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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, June 11, 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
Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Mark Riverblood
Public Works Superintendent Grant Riemer
Development Services Manager Timothy Gladhill
City Engineer Bruce Westby
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 7:04 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Strommen.

2. PRESENTATION

None.

3. CITIZEN INPUT

John Enstrom, 8702 181st Avenue NW, announced the events scheduled on Flag Day at Veteran's Lake Park and invited all to attend and enjoy the Park.

Wayne Bucholz, 14621 Neon Street NW, stated his concern about the potential purchase of 6710 Highway 10, a business that is already failing, owes back taxes, and a deteriorated building. He suggested the building be inspected for code violations to address its dilapidated condition.

Mayor Strommen stated the City has a purchase agreement on that blighted property, which was listed for sale, and the intent is to clear the building and sell the property for redevelopment.

Mr. Bucholz stated the Council has indicated it wants to get out of the development business, but is now considering the purchase of a business.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember LeTourneau, seconded by Councilmember Kuzma, to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda, as revise to remove Item 4:09:

- 4.01: Receive April 2013 Financial Reports – General Fund and Enterprise Funds
- 4.02: Receive Cash and Investments for period Ending May 31, 2013
- 4.03: Receive 2013 Building Division Month End Report: May
- 4.04: Receive Revised Architectural Renderings for Seasons of Ramsey
- 4.05: Accept Resident Petition to Consider the Installation of a 3-Way Stop Condition at Tiger Street and 171st Avenue
- 4.06: Approve the following Meeting Minutes:
 - 1) City Council Work Session – May 28, 2013
 - 2) City Council Regular Session – May 28, 2013
- 4.07: Approve Off-Sale Intoxicating Liquor, Off-Sale 3.2% Liquor, On-Sale Intoxicating Liquor, Beer, Sunday Sales, and Optional 2:00 a.m. Closing
- 4.08: Adopt Resolution #13-06-106 Approving Cash Disbursements Made and Authorizing Payment of Accounts Payable Invoicing Received During the Period of May 23, 2013 through June 5, 2013
- ~~4.09: Report from the Public Works Committee Meeting dated May 21, 2013.~~ This item was removed from the Consent Agenda and considered as Item 7.5

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

5. APPROVE AGENDA

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

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

6. PUBLIC HEARING

None.

7. COUNCIL BUSINESS

7.01: 15153 Nowthen Boulevard Property Development: Consider Comprehensive Plan Amendment Application

Assistant to the City Administrator Brama reviewed the staff report and consideration of submitting an application to amend the City's Comprehensive Plan to develop the Old Municipal Center site. In conclusion, Assistant to the City Administrator Brama presented three alternatives as follows:

Alternate A: Re-engage surrounding property owners with the goal of drafting an acceptable land use solution. A solution would be presented to the Council for consideration.

Alternate B: Submit a Comprehensive Plan Amendment Application to the Planning Commission to allow for a residential development on the subject property.

Alternate C: Submit a Comprehensive Plan Amendment Application to the Planning Commission to allow for a data center user on the subject property.

City Administrator Ulrich noted there is currently not a developer for this site so the planning process can be deliberate and the timetable allows for a larger discussion as used in the Ramsey 3 visioning process to focus on a citizen collaborative process.

City Attorney Goodrich stated tonight is not a public hearing and cautioned the Council to not take a final position prior to the process.

Mayor Strommen and Councilmembers Riley, Backous, LeTourneau, and Kuzma spoke support of Alternate A as a collaborative effort to engage residents in the process and allow time for additional input.

Councilmember Tossey advocated for Alternate B, stating he needs no more facts as residents have clearly supported a residential development on the subject site. He felt Alternate A would only result in delaying this decision.

With regard consultant costs for Alternate A, Assistant to the City Administrator Brama stated a preliminary estimate for five meetings and revised site concepts is \$4,000.

City Administrator Ulrich noted if this discussion is delayed to winter months, staff could potentially handle the work but at this time, staff is overwhelmed with development activity. In addition, there is benefit of having an outside objective facilitator since the City is a stakeholder.

Development Services Manager Gladhill stated this work would fit within the realm of the Stanec professional planning contract to facilitate this process; however, it was not budgeted for so other professional line items can be considered.

The Council acknowledged that traffic pressure would be generated by 47 additional homes and asked staff to provide information on that aspect (pros and cons) versus tax base.

Kent Cunningham, 15211 Helium Street NW, stated support for Alternative A so he can express his concerns in more depth. He stated he remains strongly opposed to a data center.

Steve Liekhus, 15000 Helium Street NW, stated he supports Alternative A, opposes a data center at this location, and would like to be part of the discussion.

Alison Perry, 15217 Helium Street, stated there are 32 children under seven years of age in this neighborhood, which is very friendly. She feared a data center will take away their “little slice of heaven” and invited the Council to attend a neighborhood picnic so they can see what is at stake should a data center be built.

Donna McLain, 15133 Nowthen Boulevard, voiced her concern related to noise generated by a data center, devaluation of property, and excess traffic generated by data center employees. Ms. McLain referred to several news articles addressing noise issues at other data centers and asked what the recourse is for residents.

The Council thanked the residents for providing their comments.

The Council discussed the options, noting four of the residents who offered comments had favored Alternate A. The point was made that this is a beautiful neighborhood; however, the Council represents the City’s 24,000 residents and needs to obtain all of the facts before making a decision. In addition, the issue is less about “yes” or “no” to a data center than exploring the issues and how they can collaboratively be resolved. The consensus of the Council was to not support hiring a consultant to facilitate Alternate A, if approved.

As a consensus had been voiced in support of Alternate A, City Administrator Ulrich suggested staff analyze options under Alternative A relating to number of meetings, consultant or not consultant, capacity of staff to deliver, and present additional information for consideration by the Council on June 25, 2013.

Motion by Councilmember LeTourneau, seconded by Councilmember Kuzma, to direct staff to refine Alternate A consistent with Council discussion and provide that recommendation at the June 25, 2013, Council meeting.

Further discussion: Councilmember Tossey stated he has opposed a data center since the beginning and will oppose the motion as it leaves that option open.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Mayor Strommen, Councilmembers LeTourneau, Kuzma, Backous, and Riley. Voting No: Councilmember Tossey.

7.02: Consideration of Authorizing Advertisement for Bids to Pave Wear Course in Ramsey Town Center 8th, 9th, and 10th Additions

City Engineer Westby reviewed the staff report and recommendation to authorize advertisement for bids for paving the wear course on all public and private streets within the Ramsey Town Center 8th, 9th, and 10th Addition developments. He answered questions of the Council relating to the appropriate timing for wear course in the 8th Addition, noting it could be included in the bids and then a determination made.

City Attorney Goodrich presented the status of the Ramsey Town Center 8th, 9th, and 10th Additions and explained that the escrow agreement (\$50,000) that Glen Rehbein had with Powerhouse Title was released without notification to the City. He raised the option of applying the excess money within the 8th and 10th Additions to the 9th Addition if the right conditions prevail.

The Council discussed the options, timing of the overlay project, and asked questions of City Engineer Westby. Council consensus was reached that it did not support using public dollars to improve private streets.

City Engineer Westby explained the intent is to gain better bids for the 9th Addition and during the process determine the status of the streets and work the property owner to improve the private streets.

Motion by Councilmember Kuzma, seconded by Councilmember Backous, to authorize advertisement for bids for paving the wear course on all public and private streets within the Ramsey Town Center 8th, 9th, and 10th Addition developments and direct staff to determine the status of the 9th Addition escrow.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Mayor Strommen, Councilmembers Kuzma, Backous, LeTourneau, and Tossey. Voting No: Councilmember Riley.

7.03: Approve Tinklenberg Group Proposal for Additional Professional Services

City Administrator Ulrich reviewed the staff report and recommendation to extend the contract with The Tinklenberg Group for a period of three months (June through August 2013).

Elwyn Tinklenberg, The Tinklenberg Group, commented on the effectiveness of the City's leadership, resulting in the Armstrong interchange being one of the most talked about transportation projects in the State of Minnesota, a top priority for Anoka County, and the only project specifically mentioned in the House bonding proposal. He encouraged the City to continue to press the project forward, stating it is worth the effort.

The Council agreed it was worth the effort and acknowledged that Mr. Tinklenberg has done a good job of gaining political support including offering a funding scenario that does not encumber Ramsey.

With regard to the three-month term, Mr. Tinklenberg stated several critical meetings are coming up in the next few months and he believes Mn/DOT will move forward with the funding scenario and the City wants the Armstrong interchange to be one of the first projects selected.

Motion by Councilmember Tossey, seconded by Councilmember Backous, to extend the contract with The Tinklenberg Group for a period of three months (June through August 2013) at a cost of \$12,000 to secure funding for the Armstrong interchange as outlined in the staff report.

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

7.04: Ramsey Rail Station Safety Railing

City Administrator Ulrich reviewed the staff report and three options with related costs to install fencing atop the parking ramp adjacent to the skyway. He stated Option 1, as preferred by the ramp architect, would cost \$37,000. He stated doing nothing is a viable option but if a railing is added he would recommend it be architecturally compatible.

The Council discussed the options, noting additional railings had already been installed around the perimeter of the ramp and at openings between levels. It was pointed out that extending the concrete wall height to match the wall to the west would create more of a deterrent than only extending the height of the railing, which could act as a ladder to access the roof.

Motion by Councilmember Backous, seconded by Councilmember LeTourneau, to approve Option 1 and extend the concrete wall height to match the wall to the west and add railing to match existing on the south and east sides of the ramp, as preferred by the ramp architect, at a cost not to exceed \$37,000.

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

7.05: Report from the Public Works Committee Meeting dated May 21, 2013

- 1. Mail Box Damage at 16100 Dysprosium Street**
- 2. Upgrades to City Well #4**
- 3. Consider Policy for Allowing Fences to be Constructed in Drainage and Utility Easements with Infrastructure Conflicts**
- 4. Update on Reconstruction Requests for Andre Street**
- 5. Update on Turf Restoration at 7046 166th Avenue (Mack and Shayle Dominquez)**

Councilmember Tossey requested discussion on Case 3, Consider Policy for Allowing Fences to be Constructed in Drainage and Utility Easements with Infrastructure Conflicts. He explained that citizens are requesting the ability to tie fences together if there are consenting property owners. He stated it is understood that the fences must be set back from the culvert and postholes hand dug to avoid damaging the City's property. It was noted this request had been denied by the Public Works Committee.

Councilmember Backous, Public Works Committee Chair, explained that because of miscommunication, the Committee thought the request was to allow fences to be built up to the

property line. He stated he would not have objected had he understood the request was to allow consenting property owners to tie together fences.

City Administrator Ulrich recommended tabling this topic to a future Work Session.

Motion by Councilmember Tossey, seconded by Councilmember Backous, to ratify the Public Works Committee recommendations as follows: Case 1) To approve reimbursing Bill Rome in the amount of \$245 to replace the mailbox inadvertently damaged by the City's plow operator with the understanding this is a one-time exception and should the mailbox be damaged again, it would not be reimbursed. In addition, Public Works Superintendent Riemer will meet with the property owner this fall to help stake the boulevard with City-supplied fiberglass stakes and the route driver for that area will attend a refresher course on snowplow operation; Case 2) To award the upgrades to City Well #4 project to Total Control Systems, Inc. to make all the needed upgrades to this site to include all parts, labor, start up, and assistance with rebate application; Case 3) To table consideration of a Policy for Allowing Fences to be Constructed in Drainage and Utility Easements with Infrastructure Conflicts; Case 4) To approve Alternative 1, directing staff to update the 2008 Engineer's estimate to reconstruct Andre Street, to not include updating the sidewalk costs, and to determine costs for widening the street to accommodate an on-street bike trail with parking restricted to one side based on MSA standards; and, Case 5) Informational.

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

8. MAYOR, COUNCIL AND STAFF INPUT

City Administrator Ulrich announced upcoming meetings and events and answered questions of the Council relating to the grant submittals.

Fire Chief Kapler requested the Council waive the permit fee for Mr. Enstrom's Flag Day events.

Motion by Councilmember Tossey, seconded by Councilmember LeTourneau, to waive the fee for the Veteran's Lake Park Flag Day event.

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

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 9:03 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.