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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, May 28, 2013, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Mayor Sarah Strommen
Councilmember Randy Backous
Councilmember Mark Kuzma
Councilmember John LeTourneau
Councilmember Chris Riley
Councilmember Jason Tossey

Members Absent: None

Also Present: City Administrator Kurtis Ulrich
Finance Director Diana Lund
Fire Chief Dean Kapler
Police Chief James Way
Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Mark Riverblood
Public Works Superintendent Grant Riemer
Human Resources Manager Colleen Lasher
Development Services Manager Timothy Gladhill
City Engineer Bruce Westby
Assistant Planner/Environmental Coordinator Chris Anderson
Assistant to the City Administrator Patrick Brama
City Attorney William Goodrich

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Strommen called the regular meeting of the Ramsey City Council to order at 7:02 p.m., and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. PRESENTATION

2.01: Strategic Planning – Anita Duckor of Duckor & Associates

Anita Duckor, Duckor & Associates, presented the strategic planning process undertaken by the City Council and outcomes. She thanked the Council for the privilege and honor of working with them for the past five months.

Mayor Strommen extended the Council's appreciation to Ms. Duckor and her appreciation to her colleagues and City staff for their honest and candid participation. She noted this process has

created a foundation and common understanding of the City's direction and focus as well as how to conduct business and rules of engagement with each other and the City's residents. In addition, it creates a framework, a financial commitment, creates transparency, and a way for residents to hold the City Council accountable. She stated she is committed that this is more than words on paper and must be a living/working document.

Ms. Duckor offered to come back in one year to debrief how well the plan is doing.

3. CITIZEN INPUT

Wayne Buccholz, 14621 Neon Street NW, stated his opinion that the City had already breached its Strategic Plan when at least two Councilmembers and three staff members interviewed, hired, and then released a candidate for the Economic Director position who sat as an EDA Boardmember for another community, creating a clear conflict of interest.

Mayor Strommen stated that case opened discussion and a Conflict of Interest Policy will be considered by the City Council in Work Session. In addition, the Personnel Committee considered an Interview Panel Policy.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

City Administrator Ulrich read the three Personnel Committee items as contained in Item 4.13.

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

- 4.01: Fire Report for 1st Quarter of 2013
- 4.02: Note the following Boards and Commission Meeting Minutes:
 - 1) Environmental Policy Board – April 1, 2013
 - 2) Planning Commission – April 4, 2013
 - 3) Economic Development Authority – April 11, 2013
 - 4) Park and Recreation – April 11, 2013
- 4.03: Approve the following Meeting Minutes:
 - 1) Joint Anoka Ramsey City Council – April 30, 2013
 - 2) City Council Special – May 7, 2013
 - 3) City Council Work Session – May 7, 2013
 - 4) City Council Work Session – May 14, 2013
 - 5) City Council Regular Session – May 14, 20123
- 4.04: Approve License Applications
 - Special Events Permit
 - Anoka High School, Central Park Location, Ramsey, MN 55303
 - North Suburban Concert Band, Central Park Location, Ramsey, MN 55303
 - Solicitor
 - David Barnhill, 110 Malcolm Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55414
- 4.05: Approve Box Sign Installation in COR-2 Zoning District on Property Located at 7962 Sunwood Drive NW

- 4.06 Approve Storm Water Treatment and Ponding Maintenance Agreement with T & G Land, Inc. for the Property Located at 6651 141st Avenue NW; Case of Tom Sauter
- 4.07 Consider Release of Assessment Agreement Regarding Professional Properties, LLC (Bertolas and Pekula buildings)
- 4.08: Introduce Ordinances #13-12, #13-13, and #13-14 Authorizing the City of Ramsey to Sell/Convey Surplus City Owned Land
- 4.09: Adopt Resolution #13-05-095 Approving Cash Disbursements Made and Authorizing Payment of Accounts Payable Invoicing Received During the Period of May 9, 2013 through May 22, 2013
- 4.10: Adopt Resolution #13-05-098 Appointing Councilmember Riley to the Public Works Committee
- 4.11: Adopt Resolution #13-05-094 Approving 3rd Partial Payment to County Line Excavating, LLC for IP 12-25; North Commons
- 4.12: Report from the Personnel Committee Meeting dated May 14, 2013:
- 1) Consider Authorization to End Contracted Building Official Services and Recruit a Regular, Full-Time Building Official – *No further action needed as this recommendation was acted upon by the City Council at the May 14, 2013, Regular City Council Meeting.*
 - 2) Title of the Command Position Created by a Recent Resignation within the Police Department – *No further action needed as this recommendation was acted upon by the City Council at the May 14, 2013, Regular City Council Meeting.*
- 4.13: Report from the Personnel Committee Meeting dated May 28, 2013:
- 1) Resolution to End the Probationary Period of the I.T. Specialist – *Ratify the recommendation of the Personnel Committee to adopt Resolution #13-05-089 to remove Mr. Jason Fredrickson from probation and retain him as the City's full-time regular I.T. Specialist.*
 - 2) Resolution to Revise the Personnel Policy – Section 4.3 Internal Recruitment Process – *Ratify the recommendation of the Personnel Committee to adopt Resolution #13-05-090 to revise Section 4.3 of the Personnel Policy – Internal Recruitment Process as follows: The following groups of people are eligible to apply during an internal recruitment: regular and temporary employees, paid and unpaid interns, public works seasonal workers, active police reserves, paid-o-call firefighters and contracted individuals actively working at the Municipal Center. Casual employees and Board and Commission members are not eligible to apply during an internal recruitment.*
 - 3) Resolution to Promote Two Police Department Employees – *Ratify the recommendation of the Personnel Committee to adopt Resolution #13-05-092, to promote Mr. Bradly Bluml to the position of Sergeant at Step 4 which is \$35.51 per hour and to promote Mr. Timothy Frankfurth to the position of captain at Step 4 which is \$39.78 per hour.*
- 4.14: Adopt Resolution #13-05-099 Adopting Three-Year Strategic Action Plan Report

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Mayor Strommen, Councilmembers LeTourneau, Backous, Kuzma, Riley, and Tossey. Voting No: None.

5. APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Backous, seconded by Councilmember Kuzma, to approve the agenda as amended to add Case 7.04, Consider Terms for Bury & Carlson (B&C) Request to Terminate Lease Agreement; and, Case 7.05, Consider City Participation in Game Fair 2013.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Mayor Strommen, Councilmembers Backous, Kuzma, LeTourneau, Riley, and Tossey. Voting No: None.

6. PUBLIC HEARING

6.01: Public Hearing to Adopt Ordinance #13-11 Amending 2013 Rates and Fees Related to Residential Rental Licensing Fee Structure for New Construction and Septic Pumping Permits

Mayor Strommen closed the regular portion of the City Council meeting at 7:31 p.m. in order to conduct a public hearing.

Public Hearing

Mayor Strommen called the public hearing to order at 7:31 p.m.

Presentation

Development Services Manager Gladhill reviewed the staff report and recommendation to amend the 2013 Rates and Fees to adjust the Residential Rental License Fee for new construction to provide a 50% credit to account for existing inspections related to a Certificate of Occupancy and amend the Septic Pumping Permit to \$20.

Citizen Input

There was none.

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

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Mayor Strommen, Councilmembers Backous, LeTourneau, Kuzma, Riley, and Tossey. Voting No: None.

The public hearing was closed at 7:37 p.m.

Council Business

Mayor Strommen called the regular City Council meeting back to order at 7:37 p.m.

In response to Council questions, Development Services Manager Gladhill indicated that when factoring in all costs to process a permit, there is no surplus with a fee of \$20, as it does not cover all costs. However, staff found it to be an acceptable level to assure Ramsey remains in compliance with State rules.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Backous, to waive the City Charter requirement to read the ordinance aloud and adopt Ordinance #13-11 Amending 2013 Rates and Fees Related to Residential Rental Licensing Fee Structure for New Construction and Septic Pumping Permits.

A roll call vote was performed by the Recording Secretary:

Councilmember LeTourneau	aye
Councilmember Backous	aye
Councilmember Riley	aye
Councilmember Tossey	aye
Councilmember Kuzma	aye
Mayor Strommen	aye

Motion carried.

7. COUNCIL BUSINESS

7.01: Adopt Ordinance #13-07 Amending Chapter 34 of the Ramsey City Code, Section 34-21 Weapons

Police Chief Way reviewed the staff report and recommendation to revise the ordinance to clarify language.

The Council acknowledged the ordinance language was clarified and streamlined and no rights were taken away.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Backous, to waive the City Charter requirement to read the ordinance aloud and adopt Ordinance #13-07 Amending Chapter 34 of the Ramsey City Code, which is the Chapter known as the Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions Chapter of the Ramsey, Minnesota, City Code – An Ordinance Amending Article II, Section 34-21, Weapons.

A roll call vote was performed by the Recording Secretary:

Councilmember Riley	aye
Councilmember Tossey	aye
Councilmember Backous	aye
Councilmember LeTourneau	aye
Councilmember Kuzma	aye
Mayor Strommen	aye

Motion carried.

7.02: Adopt Ordinance #13-10 to Amend City Code Article II (Zoning) Division 5 (Tree Preservation)

Assistant Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson reviewed the staff report and recommendation of staff, the Environmental Protection Board (EPB), and Planning Commission to amend the Tree Preservation Ordinance to eliminate ambiguity by replacing the term “Desirable Tree” with “Significant Tree,” clarify that all projects (not just multi-family) are subject to removal thresholds, and incorporate more flexibility into the standard by identifying exemptions for certain required improvements and by providing multiple options to address excess removals as part of a project.

Councilmember Tossey stated that he reviewed the Planning Commission meeting minutes and spoke with Planning Commissioners and found there are significant issues with the proposed ordinance. He stated his intent to not support adoption of this ordinance since it does not apply equally to the City’s actions, negatively impacts the rights of property owners and developers, and results in a property right violation. He stated developers also have property rights and most want to compete in the market and do what is right.

Councilmember Riley asked whether “DBH” is an industry accepted term.

Assistant Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson answered in the affirmative.

Councilmember Riley asked whether, for business and development and employment districts, 30% is a reasonable requirement. He also asked if it works.

Assistant Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson indicated that incorporating the definition of existing tree and removal thresholds will work with those type of developments. He stated the EPB found there is not as much flexibility with that type of development when compared to residential, a higher threshold should be considered. Assistant Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson noted if approved, the ordinance would be monitored to assure it is workable and not restrictive.

Councilmember Backous stated while he respects the knowledge and expertise of the Environmental Policy Board (EPB), he does not support the ordinance because it is not the City’s business to say how many trees are in a residential yard. He stated he had cleared many of the trees on his lot as it had contained a forest, and he does not want the City to make residents pay \$125 to cut down their own trees.

Councilmember Kuzma stated he also found the ordinance to be too restrictive and would not support adoption.

Assistant Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson clarified this ordinance is only applicable for a proposed development that creates new buildable lots. The situation of a resident removing trees from their private lot is not addressed in this ordinance.

Mayor Strommen reviewed the mass grading and clear cutting of trees that had occurred during the 2000s and resulted in the development of this ordinance to preserve the City’s trees and rural atmosphere. She indicated the ordinance provides safeguards and flexibility for developers. She spoke in support of the ordinance as she has seen the real need to protect the City’s trees and rural character, noting it does not apply to individual residential property owners.

Councilmembers Backous and Kuzma indicated that after this explanation by staff and Mayor Strommen, they would change their position and support ordinance adoption as it does not impact residential property owners.

With regard to whether a \$125 penalty will change developers’ behavior, Assistant Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated the combination of requiring a replanting plan and contributing to reforestation efforts, ultimately long term, will help provide a more sustainable development package.

Motion by Councilmember LeTourneau, seconded by Councilmember Kuzma, to waive the City Charter requirement to read the ordinance aloud and adopt Ordinance #13-10 to Amend City Code Article II (Zoning) Division 5 (Tree Preservation).

A roll call vote was performed by the Recording Secretary:

Councilmember Backous	aye
Councilmember Tossey	nay
Councilmember Kuzma	aye
Councilmember Riley	nay
Councilmember LeTourneau	aye
Mayor Strommen	aye

Motion carried.

7.03: Consider Park Monuments for The Draw – 2013 Parks Capital Improvement

Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood reviewed the staff report and quotes received from Archetype for a stone kiosk monument near the amphitheater at \$35,400 and a sign adjacent to Ramsey Boulevard at \$21,900. He presented the recommendation of staff and the Park and Recreation Commission for approval and installation of two monument signs in the amount represented by Archetype’s proposal.

The Council discussed the monument quotes, finding both to be high, and raised the option of “casting a wider net” by sending the sign Request for Proposal (RFP) to companies outside of Ramey in an effort to gain a more competitive bid.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood described the substantial size and structure of the proposed monument signs and noted the low level of response may speak, in some way, that there is a growing economy. He indicated if directed, staff will “cast the broadest

net possible.” With regard to timing, Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated Archetype felt confident that it could complete The Draw monument sign by the start of the concert series and have the other sign substantially complete. However, this is dependent upon the quarry that cuts the stone. Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated the present balance of the Park Dedication Fund is \$2,400,000 plus. He indicated the monument at Central Park was constructed in 1996 and cost \$50,000. He noted the proposed monument signs will also advertise to businesses and prospective businesses that Ramsey does it right.

The Council discussed the importance of assuring Park Fund dollars are carefully spent, as the balance is dwindling since there is not as much residential development occurring this time. The question was raised whether this is the correct timing to construct amenities such as monument signs, prior to additional development, and whether park dollars could be better spent towards more active parks and improvements (playground equipment, etc.) to benefit resident’s children.

The point was made that the proposed monument signs will build consistency in messaging Draw Park events and serve that value to residents as a new conduit of communication. In addition, the monuments will act as gateway signage, creating identity and perception for Ramsey to a broader audience that includes prospective businesses and developers to The COR.

The Council discussed the option of approving the Ramsey Boulevard Draw Park monument (\$21,900) at this time so it can be in place prior to the start of the concert series and delaying the stone kiosk monument near the amphitheater (\$35,400) until additional proposals are received.

Following discussion, Mayor Strommen stated there is consensus to support one sign and asked whether other funding sources should be considered since the sign also serves the purpose of promoting economic development by attracting developers.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood agreed there is relevance for the EDA/HRA to consider the economic development aspect of the monument signs and make recommendation. He stated the RFP is already prepared and can be sent out to many more sign companies.

Motion by Councilmember Tossey, seconded by Councilmember LeTourneau, to approve Archetype quote for the Draw Park sign adjacent to Ramsey Boulevard at \$21,900 and direct staff to obtain additional RFPs for the stone kiosk monument near the amphitheater.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Mayor Strommen, Councilmembers Tossey, LeTourneau, Backous, Kuzma, and Riley. Voting No: None.

7.04: Consider Terms for Bury & Carlson (B&C) Request to Terminate Lease Agreement

City Administrator Ulrich reviewed the staff report and eight tentative terms requested by Bury & Carlson (B&C) to terminate its Lease Agreement.

City Attorney Goodrich stated the property was purchased at \$1.7 million and in conversation with B&C's attorney, it was indicated the rest of the issues will fall into place if the City and B&C can reach agreement on tentative term 6, the purchase of 20,000 tons of con-bit so B&C does not have the cost to move that material.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer described how the City could use con-bit to write down the cost of future road projects or use it at the new Public Works site. He stated it would be to the City's advantage to purchase this con-bit under favorable terms as it can be used over time and would result in a cost savings.

The Council discussed the tentative terms and request to vacate the site on July 1, 2013, which would allow the ability for the City to request and obtain tax-exempt status on the property.

City Administrator Ulrich stated this was scheduled tonight as a Work Session item so formal action is not requested tonight. He requested feedback on the tentative terms including the City purchase of 20,000 ton of con-bit.

The consensus of the Council was to support the negotiated terms for B&C to terminate its Lease Agreement effective July 1, 2013, and for staff to negotiate favorable terms for the purchase of 20,000 tons of con-bit. It was noted the City Council would formally consider this Agreement at its June 11, 2013, Regular Session.

7.05: Consider City Participation in Game Fair 2013

City Administrator Ulrich reviewed the staff report and recommendation that participation in the Game Fair booth is not necessary and to approve an allocation toward signs that would welcome event participants and direct staff to work with the Game Fair in regard to possible locations for a "Welcome to the City of Ramsey" banner. Staff also recommended that Game Fair's allocation of Police be increased to 50%, from the current 30%. It was noted the total for Police last year was about \$8,200. He asked for the Council's feedback on the level of the City's participation in Game Fair 2013.

Following discussion, the consensus of the Council was that the Game Fair does not result in development leads and is not a good use of City staff resources. The Council agreed that participation in the Game Fair booth is not necessary and to approve an allocation toward signs that would welcome event participants and direct staff to work with the Game Fair in regard to possible locations for a "Welcome to the City of Ramsey" banner, and that Game Fair's allocation of Police be increased to 50%, from the current 30%. In addition, staff was directed to contact Mr. Delaney to request that all media advertisements, whether written, radio, or televised, recognize that the event is held in the City of Ramsey, not "six miles west of Anoka."

8. MAYOR, COUNCIL AND STAFF INPUT

City Administrator Ulrich introduced Administration Intern Meghan Mathson and Police Department Intern Danielle Possey.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer presented a summary of the 2012-2013 Snow and Ice Control Operation.

Councilmember Backous stated as the Public Works Committee Chair, he had asked Public Works Superintendent Riemer to make this presentation. He extended the City's appreciation to Public Works Superintendent Riemer and Public Works staff for their work on behalf of Ramsey.

City Engineer Westby provided an update on staff's approach to the City's long-term Street Reconstruction Program by developing typical sections and street width for both urban and rural sections as well as determining underlying soils that impact the depth of the pavement. He explained this will result in a more realistic cost estimate to maintain a street rating of 7. In addition, staff will look at pathways and sidewalks. City Engineer Westby stated the City does not have a Sidewalk Policy for reconstruction projects so staff will develop a framework for such a policy that will be presented to the Public Works Committee for review and recommendation. City Engineer Westby stated staff has e-mailed a questionnaire to other Anoka County communities to gain information on how they fund road projects. Once received, that data will be tabulated for presentation at a future date. It was noted this topic will be considered by the City Council at its June 25, 2013, Regular Session.

City Administrator Ulrich announced that 50 apartment units at The COR are now available. He reported on the successful trip he and Mayor Strommen made to Washington, D.C. to solicit support for grant applications and funding for the Highway 10 and Armstrong interchange project. City Administrator Ulrich reported the House passed a smaller bonding bill, not the \$800 million bonding bill, but there may be better opportunity next year. He described the grant opportunities currently underway including an Anoka County request that the City support its federal Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant application for the Armstrong Interchange. The Council indicated support for staff to prepare such a letter of support for Mayor Strommen's signature.

Councilmember Tossey announced the Veteran's Park event on Flag Day, June 14. He reported on the success of the Mayor Prayer's Breakfast that raised \$28,500 for Youth First and extended his appreciation to Youth First employees and all who contributed to the success of that event.

Mayor Strommen thanked Councilmember LeTourneau for standing in for her during the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast.

City Attorney Ulrich drew the Council's attention to the information provided in the Work Session packet related to the Old Municipal Center Site.

Mayor Strommen stated while in Washington, D.C. she had heard a lot of support for the TIGER grant and found it was important that Anoka County, City of Anoka, and City of Ramsey put forth a unified effort in a spirit of partnership to garner support and gain funding for upgrading the entire Highway 10 corridor with the Armstrong interchange being the first phase. She thanked Anoka County and the City of Anoka for their partnership in that effort.

Mayor Strommen stated she now “tweets” City events as a way to broaden communication with the City’s residents and can be followed at StrommenSarah.

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 9:25 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.