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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 24, 2012 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
Fire Chief Dean Kapler
Public Works Director Brian Olson
City Engineer Tim Himmer
Senior Planner Timothy Gladhill
Planning Intern Patrick Brama
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., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Ramsey.

2. PRESENTATION

Mayor Ramsey announced he will present the State of the City address at the February 14, 2012, Council meeting.

3. CITIZEN INPUT

None.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 4:01 Approve the following Meeting Minutes:
 - 1) November 1, 2011, City Council Work Session
 - 2) January 10, 2012, City Council Regular Meeting
- 4:02 Approve Proposed Lease Agreement for 6745 Highway 10 by Independent Auto Service
- 4:03 Adopt Resolution #12-01-XXX Approving Cash Disbursements Made and Authorizing Payment of Accounts Payable Invoicing Received During the Period of January 5, 2012, through January 19, 2012
- 4:04 Adopt Resolution #12-01-XXX Authorizing Staff to Apply for Community Forest Bonding Grant Funds through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- 4:05 Report from the Personnel Committee – Meeting Date: January 10, 2012
 - 1) Consider a Resolution to Update the City’s IT Policy – *Ratify the recommendation of the Personnel Committee and Adopt Resolution #12-01-XXX Approving an Updated Information Technology (IT) Policy.*
 - 2) 2012 Fire Officer Selection – *Ratify the recommendation of the Personnel Committee and Adopt Resolution #12-01-XXX Accepting Fire Chief’s Recommendation for 2012 Officer Positions.*
- 4:06 Adopt Resolution #12-01-XXX Authorizing Partial Payment to Knutson Construction for IP 10-22 Ramsey Municipal Parking Facility Phase II

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

5. APPROVE AGENDA

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

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

6. PUBLIC HEARING

None.

7. COUNCIL BUSINESS

7.01: Introduce Ordinance to Repeal Minnesota Building Code Chapter 1306 Entitled Fire Suppression Systems

Senior Planner Gladhill reviewed the staff report.

The Council acknowledged the information submitted by Councilmember Wise relating to whether fire suppression would be required for either proposed use, which will be researched by staff between first and second reading.

Motion by Councilmember Elvig, seconded by Councilmember McGlone, to introduce an Ordinance to Remove Minnesota Building Code Chapter 1306 from the Ramsey City Code.

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

7.02: Consider Approving the Feasibility Study for the Realignment of Sunwood Drive, and Ordering the Preparation of Plans and Specifications

Councilmember Wise recused himself at 7:08 p.m. due to a potential conflict of interest.

City Engineer Himmer reviewed the staff report and answered the City Council's questions about the efforts of Landform and WSB & Associates.

Public Works Director Olson explained why Sunwood Drive is being moved to create an interchange with adequate separation between the rail track and bottom of the bridge.

City Engineer Himmer presented details of the three funding options.

City Administrator Ulrich indicated that regardless of funding, the plans will have a "shelf life" of several years and is an important component for the interchange design. He described the future interchange and importance of moving forward so the plans are in place. It was acknowledged that the funds for these plans would go towards the City's match for the interchange project.

The Council discussed financing options and asked questions of staff.

Deputy City Administrator Nelson presented estimated interest costs should the City bond to cover a funding gap. It was indicated that should costs be assessed back to benefiting property, it would result in an assessment to the HRA.

The Council agreed the realignment of Sunwood Drive was important for the interchange project because it will establish the road alignment, close/relocate points of access, allow the property to be identified with a legal description, and increase salability.

Motion by Councilmember Elvig, seconded by Mayor Ramsey, to approve the feasibility studies for the Sunwood Drive realignment project, consistent with the chosen financial package, award engineering design contracts in an amount not to exceed \$220,012, and authorize the preparation of plans and specifications.

Further discussion: The Council debated which funding option should be considered. It was noted the City had several significant grant opportunities that would help pay down the cost of

the interchange and if the grant applications were not successful, the City Council will consider how to resolve the gap in funding.

Friendly amendment accepted by Councilmember Elvig and Mayor Ramsey to designate the chosen financial package as follows: grant applications, TIF funding, and undesignated reserves.

Further discussion: The Council discussed types of bonding and reached consensus that it would consider a deviation in the policy related to use of land sales to close a funding gap, but only as a last resort.

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

City Attorney Goodrich reported the appraiser has submitted preliminary numbers for the three parcels and requested authorization for staff to open negotiations to acquire those three parcels.

Deputy City Administrator Nelson clarified that the project costs include land acquisition costs and is part of the funding scenario.

Motion by Mayor Ramsey, seconded by Councilmember Tossey, to authorize staff to proceed with preliminary negotiations on land acquisition.

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

Councilmember Wise returned to the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

7.03: Discuss Property Acquisition Associated with the Riverdale Drive Extension Project, from Alpaca Street to Traprock Street – Portions of this Discussion May be Closed to the Public

City Engineer Himmer reviewed the staff report.

City Attorney Goodrich advised that under Minnesota Statutes, the meeting can move into closed session to discuss acquisition negotiations for two parcels of property generally located south of Highway 10 and west of Traprock Street.

Motion by Councilmember Elvig, seconded by Mayor Ramsey, to move to closed session to discuss acquisition negotiations.

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

Mayor Ramsey called the Closed Session meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

The City Council meeting returned to Open Session at 8:09 p.m.

Mayor Ramsey indicated that during Closed Session the City Council gave direction to staff relating to acquisition negotiations, which will be discussed when presented with a final offer.

8. MAYOR, COUNCIL AND STAFF INPUT

City Administrator Ulrich announced the February 7, 2012, City Council Work Session has been canceled due to Precinct Caucuses. The Work Session will be rescheduled to February 6, 2012, starting at 6 p.m. and the next regular City Council meeting will be on February 14, 2012.

City Administrator Ulrich and City Council Members announced upcoming events.

Public Works Director Olson provided an update on the status of the Rail Station

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the City Council adjourned at 8:14 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.