

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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a City Council Work Session on Tuesday, June 19, 2012, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Mayor Bob Ramsey
Councilmember Randy Backous
Councilmember David Elvig (arrived at 6:31 p.m.)
Councilmember Colin McGlone
Councilmember Jason Tossey
Councilmember Jeffrey Wise

Member Absent: Councilmember Sarah Strommen

Also Present: City Administrator Kurtis Ulrich
Fire Chief Dean Kapler
Finance Director Diana Lund
Police Chief James Way
Human Resources Representative Colleen Lasher
City Engineer Tim Himmer
Street Supervisor Grant Reimer
Senior Planner Tim Gladhill
Management Analyst Patrick Brama

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ramsey called the City Council Work Session to order at 6:04 p.m.

2. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

2.01: Continued Discussion of 2013 Budget & Strategic Goals

Finance Director Lund reviewed the staff report.

Councilmember McGlone stated his understanding the Charter Commission changed the newsletter requirement to a minimum of four or up to six.

City Administrator Ulrich indicated the Charter Commission is holding additional discussion on that issue and has requested additional information from the City Attorney.

Mayor Ramsey noted the intent was to make the newsletter a better publication and have the advertisement sales pay for its publication.

Finance Director Lund stated it is a bigger newsletter so the production price increased but the amount of advertising has decreased.

Mayor Ramsey asked if it would be better to go back to a lower cost newsletter production.

Finance Director Lund reviewed the printing costs for the last two years, noting color printing also adds cost.

Councilmember Wise stated the savings are minimal and the sale of advertisement will ebb and flow with the business economy. He stated the City gets a lot of positive comments about the newsletter and the cost savings would be insignificant so he would not support a change.

Mayor Ramsey suggested finding another company to sell newsletter ads or creating competition by using a second company.

City Administrator Ulrich advised the contract with the company that sells newsletter ads is renewable in September so it can be considered at that time.

Councilmember Tossey noted the staff reduction slide still included filling a Public Works position.

Finance Director Lund explained the City Engineer position is still in the budget.

Councilmember Tossey asked about the HRA budget.

Finance Director Lund explained the HRA budget includes \$130,000 for personnel costs, \$30,000 for marketing and promotions, \$40,000 for legal fees, and miscellaneous professional services. This fund also pays for parking ramp fees.

Mayor Ramsey asked what positions are included in the \$130,000 for personnel costs.

Finance Director Lund reviewed the positions partially funded from the HRA budget including the Management Analyst, Senior Planner, ED/HRA Manager, and City Administrator.

City Administrator Ulrich recommended more staff costs be pushed to the HRA rather than the EDA since a lot of staffing and development operational costs are due to HRA actions. In addition, the EDA budget impacts the City's tax capacity.

Councilmember Tossey stated instead of transferring costs to the HRA, he wants to be intellectually honest because it is all funded by resident's tax dollars.

Mayor Ramsey agreed that currently the action is happening with the HRA, not the EDA.

Councilmember Backous noted the HRA just spent \$600,000 of EDA's money.

Councilmember McGlone asked why the ED/HRA Manager position is in the budget.

Finance Director Lund explained that at the last Work Session, there had been a lot of input that this position should be put back in the budget so it was included to show the dollar amount with the intent that it can be further discussed by the Council.

Councilmember McGlone stated if the Council is looking at cutting budgets, he would not support adding a position back into the budget. He added he is having a hard time justifying spending \$120,000 on a new telephone system.

Finance Director Lund explained the current telephone system is very outdated and past the life of the equipment.

Mayor Ramsey stated he had that discussion with staff and agreed the current telephone system is antiquated.

Finance Director Lund noted the budget slide indicates one or the other; either the ED/HRA Manager position or the Development Management contract.

Councilmember Backous agreed with the position of Councilmember McGlone on the telephone system. He stated if the current system can take calls and voice mails, he would not support spending \$120,000 to add ‘bells and whistles’ at this time.

Mayor Ramsey stated he does not feel strongly one way or the other but perhaps staff can provide more information on that need.

Finance Director Lund presented possible funding sources for Sunwood Drive.

Mayor Ramsey stated most everyone has spent their savings and he thinks the City should spend down reserves rather than keeping a large reserve balance or borrowing/levying. He noted the bulk of the Equipment Fund goes to fire trucks but the City is not buying one every year.

Councilmember McGlone pointed out that having excess revenue over expenditures means the City taxed too much.

Mayor Ramsey stated it means staff did not spend their entire budget.

Councilmember McGlone stated in light of the fact Ramsey is looking at the option of a Fire District, there are some things in flux, such as whether the City needs a truck. He stated he would be reluctant to support buying a fire truck until that issue is settled.

Fire Chief Kapler stated he spoke with ISO staff and they advised to not change the amount of hauled water that each community has because the need for hauled water will not change.

Mayor Ramsey asked whether the plan is to replace or add a truck.

Fire Chief Kapler stated it would be replacing the 1989 steel water tanker with a new plastic water tanker.

Councilmember Elvig arrived at 6:31 p.m.

Councilmember McGlone stated the City has equipment doing the job today and is not looking to reduce capacity, whether keeping the old tanker or replacing it with a new one that is plastic. He asked how much insurance rates will increase for residents if this truck is not replaced.

Fire Chief Kapler stated a lot of things go into that equation and the amount of hauled water is important to maintain the insurance rate. He noted the Fire Department has been responsible with budget monies and already delayed this purchase for several years. Fire Chief Kapler stated there is equipment life and this truck is getting to the "red zone."

Councilmember McGlone asked what the City does with equipment that is at the end of its life.

Police Chief Way advised of a new internet-based service, like e-bay, where such equipment is sold to the public.

Councilmember McGlone noted the truck cost \$300,000.

Fire Chief Kapler estimated the City may get back \$20,000 for this tanker.

Mayor Ramsey noted the levy is \$100,000 more than last year.

Finance Director Lund explained the City would be levying less than last year because of the decrease in taxable value of the homes.

City Administrator Ulrich stated Council's direction was to keep the tax capacity rate the same; however, at this point some things remain in flux including personnel issues. He stated if it is the Council's intent to keep it at 44.15%, staff will assure that rate.

Councilmember Wise stated there still needs to be more discussion on road reconstruction funding.

Mayor Ramsey asked if this budget reduces taxes from what was paid last year.

Finance Director Lund advised the tax capacity rate is still higher than last year but the property value has fallen.

Mayor Ramsey stated under this budget, residents will pay lower taxes.

Councilmember Tossey stated this budget would result in a 44.71% tax capacity and another \$100,000 would have to be cut to get down to 44.15%.

Finance Director Lund noted the numbers from the County are estimates and additional impacts result from properties that appealed their valuation.

Councilmember McGlone raised the option of using QCTV money to fund the telephone upgrades.

City Administrator Ulrich stated he thinks there will be QCTV contributions to each member City in the \$30,000 to \$40,000 range. Those funds are supposed to replace cameras/audio equipment in the Council Chambers, when needed. However, this fund has no restrictions and can be used for a telephone system.

Mayor Ramsey asked staff to check on the Council Chamber's equipment because Ramsey did not receive new equipment.

Mayor Ramsey stated he had wanted to start a road reconstruction plan without raising taxes and it appears that can happen. He suggested staff lay out a plan for future years so there is a plan to keep roads in decent shape without raising taxes. Mayor Ramsey stated he has no problem with staffing cuts and thinks the Council should forego making a decision on the ED/HRA Manager position until September/October when the budget numbers are known.

Councilmember Tossey agreed it would be a good idea to delay that decision; however, he does not want the position removed in case the Development Manager contract is revamped. He stated he also prefers to keep tax capacity the same, even if it means putting \$1.4 million into roads instead of \$1.5 million.

Finance Director Lund asked whether the Council supported leaving the ED/HRA position in the levy amount and then making a decision after the preliminary information is available. She noted the Council cannot levy higher than originally set.

The consensus of the Council was to leave the HR/EDA Manager Position in the budget at this time.

Councilmember Backous asked if it cost \$1 million/mile to reconstruct roads.

City Engineer Himmer advised the reconstruction cost is about \$680,000 per mile.

Mayor Ramsey stated the \$1 million/mile estimate includes curb and gutter and sidewalks. But, in reality, it is known those amenities will not be included on every street. He estimated rural areas would cost \$300,000 to \$400,000 per mile.

City Engineer Himmer reviewed project and assessment costs and advised that the \$1.5 million figure also includes street maintenance (overlays/sealcoats). The City currently spends \$500,000 in sealcoats and overlays each year, leaving \$1 million for reconstruction. City Engineer Himmer noted there are locations in Ramsey where full depth reclamation works but the Council had discussed "being fair" so curb and gutter should be in all areas. He stated his position that if the resident has a good road and access, they are being treated fairly.

Mayor Ramsey suggested this is all the more reason to have an assessment. He noted storm water utility money is also going into the projects to cover part of the costs.

Councilmember Wise stated he spoke with a Coon Rapids engineer and learned they are doing larger projects to take advantage of economy of scale. He asked whether it would make sense for Ramsey to do reconstructs only once in three years or once in two years and then do a larger or multiple project. He stated Ramsey could set aside money on an annual basis but instead of reconstructing only a mile or two, it could construct a larger project and realize those savings.

Councilmember Backous asked if Coon Rapids had kept up with their roads.

Councilmember Wise stated Coon Rapids has not and some roads are older. He clarified that annual maintenance would be needed, he was just addressing reconstructs.

Finance Director Lund asked how Coon Rapids funds reconstruct projects.

City Engineer Himmer described Coon Rapids' assessment policy, noting it has a standard rate for all residential lots, regardless of size, and other property was assessed on a front footage basis. Coon Rapids handles all assessment hearings before starting the project so savings are realized in meeting time and staff time.

Mayor Ramsey noted the lots in Coon Rapids are similar in size, unlike the lots in Ramsey that vary greatly in size.

City Engineer Himmer explained that Maplewood is similar and uses the justification that each single-family lot puts the same volume of traffic on the road, regardless of lot size, so each pays its fair share into the system. He noted in Ramsey it is different because the improvement received may be different.

Mayor Ramsey stated he would like staff to prepare 5, 10 and 20 year plans for how to finance reconstruction projects. He stated concern with the \$750,000 coming back to engineering for these projects.

City Engineer Himmer stated the \$750,000 comes from 15% overhead on \$5 million worth of projects: road reconstruction at \$1.5 million; Riverdale extension with sewer and water to Hope Fellowship and the Diamond Site at \$2.5 million; and, Riverdale reconstruct with the Mississippi Trail at \$1.5 million. He noted, however, that none of those projects have been approved to move forward.

Mayor Ramsey asked how to justify \$750,000 in overhead.

City Engineer Himmer stated the Engineering Technician position needs to stay in the budget to handle the anticipated projects. He noted in-house administration of the four projects he mentioned results in covering costs for engineering staff.

Mayor Ramsey stated the question is whether to staff for high times or low times. He asked what the City will do next year when there are no projects to handle.

Councilmember Elvig noted the Council is proposing \$5 million of road work, which will bring in a lot of revenue to the City through engineering review and project administration.

City Engineer Himmer explained the money results from the 15% administrative costs and if the Council is starting \$1.5 million of road construction each year, starting in 2013, it will equal \$200,000 in administrative fees. If the Council adds other projects, that figure can easily be increased to \$400,000 each year.

Mayor Ramsey asked what the City does with extra staff during years it doesn't have \$1 million in road projects.

City Engineer Himmer noted there is also development opportunity with The COR vacant land and depending on what happens with the Development Management team, in-house staff can be used for those infrastructure projects.

Mayor Ramsey asked if that is the discipline of City Engineers.

City Engineer Himmer stated he was referring to the design and construction of municipal improvements, infrastructure to support The COR development, not site planning or platting.

Finance Director Lund presented one-time and short-time funding options included in the proposed 2013 budget and levy.

City Administrator Ulrich noted when TIF 4 decertifies, it will bring back \$153,000. He explained that 2013 and 2014 are solid in the budget proposed, there will be some erosion in 2015 as TIF districts fall off and Landfill Trust tipping fees are depleted. However, to put it into perspective, the current balance of unrestricted landfill funds is over \$2 million. City Administrator Ulrich noted one-time money is being used to fund some expenditures but could be transferred to unrestricted funds like Capital Equipment. Otherwise, within three years, the City will need growth, cutting back additional expenditures, or other revenue mechanisms.

Mayor Ramsey stated if property values are starting to rebound, there is a 24-month lag time before the City sees additional tax money. He asked if the Transit Taxing District will be a separate line item.

Finance Director Lund answered in the affirmative, noting it is under Metropolitan Council's "other" line. She explained if the City Council wants to offset it, the general levy would have to be off set by that same amount. The Transit Taxing District will come on line in 2013.

Mayor Ramsey stated he would like staff to prepare a plan for road reconstruction so it is known how those projects will be funded in the future. He noted this budget puts \$1 million into road reconstruction this year.

Finance Officer Lund asked if there was any appetite for a franchise fee or at least a 20% assessment so the City would have the bonding option.

City Administrator Ulrich noted a majority of the Council had agreed during the previous budget discussion to a 20% assessment level to allow flexibility to use bonding.

Councilmember Backous pointed out that this Council has said numerous times to not “kick the can down the road” and he believed that is what the Council is doing. He believed the current proposal did not provide adequate funding for roads. Councilmember Backous agreed the City needs to start somewhere but he does not think \$1 million will “put a dent” in what the City needs to do and “kicks the can down the road.”

Councilmember Wise agreed.

Councilmember McGlone stated the road reconstruction projects will hit in two to three years so, technically, the current proposal will “get the ball rolling” ahead of the problem, though is not a total fix.

Mayor Ramsey stated he thinks it is unrealistic to get \$3 million in this budget unless the Council raises taxes but he will not support raising taxes.

Councilmember Backous pointed out that \$1.5 million includes overlays and sealcoating. He suggested that the answer is somewhere between \$1 million and \$3 million.

Mayor Ramsey stated some want to hire an ED/HRA Manager, but he thinks that is unrealistic.

Councilmember Backous stated the City paid for a study to determine what residents want, and that is a franchise fee. But, since that is not what the Council wanted to hear, it is not following what residents want.

Mayor Ramsey stated he will not support a franchise fee.

Councilmember Wise stated he often hears the Council does not care what other cities are doing, but he did not want to be so stubborn to “reinvent the wheel” every time there is a problem. He noted an economy of scale and money savings can be realized once you start a project by going bigger. Since one of the City’s biggest costs is road projects, it is his goal to address that issue and get something started in the next six months.

Councilmember Tossey stated franchise fees would be dedicated funding for roads, a dedicated tax, and he does not like dedicated funding. He noted that is why we tax and the Council can decide whether to increase taxes. Councilmember Tossey stated his support to maintain a 20% assessment to soften the blow and allow the option for bonding. He stated he also supports looking at Councilmember Wise’s suggestions, noting it may result in paying less per mile. He supported putting \$1.5 million into roads, noting projects were to start two years down the road.

Councilmember McGlone questioned the \$750,000 “revenue” figure for engineering.

Finance Director Lund explained that figure relates to overhead from the three construction projects that could be administered by in-house staff.

Councilmember McGlone noted the City used in-house staff on the water tower project but the engineers did not get it right and it cost an extra \$100,000 to make the correction. The same type of issue occurred recently in the park. Councilmember McGlone noted when the City hires consultants, the consultant takes on all of the liability created.

Finance Director Lund explained that if this revenue source is not included, the Council will need to find \$750,000 in cuts.

Councilmember McGlone stated his preference to just charge people for what it is worth.

Councilmember Tossey stated he is not prepared to “go down that road” to terminate all the City’s engineers.

Councilmember McGlone stated he is not making that suggestion but if consulting engineers had been used, the City would not need to pay \$200,000 for staff screw-ups; the consultant would be liable and pay for that.

Finance Director Lund reviewed dollars generated by different franchise fee rates.

Councilmember Wise noted a large percentage of people will find it easier to pay smaller amounts like a franchise fee than a large assessment.

Councilmember Backous stated he has never argued that franchise fees are not a tax, it is a tax, but it gets everybody in the game.

Councilmember Tossey stated he already pays monthly, escrowing his property taxes, and now a franchise fee would be an additional payment.

Councilmember Backous stated this Council did not create the problem but he does not want to be on the Council that ignores this problem so it becomes worse each year.

Councilmember Wise stated he did not like paying the stormwater utility fee but now he understands the logic for it. He felt that once people are educated about a franchise fee, they will not mind it.

Councilmember Tossey noted that out of each dollar you earn, you only bring home 30 cents and the rest goes to taxes. He stated he wants to be open and honest, will not hide behind a franchise fee, and would rather raise taxes and the tax capacity to 50% to get the roads done.

Mayor Ramsey stated he was comfortable with the budget presented tonight and done talking about it until September or October when more information is available.

Councilmember Wise asked if staff can look into what would be gained by using economy of scale with road reconstruction or the option of combining projects so they are done every other year, instead of every year. However, maintenance would need to be done yearly.

Mayor Ramsey suggested that discussion occur when the pot of money is available.

Councilmember Elvig noted that roads cost \$700,000 per mile and asked whether \$1 million will “make a dent.” He stated he does support better purchasing power and would like an understanding of the true costs. He stated it seems that a lot of costs have been added to the budget and it seems the Council is missing something so he would like to meet with Finance Director Lund to review this information. He noted this budget adds \$900,000 to roads, not \$1.5 million as has been stated. Councilmember Elvig stated that he would rather not hide the fee and go with a franchise fee, and tell residents that is what it is.

Mayor Ramsey stated one-time money from the Equipment Fund, is not a tax increase. He noted this budget will result in residents paying less in taxes than they paid last year.

Councilmember McGlone suggested the Public Works Committee discuss Councilmember Wise’s suggestions about the process used in Coon Rapids and economy of scale options. He noted if projects are delayed for several years, costs will increase, so he would like a better understanding of all the issues before making a recommendation to the Council.

Mayor Ramsey stated road reconstruction projects were not scheduled to start until 2014 or 2015 but this budget puts \$1.5 million into the road fund this year and next year, which means the Council is starting something.

Councilmember Tossey stated the cost of money to bond is cheaper today, which is another reason to look at what Councilmember Wise is suggesting.

Mayor Ramsey stated the only way to fix the entire road problem is to raise \$3 million in taxes.

Councilmember Backous stated he thinks the right answer is somewhere in between and has never said to go with the whole \$3 million. He suggested the Council stop buying land with EDA funds and re-levying. Councilmember Backous stated the Council acts as if it is so against raising taxes but it has raised taxes because it has spent money foolishly.

Councilmember McGlone stated when the City gets into the cycle of reconstructs, it is a \$1 million problem the first year.

Street Supervisor Reimer advised that Garnet and Andrie Streets are the top two projects for reconstruction.

Councilmember McGlone stated there is a need to have a conversation with every project whether it will include concrete curb and gutter and sidewalk because that will impact the number of miles that can be done. He noted that theoretically, with Garnet and Andrie Streets, the City would have the funds (\$1.5 million) to start the program.

Street Supervisor Reimer stated that is correct.

Councilmember McGlone stated whether to include concrete curb and gutter or sidewalks can be discussed when considering the project.

The Council discussed availability of MSA funds and asked questions of Finance Director Lund relating to MSA allotment.

Councilmember Elvig noted the cash flow to pay for the two current bonds is lower than the \$1.1 million so there is still \$400,000 available but it has been earmarked.

Councilmember McGlone stated the budget puts \$1.5 million into the fund for three years and that can be used to pay for Andrie Street, plus there could be a 20% assessment and use of MSA funds.

Mayor Ramsey stated Garnet Street is south of Brookfield and was a \$700,000 project.

Street Supervisor Reimer agreed it is a high cost project but that will depend on what the project includes, such as whether to include sewer and water.

Mayor Ramsey agreed a lot of the cost is sewer and water related.

City Administrator Ulrich stated sewer and water, storm sewer, street lighting funding are also financing components.

Mayor Ramsey asked staff to provide more details on other funding scenarios and sources. He asked if the Council was comfortable with the proposed 2013 budget at this point.

Councilmember Tossey stated he was comfortable with this budget but the Council will have to look at it again in September.

Councilmember Backous asked what was used for the estimated property value decrease.

Finance Director Lund stated she had used 6.5%.

Councilmember McGlone stated there are still a few "balls left in the air" and he would have liked to see an additional \$100,000 in cuts, but he was comfortable moving ahead at this point.

Councilmember Backous asked about cutting the new telephone system.

Finance Director Lund explained the telephone is not included in the levy portion.

Councilmember McGlone noted telephone technology is moving in another direction and may be going to a server system in the near future, so he would want to be sure the telephone system is not outdated quickly.

City Administrator Ulrich stated the Council needs to act on the one remaining staff layoff, the Fire Secretary position. He indicated if the Council agrees with this budget, it will come forward at the next Council meeting.

Mayor Ramsey stated he wants to wait on the ED/HRA Manager and Engineering Tech III positions until better numbers are available. He stated part of his goal was to act on staff layoffs, which the Council is achieving. Mayor Ramsey stated he can live with this budget preliminarily until in September when the Council will set the preliminary budget.

Councilmember Elvig noted the City has projects planned for this year that would generate revenue if administered in-house. He stated he would like to hear what the opportunity loss is if the Engineering Tech III is not hired.

City Administrator Ulrich stated that is a good point because there are opportunities to generate revenue with the Sunwood Drive realignment and other projects. He indicated staff can prepare that analysis for Council discussion.

Councilmember Elvig pointed out that several years ago, the City generated a tremendous amount of revenue from engineering and plan check fees. He stated if the City can generate another \$250,000 on a \$50,000 hire, it is worthwhile. Councilmember Elvig stated he would like to see that analysis.

Councilmember Backous questioned the City's ability to make money "out of thin air" and stated he agrees with Councilmember McGlone that if it cost the City "x" number of dollars to do the work, that is what should be charged.

Councilmember McGlone agreed and noted State Statute precludes cities from making money and it is only allowed to recoup costs. He did not think the City should be making money on those types of services.

Councilmember Wise explained that the engineering work on a project has to be done whether hired out or in-house. If done in-house, a savings is realized that offsets staff costs.

Councilmember Tossey raised the scenario that if a project cost \$100 and engineering is paid \$10, then why not charge the project \$90.

Councilmember Elvig explained there is burden and overhead costs (supervision, management, structure, office equipment) equaling 1.75 to 2.5 for any business that has to be covered.

Councilmember Backous asked who is paying the burden.

Councilmember Elvig stated the project is paying the burden and it is a good deal for the City to spread out that burden by taking on in-house operations.

Finance Director Lund confirmed the overhead cost is 20% and if the work is not done in-house, the City would be paying out to a consultant. For a \$1 million project, the in-house savings would be \$200,000. She explained how the funds would be transferred from the Water Fund to the General Fund to pay back in-house engineers for their time.

Councilmember McGlone disagreed that it is cheaper because government does it and asked who paid for staff's mistake on the water tower. He stated the Council needs to factor in the real cost of employees.

Mayor Ramsey stated he has never heard about the burden of 1.75 to 2.5 times the cost but thinks that needs to be considered.

City Administrator Ulrich noted the overhead cost is fixed whether the City has 5 or 50 people.

Councilmember McGlone stated he has no problem with the private sector charging overhead and profit but the government should not be doing so.

Finance Director Lund explained that .15 or .20 is the standard engineering overhead fee and if bidding out a project, it will include a percentage of the total construction cost.

Councilmember McGlone asked whether the consideration was to hire someone because the City needs them or hiring someone to make money on them.

Finance Director Lund noted with the Riverdale project, if the City hires out the entire project, the consultant will bill the City 20% overhead. So, the City can pay the consultant or have in-house staff do it and recoup the costs to the General Fund.

Councilmember McGlone asked if that is legal.

Councilmember Elvig stated there is a difference between profit and overhead, and the difference is scale. He stated the City has the amount of scale needed to support the City and wants to push spreading the burden, not push it to the private sector and raise the cost of doing businesses internally.

Councilmember Backous stated the City is charging taxpayers for overhead.

Mayor Ramsey stated the cost is paid regardless so the only question is whether to do it internally and keep the money inside or send it to the consultant. He agreed there is a cost if staff screws up that has to be factored into the equation since the contractor fixes it for free.

The Council discussed recent road projects that resulted in additional costs to make corrections due to lack of and/or inadequate inspection.

Councilmember Elvig asked staff to identify the cost per mile and first five reconstruction projects for additional discussion.

Councilmember Wise noted his suggestion to undertake road reconstruction projects once every two years results in additional staff costs the year there is no reconstruction project, which may be a concern.

The consensus of the Council was to move forward with the 2013 budget proposal and directed staff to provide additional information on the Engineering Tech III and ED/HRA Manager positions and projects that resulted in additional costs due to in-house staff error.

3. FUTURE TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

City Administrator Ulrich reviewed agenda items for future meetings.

3.01: Youth Camp Update

Fire Chief Kapler provided an update on Youth Camp and thanked staff who assisted.

Police Chief Way explained why Youth Camp was located at Lord of Life Church, noting it also requires less set up and has easier access.

3.02: Meeting Efficiencies

Councilmember Wise stated the Council has discussed being more efficient and having fewer meetings to reduce costs.

Councilmember Elvig stated his preference for more meetings in shorter duration.

City Administrator Ulrich reviewed August meeting conflicts that result in the need to reschedule or cancel meetings.

Mayor Ramsey suggested the agenda items be considered to determine whether a meeting is necessary.

City Administrator Ulrich reminded the Council he will be attending the League of Cities Conference.

4. MAYOR / COUNCIL / STAFF INPUT

None

5. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember Tossey, seconded by Councilmember Wise, to adjourn the Work Session meeting.

The Work Session of the City Council was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurtis G. Ulrich
City Administrator

ATTEST:

Jo Ann M. Thieling
City Clerk

Drafted by Carla Wirth
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.