

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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a City Council Work Session on Tuesday, September 4, 2012, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Mayor Bob Ramsey
Councilmember Randy Backous (arrived at 6:02 p.m.)
Councilmember David Elvig
Councilmember Colin McGlone
Councilmember Sarah Strommen (arrived at 6:10 p.m.)
Councilmember Jeffrey Wise

Members Absent: Councilmember Jason Tossey

Also Present: City Administrator Kurtis Ulrich
Finance Director Diana Lund
Development Services Manager Timothy Gladhill
City Attorney William Goodrich

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ramsey called the City Council Work Session to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

2.01: Consider Response to City of Anoka Comprehensive Plan Amendments

Development Services Manager Gladhill reviewed the staff report and read the edited drafted response.

Councilmember Elvig suggested detailing the type of improvement Ramsey supports in the response.

Councilmember Backous arrived at 6:02 p.m.

Development Services Manager Gladhill stated he will add language relating to safety, capacity, and the levels of service.

Councilmember Elvig asked if additional language should be added indicating this is the “bottleneck” of the road system.

Mayor Ramsey stated all understand where the City is coming from.

The consensus of the Council was to direct staff to respond to the City of Anoka as detailed in the September 4, 2012, staff report and revised to add language relating to safety, capacity, and levels of service.

2.02: Review City Hall Floor Plan

City Administrator Ulrich reviewed the staff report.

Councilmember Wise asked if staff had contacted the court about leasing space.

City Administrator Ulrich indicated staff has not.

Councilmember Strommen arrived at 6:10 pm

Councilmember Wise stated he supports the recommendation because it will result in efficiencies and provide better front counter service.

Mayor Wise stated he also supports staff's recommendation.

Councilmember McGlone stated he thinks \$8,500 to move employees within the same building seems high since the same partitions and telephone system are being used.

Development Services Manager Gladhill explained that part of the downstairs workspaces used for planning and engineering were constructed smaller with the intent that field inspectors would not spend a majority of their time at the desk. This is specific to the first floor and results in the need to rebuild/remodel workstation space.

City Administrator Ulrich indicated \$2,300 of the cost is for signage and redoing the floor plan maps.

Councilmember Backous stated it makes sense even though it costs \$8,500, noting if the space is leased the costs can quickly be recouped. In the meantime, he asked if there will be savings in utility costs and being able to lower heat in some spaces.

City Administrator Ulrich stated that is a good point and it may be possible to segment heating, not having as many electric lights turned on and smaller spaces for janitorial.

Councilmember Backous noted if the space is leased, it will need to be segmented anyway.

Councilmember Elvig asked if there will be enough space for staff if growth occurs again. He stated he does not want to be asked to spend \$50,000 to move staff back into the area if growth occurs.

City Administrator Ulrich explained that under this plan, the pod office spaces outside of his office will remain, equaling eight to ten spaces. In addition, the waiting space outside of the courtroom could be built out in the future and accommodate several more workspaces. He stated

he would also like to relocate the City Council/City Attorney's offices to accommodate staff space.

Councilmember Elvig asked about the family room space and if it would have to be replaced.

City Administrator Ulrich clarified it is directly off the hallway and can remain as is. The lunchroom would also remain unchanged.

Finance Director Lund stated if approved, it will be funded from the Facility Fund.

Councilmember Elvig asked about use of QCTV funds.

City Administrator Ulrich stated it depends on what is done with the space and the IT work is included in the estimate of \$8,500.

The consensus of the Council was to direct staff to move forward with reassembling office areas and City Hall signage, as detailed in the September 4, 2012, staff report and estimated at \$8,500, with funding from the Facilities Fund. The Council also directed staff to work towards leasing excess space.

3. FUTURE TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Noted.

4. MAYOR / COUNCIL / STAFF INPUT

City Administrator Ulrich stated staff has been working with Metro Transit to get additional bus service as part of the Taxing District agreement. He noted that last fall, the Council proposed an additional bus at the end of the day, after the train. Metro Transit is proposing the last bus leave downtown at 6 p.m., arriving in Ramsey at 8:55 pm. Or, another option would be a new time for the bus.

Mayor Ramsey asked if it would be an express bus and stated he wanted the bus connected to the Technical College.

City Administrator Ulrich stated Metro Transit proposes the normal bus route and Ramsey would be the last stop before the bus returned. He stated the bus currently comes to the Technical College more than once a day.

Mayor Ramsey stated he wants the bus to stop at the Technical College with every route.

Councilmember Backous concurred and stated the last bus is a concern because many professionals who will be living in the apartments will take the train to get to work and many will be working late and not use the train if there is not a route after 7:30 p.m. He suggested a 9 p.m. or 10 p.m. last bus route.

Councilmember Wise stated he does not use the bus and asked if a survey has been conducted of bus users. He agreed those living at The Residence are the most likely to use the bus.

City Administrator Ulrich stated it is planned to start the late bus route when the train station opens.

Councilmember Wise suggested a six-month delay so feedback can be gained from bus riders.

Mayor Ramsey stated he had made it very clear that if the City was part of the Metro Tax District and a party of the system, having one bus one time a day is not acceptable. He stated the bus should always come into Ramsey and the Technical College.

Councilmember Backous agreed that Ramsey wants the same type of service that all receive.

Councilmember McGlone asked how the ridership of the line will drop off.

Councilmember Strommen referenced the Metro Transit website and recounted the number of busses coming to Ramsey and the times of arrival.

Councilmember McGlone stated he does not know if the Council has enough clout to demand additional bus routes into Ramsey or know if there would be enough people to fill a bus.

Mayor Ramsey noted it will increase ridership in NorthStar if riders know there is a later bus to get back out to Ramsey.

Councilmember Elvig agreed it would increase ridership and asked about the cost to Metro Transit to bring more busses into Ramsey.

Councilmember Strommen noted that riding a bus from Ramsey is not always convenient because sometimes the regular bus does not run and you end up in Champlin or Coon Rapids, needing someone to shuttle you to your car that is parked in Ramsey.

Councilmember Backous stated all agree that flexibility is important to increase ridership. He stated he would not have agreed to enter into the Taxing District if he had known Ramsey would get less service than everyone else would.

Councilmember McGlone stated another factor may be because bus drivers can only work so many hours each day. He stated the Council needs to find out the reason Metro Transit does not want to come just one more stop into Ramsey.

Mayor Ramsey noted there will also be discussion of a heated platform and he thinks there should be concessions before the Council makes that decision.

City Administrator Ulrich stated he will contact Metro Transit about adding bus routes to Ramsey.

5. ADJOURNMENT

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

The Work Session of the City Council was adjourned at 6:31 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.