to gain a Northstar rail stop. The grant has been expended, and the City had to pick up the cost to keep its ridership. He noted that without taking that action there may not have been a stop in Ramsey.

Mr. Bendtsen asked if the money is coming from the Environmental Trust Fund.

Mayor Ramsey clarified it is coming from the Landfill Trust Fund.

Mr. Bendtsen stated it seemed like a lot of money and asked what the circumstances are for the parking ramp expansion.

Mayor Ramsey stated some spaces are allocated for transit, some for adjacent uses, including the housing around the ramp and for city parking.

Public Works Director Olson said the parking ramp expansion grant was received and guarantees 200 stalls to be used for transit. The grant dictates a total of 350,000 stalls will be available for transit use.

Mr. Bendtsen inquired if the CMAQ grant was used for funding.

Public Works Director Olson confirmed it was. The CMAQ grant was for bus services operation, and part of the expansion of the parking facility to guarantee use for public transportation.

Mr. Bendtsen questioned how long the skyway would be to go from the ramp to the transit station.

Mayor Ramsey replied it would be long enough to connect the two. He said he is not sure of the cost at this point, but it will be borne among the funding partners. The City is putting in \$4.75 million and getting \$1.75 million back from the County for another project. He noted the City is basically spending \$3 million for the train stop.

John Enstrom, 8702 - 181<sup>st</sup> Avenue NW, expressed concern with his land being abused with utilities and easements. He said he would like to bring up some points regarding power lines. Mr. Enstrom said the City wants to expand one power line from 80 feet to 150 feet. As a member of the Environmental Policy Board, he would like to save the environment. The trees that would be taken down are more than the City has planted in the last 20 years. He is concerned about trees being needlessly cut down, feeling that a tree 75 feet away and 10 feet tall will never reach the power line so it is ridiculous to cut it down. Mr. Enstrom was also concerned that herbicides are being used to kill the trees since they are carcinogens and found to cause cancer in people. He believes the intention is to get this area cleared out to 150 feet wide and when this line was put in 40 years ago, the landowners were told they would only claim 80. Mr. Enstrom noted that electricity hasn't changed in that time and asked why the width would be doubled now. He pointed out that if a developer comes in they have to replace any trees they take down but for this project, no trees are being replaced. He thinks the City should be working with the community to make it better instead of getting electric the cheapest way they can. There are alternatives to having cheaper electricity and wires.

Mayor Ramsey stated this would be discussed at public hearings for the utilities companies.

Councilmember Backous left the Chambers at 7:27 p.m.

Councilmember Strommen questioned if Mr. Enstrom was given a chance to opt out of herbicide.

Mr. Enstrom confirmed he has been asked and there are several companies that do this. He said he makes them sign a contract to not use herbicide.

City Administrator Ulrich advised staff could work with Mr. Enstrom on a draft resolution to the City requesting that utility companies minimize the damage they do when putting in utilities. They could address the EPB when they come into the community and work on the policy to meet standards.

Councilmember McGlone stated he has a concern with that option since this is a private matter between the property easement seller and the City.

Mayor Ramsey said all the Council can do is ask the utilities to not clear cut.

Councilmember McGlone stated he has two properties that go on the same line as Mr. Enstrom. He noted the utilities company asked him if they could cut trees, but they could have done it anyway. He cautioned against directing staff and a Board to move ahead with this.

Mayor Ramsey stated staff will work on this matter.

#### **4. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- 4.01 Receive August 2011 Financial Reports - General Fund and Enterprise Funds
- 4.02 Receive Cash & Investments for Period Ending September 30, 2011
- 4.03 Receive 2011 Building Activity Reports: March - August
- 4.04 Approve the Following Meeting Minutes:
  - 1) City Council Work Session - 9/13/2011
  - 2) City Council Regular - 9/13/2011
- 4.05 Consider amendment to Metropolitan Council Loan Agreement No 09-02
- 4.06 Adopt Resolution #11-10-180 Proclaiming November Homelessness Awareness Month
- 4.07 Adopt Resolution #11-10-181 Approving Cash Disbursements Made and Authorizing Payment of Accounts Payable Invoicing Received During Received During the Period of September 22, 2011 through October 5, 2011
- 4.08 Adopt Resolution #11-10-182 Calling for a Public Hearing by the City Council on Proposed Modifications to TIF Districts 1 & 2
- 4.09 Report from the Personnel Committee meeting held on September 27, 2011:
  - Case 1: Consider a Resolution to Select a 2012 Health Insurance Carrier (*Ratified the motion to confirm the recommendation of the Personnel Committee adopting resolution 11-10-183 to approve changing health insurance carriers to Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Minnesota through the LOGIS group, including changing life insurance carriers to Hartford Life Insurance*).
- 4.10 Report from the Finance Committee meeting held on September 27, 2011:
  - Case 1: Authorization of Resolution for Issuance of General Obligation Crossover Refunding Improvement Bonds (*Ratified the motion to Adopt Resolution # 11-10-184 Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Crossover Refunding Improvement Bonds and bring back actual sale of bonds to November 1, 2011 city council meeting.*)
  - Case 2: City Financial Dashboard-2nd Quarter (*No action needed.*)

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

## **5. APPROVE AGENDA**

City Administrator Ulrich stated there were no bids for Case #7.05, Consider Proposals for Snow Removal at the Parking Ramp and Municipal Campus. This item was removed from the agenda and will be brought back next year.

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

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

## **6. PUBLIC HEARING**

### **6.01: Public Hearing and Levy of Special Assessments for the 2011 Street Maintenance Program**

City Attorney Goodrich advised the assessments cannot be appealed to a District Court unless there is written notice of objection submitted to the Council prior to a public hearing.

### **Presentation**

City Engineer Himmer reviewed the staff report.

Mayor Ramsey pointed out if there is an issue with the project, it will be resolved. A contractor will not be allowed to deviate from the specifications they originally bid on and if there are issues, the contractor would be required to make the repair.

City Engineer Himmer stated he received a call on Project #11-04 questioning whether the assessment was per unit. He clarified this is a building with several tenants and one assessment is being split. He suggested the Council consider this issue.

Councilmember Backous returned to the Chambers at 7:33 p.m.

Motion by Councilmember Elvig, seconded by Councilmember Backous to close the regular portion of the City Council meeting at 7:33 p.m. in order to conduct a public hearing.

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

### **Public Hearing**

Mayor Ramsey called the public hearing to order at 7:33 p.m.

### **Citizen Input**

Barb McKusick, 6801 - 157<sup>th</sup> Lane NW, asked whether this is the place to object to the workmanship.

City Attorney Goodrich stated staff will look into it. He explained the objections at this meeting would pertain to the amount of assessment. The Council can assess the property by the amount of the improvement portion for that property.

Ms. McKusick questioned if residents will be charged if more asphalt is put in.

City Engineer Himmer stated if the quantity increases, the City would need to pay but if the contractor is deficient in the work, the contractor will need to make the corrections. There would be no additional costs to the homeowners. He explained if the Council adopts the assessment role, no further costs will be passed on to the residents.

Councilmember McGlone inquired how the contract was written and what the expectation is by the homeowners.

City Engineer Himmer answered it is a 1.5” overlay. The bids are by weight and the information is put into a spec sheet as quantities for each project and, from there, calculations are made.

Councilmember McGlone questioned if there is an issue in bidding things out, or if there is a language issue.

City Engineer Himmer responded the amount of inches could change because getting 100% uniformity is hard to do; the staff breaks out the quantities needed by specs.

Public Works Director Olson stated it has been done both ways; both by the square yard and by the ton. If it is done by ton and an area basis, you have to push to get the 1.5 inches. If it is done by square yard, there could be an overage. He said he does not think the spec is written incorrectly. It is an issue of inspection and making sure staff is out there during the work. Public Works Director Olson noted this will be discussed at the Public Works Committee meeting.

Motion by Councilmember Elvig, seconded by Councilmember Backous, to close the public hearing.

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

The public hearing was closed at 7:41 p.m.

### **Council Business**

Mayor Ramsey called the regular City Council meeting back to order at 7:41 p.m.

Motion by Councilmember Elvig, seconded by Councilmember Wise, to adopt Resolution #11-10-XXX through #11-10-XXX adopting assessments for Improvement Projects #11-01 through #11-06.

Further discussion: Councilmember Elvig questioned whether the City has used this contractor before. City Engineer Himmer answered the contractor has done many projects in the past without issues. Mayor Ramsey reiterated if there are issues, they will be taken care of.

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

### **6.02: Public Hearing and Levy of special Assessments for City Improvement Project #09-25; Dysprosium Street Improvements**

City Attorney Goodrich advised the assessments cannot be appealed to a District Court unless there is written notice of objection submitted to the Council prior to a public hearing.

## **Presentation**

City Engineer Himmer reviewed the staff report. He noted there have been issues with the utilities, which are being cleared up.

Motion by Councilmember Tossey, seconded by Councilmember Wise to close the regular portion of the City Council meeting at 7:46 p.m. in order to conduct a public hearing.

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

## **Public Hearing**

Mayor Ramsey called the public hearing to order at 7:46 p.m.

## **Citizen Input**

LeRoy Stromenger, 5337 142<sup>nd</sup> Lane, expressed concern with being assessed for the sidewalks and with speeding on his street.

Mayor Ramsey replied he is not being assessed for the sidewalks, but for the asphalt and lighting. He added he has received phone calls because police stopped them in the construction zone where Mr. Stromenger lives. The project was supposed to be done without closing the road; however, it needed to be closed for safety.

Jeff Calgart, 14404 Dysprosium Street, commented the sidewalks should be put in right and is starting to chip in front of his house. He said 40 foot trees are removed from his property, as well as neighbors' trees. He questioned what happened to the wood from the trees and whether the roots would be removed before the project is finished. He mentioned he would need to make payments.

City Engineer Himmer responded if the item is adopted tonight, it will go to the County on November 15. The County will handle the billing and the assessment will become part of the property tax. He noted that some concrete work must be finished, and if the driveway needs to be addressed, it will be assessed. The tree roots will be removed and boulevard trees will be added. City Engineer Himmer offered to look at the places where trees were removed. He explained the driveway had to be cut back in order to attain adequate slope and drainage.

Mr. Stromenger questioned why the citizens are being charged 4.25% interest.

City Attorney Goodrich explained the City is bonding for project and this is the cost of administrative services plus the interest cost the City must pay.

**Mr. \_\_\_ Casey**, 14200 Dysprosium Street, inquired whether the tree roots would be removed from everyone's property. He asked whether grass or sod would be laid and how long that will take.

He commented he is pouring concrete for his driveway in the next week and he was concerned it could be an issue.

City Engineer Himmer replied all the roots that are left behind will be removed and grass or sod will be laid. He indicated the topsoil will take until Thursday, and on Friday staff will start staking for the boulevard trees. The trees will be put in early next week, with grass and sod following in the next couple of days. The entire project should be about two weeks. He noted the driveway concrete would not be an issue.

Motion by Councilmember Tossey, seconded by Councilmember Wise to close the public hearing.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Mayor Ramsey, Councilmembers Tossey, Wise, Backous, Elvig, McGlone, and Strommen.

The public hearing was closed at 7:59 p.m.

### **Council Business**

Mayor Ramsey called the regular City Council meeting back to order at 8:00 p.m.

Councilmember Elvig commented he had been through this type of work last year and could empathize with the frustrations. One of the biggest concerns here is the speed on the road. He noted one of the issues is the kids in the road because there is nowhere else to play, which is why sidewalks were added. He encouraged residents to bring issues up to staff because they are prepared to handle it.

Motion by Councilmember Elvig, seconded by Mayor Ramsey, to adopt Resolution #11-10-XXX levying assessments for Improvement Projects #09-25; Dysprosium Street Improvements.

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

### **6.03: Public Hearing and Levy of Special Assessments for city Improvement Project #10-25; Chameleon Street Improvements**

City Attorney Goodrich advised the assessments cannot be appealed to a District Court unless there is written notice of objection submitted to the Council prior to a public hearing.

### **Presentation**

City Engineer Himmer reviewed the staff report. He noted that the project has not been worked on in about two weeks while Century Link was taking care of its utilities.

### **Public Hearing**

Mayor Ramsey called the public hearing to order at 8:08 p.m.

### **Citizen Input**

Gordon Martin, 17971 St. Andrews Street, stated the Class 5 did not make the specs. The road was widened, and there is a 6-inch to 12-inch drop from the asphalt to the ditch. He said his ditch is 2-3 feet now and the road doesn't match the culvert so there will be a lot excess dirt going into the project.

City Engineer Himmer confirmed that about 4 inches of Class 5 needs to be added. He was told by the contractor that it would take a good day to reshape the area, get the topsoil in and seed down, and it would be paved within the day as well.

Mr. Martin stated he was in this business and noted more sand will need to be put in. He commented there will not be a 3 to 1 slope so he can mow the lawn.

City Engineer Himmer explained there are two 14-foot lanes on this road. The pavement itself will act as the shoulder. There will be a foot on each side to act as the shoulder. He offered to look at the project to be sure it is done correctly.

Mayor Ramsey noted this project is a warranted so if it is not right, the contractor will repair it. He added the project would have been done by now if Century Link would take care of the cables in the ditches.

Motion by Councilmember Backous, seconded by Councilmember Elvig, to close the public hearing.

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

The public hearing was closed at 8:18 p.m.

### **Council Business**

Mayor Ramsey called the regular City Council meeting back to order at 8:18 p.m.

Motion by Councilmember Strommen, seconded by Councilmember Tossey, to adopt Resolution #11-10-XXX levying assessments for Improvement Projects #10-25; Chameleon Street Improvements.

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

### **6.04: Public Hearing and Levy of Special Assessments for City improvement Project #08-34; Bituminous Paving of 151<sup>st</sup> and 152<sup>nd</sup> Avenues, and Fluorine Street**

City Attorney Goodrich advised the assessments cannot be appealed to a District Court unless there is written notice of objection submitted to the Council prior to a public hearing.

### **Presentation**

City Engineer Himmer reviewed the staff report. He noted the project is complete, though there are warranty issues with the turf. Residents have called with concerns but he did not receive any notifications of objection to the assessment.

Motion by Councilmember Backous, seconded by Councilmember Elvig to close the regular portion of the City Council meeting at 8:23 p.m. in order to conduct a public hearing.

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

### **Public Hearing**

Mayor Ramsey called the public hearing to order at 8:23 p.m.

Bob Hartman, 5475 154<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW, said he has let the watering of his yard go until the contractor has completed his work. He noted the ruts are still there from the equipment.

Mayor Ramsey stated he has been to the property and seen that the work is not done right. He advised the staff will make sure it is done right.

City Engineer Himmer pointed out the contractor is responsible to water the lawns for 30 days. The contractor spoke to most homeowners and explained what he could do. The contractor is watering and it is well past 30 days.

Elmer Kemper, 5420 151<sup>st</sup> Avenue, commented the topsoil and dirt put down on the properties does not grow grass. He said he had dirt and sand trucked in and his lawn is was looking nice but now it is wrecked. He said whatever was brought in was rock, glass, and gravel. Good sod was removed and there is nothing in its place now.

Mayor Ramsey indicated staff will take action and get the properties repaired.

**Johnny Eward**, 5414 151<sup>st</sup> Avenue, commented the speed limit is too high in the area. There are kids on rollerblades, people walking and the cars go too fast.

City Attorney Goodrich advised if the speed limit is not posted, it is 30 mph. This is a State statute.

Mayor Ramsey explained in order to change the speed limit, a speed study and traffic study must be conducted. There must be a formal request to begin this process.

Motion by Councilmember Wise, seconded by Councilmember Tossey to close the public hearing.

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

The public hearing was closed at 8:35 p.m.

### **Council Business**

Mayor Ramsey called the regular City Council meeting back to order at 8:35 p.m.

Councilmember Strommen stated she is getting a general impression people are unhappy with the work that has been done.

Public Works Director Olson explained this work was done before the new topsoil specification was put into effect.

City Engineer Himmer noted the Dysprosium Street projects are done after the new topsoil specifications were put into effect.

Motion by Councilmember Elvig, seconded by Councilmember Backous, to adopt Resolution #11-10-XXX levying assessments for Improvement Projects #08-34; Bituminous Paving of 151st and 152nd Avenues, and Fluorine Street.

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

### **6.05: Public Hearing and Levy of Special Assessments for city Improvement Project #10-07; Alpine Drive/Roanoke Street Improvements**

City Attorney Goodrich advised the assessments cannot be appealed to a District Court unless there is written notice of objection submitted to the Council prior to a public hearing.

### **Presentation**

City Engineer Himmer reviewed the staff report.

Motion by Councilmember Elvig, seconded by Councilmember Wise, to close the regular portion of the City Council meeting at 8:40 p.m. in order to conduct a public hearing.

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

### **Public Hearing**

Mayor Ramsey closed the regular portion of the City Council meeting at 8:40 p.m. in order to conduct a public hearing.

### **Citizen Input**

There was none.

The public hearing was closed at 8:41 p.m.

### **Council Business**

Mayor Ramsey called the regular City Council meeting back to order at 8:41 p.m.

Motion by Mayor Ramsey, seconded by Councilmember Wise, to adopt Resolution #11-10-XXX levying assessments for Improvement Projects #10-07; Alpine Drive/Roanoke Street Improvements.

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

## **7. COUNCIL BUSINESS**

### **7.01: Approve Memorial Site Easement Agreement – Ramsey Rotary and the City of Ramsey**

City Attorney Goodrich reviewed the staff report.

Councilmember McGlone indicated he would oppose the item. He stated this opens the door to issues in the future and the idea is to sell bricks to memorialize. He asked if a precedent is being set, noting some members of the public may not want to see that brick. He said since the City cannot stop people from buying public property, he would oppose the motion.

Motion by Councilmember Elvig, seconded by Councilmember Backous, to approve the Memorial Site Easement Agreement between the Ramsey Rotary and the City of Ramsey and authorize the Mayor and City Administrator to sign such Agreement.

Further discussion: Mayor Ramsey asked if there is a mechanism where there could be a choice to not sell a brick to someone. City Attorney Goodrich replied the Rotary would have that discretion and screening inappropriate messages. Councilmember Tossey said he was opposed in the previous meeting because he had wanted to see something aimed more at a group. However, since he has been assured that will be the case, he will vote to support the motion.

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

**7.02: Adopt Ordinance to Assign Board of Adjustment and Appeals Duties to the Planning Commission**

Senior Planner Gladhill reviewed the staff report.

Motion by Councilmember Strommen, seconded by Councilmember Wise, to waive the City Charter requirement to read the ordinance aloud and adopt Ordinance #11-XX assigning Board of Appeals and Adjustment duties to the Planning Commission.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carried.

**7.03: Adopt Ordinance to Amend City Code Section 117-117 E1 Employment District) and Section 117-116 (2 Employment District)**

Senior Planner Gladhill reviewed the staff report.

Councilmember McGlone stated that is has been discovered in marketing this property that certain new users find compressed natural gas so objectionable that they cannot relocate in this property. He asked if staff is considering changes in zoning.

Senior Planner Gladhill stated this is not the case in this instance because there is a fire code for protection. He explained this is more of a standard fueling station and precautions are taken so nothing will prevent other users from locating in this facility.

Councilmember McGlone explained he wanted to protect those who own property around this area. He said he has been a strong advocate for requiring a business to fit within the existing zoning, or relocate where the zoning fits better.

Councilmember Elvig pointed out Anoka County has been notified as well as residents within 300 feet.

City Attorney Goodrich clarified if the property is less than 5 acres, those within 350 feet must be notified.

Senior Planner Gladhill indicated when the use for vehicle sales was approved, all proper parties were notified. This case is adding a use, and not changing one.

Motion by Mayor Ramsey, seconded by Councilmember Wise, to waive the City's Charter requirement to read the ordinance aloud and to adopt Ordinance #11-XX to amend Section 117-117 (E1 Employment District) and Section 117-116 (E2 Employment District).

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carried.

#### **7.04: Proposed Lease & Fire Suppression system for City-Owned Property at 6701 Hwy 10**

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman reviewed the staff report.

Councilmember McGlone stated he opposed this in a previous discussion. He listed his reasons as follows: 1) the proposal is to use EDA funds and a tax exempt property has nothing to do with economic development; and, 2) As of today, this is a property that is slated for demolition in the future. He believed there were a whole host of uses that could move in without fire suppression and whether the church moved in the last 6 years is irrelevant as they could move tomorrow. He emphasized he has no issues with this being a church.

Councilmember Wise spoke to Councilmember McGlone issue regarding the EDA funds. He challenged that this relates to the community's vitality. He did not think the building would be demolished soon, and any upgrades to Highway 10 were a long way off. He said he would vote against any RALF properties in the future, as the State has "pulled the rug" out from under them. He noted that the marketability of this property after the church moves out having had the fire suppression opens it up to a lot more uses.

Councilmember Strommen agreed with Councilmember Wise, noting this building has been vacant for a number of years and the proposed use is good balance of maintaining policy on Highway 10 properties. There is an incubator for the church to get off the ground.

Motion by Councilmember Strommen, seconded by Councilmember Backous, to approve the proposed fire suppression system needed for the City-owned property at 6701 Hwy. 10 because this investment in a sprinkler system would permit the leasing of 4,820 sq. ft. of the west office space in the building to Northern Light Church; to approve the four-year lease, contingent upon by sign-off by the Metropolitan Council, to Northern Light that amortizes the approximately \$90,000 costs of the fire safety and water main extension project and with the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church guaranteeing the performance of the lease; and, to

approve the use of the EDA Fund to front the costs of the fire suppression system and water main extension, that an Interfund loan be established with a 2.0% annual interest rate, and that the EDA Fund be repaid with the proceeds of the lease revenue with the first year's interest being applied to the remaining three years.

Further discussion: Councilmember Tossey stated he would oppose the motion but wished the church well in the community. He indicated he cannot justify the use of \$90,000 of taxpayers' money on a property the City wants to get rid of. Councilmember Backous pointed out the money would be recouped if it was guaranteed and that was the tipping point for him. Mayor Ramsey stated he has issues with this and will be opposing the motion for some of the same reasons as Councilmembers Tossey and McGlone mentioned. He said he does see some benefit to the church coming and thinks it will do well in the community. Mayor Ramsey welcomed the church into the community.

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

**~~7.05: Consider Proposals for Snow Removal at the Parking Ramp and Municipal Campus~~**

City Administrator Ulrich noted there were no bids to this will be discussed at the next regular meeting.

**8. MAYOR, COUNCIL AND STAFF INPUT**

City Administrator Ulrich noted the following items:

ACRRA approved the contracts for the Rail Station Master Plan along with the Met Council. This item will move forward.

There is a food and clothing drive by the Police Explorers until November 18. Items can be brought to the Police Department lobby.

There is an open house Friday, October 15, at Fire Station #1. Free lunch is offered as well as tours of fire trucks.

Public Works Director Olson noted pavement will be laid on Armstrong and Bunker Boulevards in about two weeks. Two weeks after that, the signals will be erected. He also noted there will be some activities on Bunker Lake Boulevard east of Sunfish Lake Boulevard. The County is performing initial work which will not require full road closure; however, there will be minor delays and lane closures.

Mayor Ramsey announced the next monthly Mayors Town Hall meeting is on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October at 7:00 a.m. in the Alexander Room. Coffee and cookies will be offered.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Backous stepped out of the Chambers at 9:10 p.m.

Motion by Councilmember Elvig, seconded by Mayor Ramsey, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the City Council adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

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.*