

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. CALL TO ORDER 2

2. PRESENTATION..... 2

 2.01: Swearing in of New Patrol Officer James Bagne 2

 2.02: Recognition of Promotion of Officer Frankfurth to Captain and Officer Bluml to
Sergeant 3

 2.03: Presentation of Check by the Ramsey Lions to the City to Purchase New
Defibrillators 3

3. CITIZEN INPUT 3

4. CONSENT AGENDA 3

5. APPROVE AGENDA 5

6. PUBLIC HEARING 5

7. COUNCIL BUSINESS..... 5

 7.01: Highway 10 Outside Storage: Policy Discussion and Permission to Submit an
Interim Use Permit (IUP) Application 5

 7.02: 15153 Nowthen Boulevard Property Development: Consider Further Public Input
Process Alternatives 6

 7.03: Receive Building Permit Levels for 2013 Year to Date and Discuss Long Term
Building Inspection and Plan Review Staff Needs 8

 7.04: Consider Approval of Final Draft of Alternative Urbanwide Area Review (AUAR)
Update for The COR (formerly Ramsey Town Center) 9

 7.05: Discussion Regarding the Economic Development Manager Position 9

8. MAYOR, COUNCIL AND STAFF INPUT 10

9. ADJOURNMENT..... 10

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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, July 9, 2013, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

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

Members Absent: Mayor Sarah Strommen

Also Present: City Administrator Kurtis Ulrich
 Finance Director Diana Lund
 Fire Chief Dean Kapler
 Police Chief James Way
 Police Captain Jeff Katers
 Public Works Superintendent Grant Riemer
 City Engineer Bruce Westby
 Human Resources Manager Colleen Lasher
 Development Services Manager Timothy Gladhill
 City Engineer Bruce Westby
 Assistant to the City Administrator Patrick Brama
 City Attorney Joe Langel

1. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Mayor Backous called the regular meeting of the Ramsey City Council to order at 7:02 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Acting Mayor Backous. He stated Mayor Strommen sends her apologies for being unable to attend tonight's meeting.

2. PRESENTATION

2.01: Swearing in of New Patrol Officer James Bagne

Police Chief Way introduced Patrol Officer James Bagne. City Attorney Langel administered the oath of office to Patrol Officer Bagne. The City Council and audience responded with a round of applause.

2.02: Recognition of Promotion of Officer Frankfurth to Captain and Officer Bluml to Sergeant

Police Chief Way introduced Officer Bluml who had been promoted to the position of Sergeant. Police Chief Way and Sergeant Bluml's wife pinned his color bars. The City Council and audience responded with a round of applause.

Police Chief Way introduced Officer Frankfurth who had been promoted to the position of Captain. Police Chief Way and Captain Frankfurth's wife pinned his color bars. The City Council and audience responded with a round of applause.

Acting Mayor Backous extended the City's congratulations to the Patrol Officer Bagne, Captain Frankfurth, and Sergeant Bluml, stating the City is proud to have them on the Police Department.

2.03: Presentation of Check by the Ramsey Lions to the City to Purchase New Defibrillators

Fire Chief Kapler introduced members of the Ramsey Lions and displayed a defibrillator unit. He indicated that the Lions donation will be used to purchase five units and thanked the Lions for their generous donation.

Acting Mayor Backous added the City's thanks and appreciation to the Ramsey Lions.

3. CITIZEN INPUT

Acting Mayor Backous welcomed newly appointed City Attorney Joe Langel.

Marlene Moulton Janssen, Anoka County Library Director, announced the official opening of the Anoka County "Library on the Go," noting it is the first such location in the State of Minnesota and will provide remote access to library materials. Ms. Moulton Janssen thanked the City Council for its generosity to improve library service access for Ramsey's residents.

Acting Mayor Backous thanked Ms. Moulton Janssen and encouraged all Ramsey residents to take advantage of this new service.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 4.01: Receive Public Hearing Notification from City of Anoka for Housing Development Along Rum River and Consider Response
- 4.02: Receive 2013 Building Division Month End Report: June
- 4.03: Accept Donations from Lions group for the Purchase of Defibrillators and Equipment
- 4.04: Approve the following Meeting Minutes:
 - 1) City Council Work Session – June 25, 2013

- 2) City Council Regular Session – June 25, 2013
- 4.05: Approval for Exemption for a Gambling License for Property Economic Resource Management (PERM)
- 4.06: Approval for Exemption for a Gambling License for Ruffed Grouse Society – Twin Cities Chapter
- 4.07: Approve License Application:
- Peddlers
- Southwest Advantage – Trin Lilienthal, 245 Atrium Way, Nashville, Tennessee
- 4.08: Approve Contract for Prosecution Legal Services with the Law Firm of Randall, Goodrich and Haag, PLC
- 4.09: Adopt Resolution #13-07-117 Authorizing the Issuance of \$635,000 General Obligation Equipment Certificates of Indebtedness, Series 2013A
- 4.10: Consider Request for use of Two (2), 200 Square Foot Temporary Signs on City-Owned Parcels to Promote Game Fair; Case of Charles Delaney
- 4.11: Adopt Resolution #13-07-118 Approving Cash Disbursements Made and Authorizing Payment of Accounts Payable Invoicing Received During the Period of June 20, 2013, through July 3, 2013
- 4.12: Adopt Resolution #13-07-116 Approving Final Payment to County Line Excavating for IP 12-25; North Commons
- 4.13: Report from the Public Works Committee Meeting dated June 18, 2013:
- 1) Consider Stop Sign Request for 3-Way Stop at Tiger Street and 171st Avenue – *Ratify the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to not install the requested three-way stop sign at Tiger Street and 171st Avenue due to low traffic volumes and above average sight distances at the intersection and direct the Police Department to increase enforcement for three months followed by three months of monitoring, such as the speed trailer.*
 - 2) Consider Improvements to Crosswalk at Armstrong Boulevard and 161st Avenue – *Ratify the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to direct staff to work with Anoka County to extend the pavement and culvert on the west side of Armstrong Boulevard to provide a paved surface for pedestrians to use and pay for flashing lights, and to place an educational article in the Ramsey Resident reminding drivers of the need to yield for pedestrians.*
 - 3) Consider Request to Construct Retaining Wall in Drainage & Utility Easement – *Ratify the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to direct staff to review options for vacating five feet of easement and schedule this case for consideration at a future Public Works Committee meeting.*
 - 4) Review Condition of Dysprosium Street Boulevard and Future Maintenance Requirements – *Ratify the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to approve replacement of sod between the original project line and curb, to have the City water the sod for the first 30 days, to send a letter to residents asking for their help to maintain the sod and advising residents that new sod is exempt from the watering ban, and to use funding from the Street Maintenance Fund.*
 - 5) Consider Request for Use of Veterans Drive Right-of-Way Adjacent to 7700 Sunwood Drive for Outdoor Dog Area: Case of Residence at The COR – *This case was presented as a separate case at the June 25, 2013, City Council meeting.*

- 6) Review of Upland Costs for Reconstructing Andrie Street – *Ratify the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to direct staff to update the 2008 feasibility report to reflect the inclusion of on-road bicycle lanes in place of sidewalks.*

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

5. APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Kuzma, seconded by Councilmember Riley, to approve the agenda as revised to add Case 7.5: Discussion Regarding the Economic Development Manager Position.

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

6. PUBLIC HEARING

None.

7. COUNCIL BUSINESS

7.01: Highway 10 Outside Storage: Policy Discussion and Permission to Submit an Interim Use Permit (IUP) Application

Assistant to the City Administrator Brama reviewed the staff report and request of M & G Trailer Sales and Service to lease City-owned land directly adjacent to its business with the intention of displaying trailers for sale. Due to the existing Code requirement for an improved surface for outside storage/display areas, M & G Trailer Sales and Service is asking the City Council to change its policy regarding outdoor storage and allow submission of an Interim Use Permit (IUP). Assistant to the City Administrator Brama presented alternatives for the City Council's consideration to provide policy direction and if there is a shift in policy, to grant permission to M & G Trailer Sales and Service to make application for an IUP.

Development Services Manager Gladhill stated this is a good time to look at the standards of Highway 10, especially the Overlay District, since there has been advancement in planning efforts. He explained an IUP can be used for a period of five years and a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) would still be required regardless of the surface.

Steve Jung, M & G Trailer Sales and Service, stated he purchased this bankrupt business several years ago and purchased the building a year ago. He described the tremendous business growth experienced and need for additional space to display trailers. Mr. Jung noted this property will eventually be taken by the State for Highway 10, probably sooner than five years, so it is not feasible to spend \$200,000 to improve the property to meet the City's guidelines.

The Council discussed the request and emphasized the need to consistently apply the policy to all businesses along Highway 10 and not show favor to one business over another.

Development Services Manager Gladhill explained that one of the major findings of the Quality RV IUP was that it was known the property would be taken for the Armstrong overpass.

The consensus of the City Council was that it does not make sense for the City or a business owner to make \$200,000 of improvements to a property that will be taken for the Highway 10 project. The Council agreed with the benefit of assisting a business owner and concern was expressed about the delayed timeline should this item be referred to a future Work Session for discussion on the policy.

City Administrator Ulrich noted the properties on the north side of Highway 10 are unique in being identified on an official map for the Armstrong interchange, corridor of Highway 10, and its interchanges. He stated that may be a policy finding that could be made to exclude identified properties from added value projects. Another approach is to require other improvements, such as landscaping, in lieu of pavement or to use lease payments for those improvements.

Development Services Manager Gladhill stated the Council has provided good policy direction and recommended forwarding the policy discussion to the Planning Commission so it can be documented as part of the ordinance.

The Council supported this suggestion, noting it would also shorten the timeline.

7.02: 15153 Nowthen Boulevard Property Development: Consider Further Public Input Process Alternatives

Assistant to the City Administrator Brama reviewed the staff report, past consideration, and alternatives for obtaining further public input relating to the potential development of 15153 Nowthen Boulevard (former Municipal Center). It was noted staff recommends a hybrid approach of a traditional, structured Study Group that includes certain elements that were included in the OST process for the 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update. If approved, staff would also recommend approving a Work Order for consulting planning services to assist with the technical aspects of the process while allowing Staff to facilitate the process itself.

Development Services Manager Gladhill stated with the recommended hybrid approach, the Study Group could set the agenda, hold single meetings, and keep on task. If approved, the consultant's focus would be on technical analysis and City staff would facilitate the process to manage the costs.

City Administrator Ulrich noted the consultant work is a small percentage of the cost, about \$5,000 of the \$15,000 to \$20,000 cost. He explained this option would get this process moving, which was seen as a high priority. City Administrator Ulrich stated the City received a \$14,821 grant from the Metropolitan Council for this site that could be used for these costs.

The Council discussed whether Connexus should be approached for funding and become more of a partner in the process.

Assistant to the City Administrator Brama explained that staff had not invited Connexus to any of the meetings post public hearing when it was indicated a data center may not work for this site. He indicated Connexus had paid over \$3,000 for a shovel ready application and if this site moves forward, would pay for all marketing costs.

City Administrator Ulrich noted a potential downside to inviting Connexus and asking them for funding is that Connexus has a vested interest in wanting a data center but the City has taken a far more neutral position to work with residents to see if it will work.

Acting Mayor Backous stated he finds the process to be overly complicated and does not support paying for a consultant or trying to convince residents that “a data center is good for them.” He noted abutting residents have already indicated they do not support a data center use. Acting Mayor Backous supported obtaining more information that is factual related to potential data center issues, such as noise and traffic levels.

Councilmember Riley stated he received comments from interested parties asking whether this item will be discussed until it gets to a point the City says yes. He stated he does not favor hiring a consultant.

Councilmember LeTourneau stated when residents were in attendance at a past Council meeting, consensus was reached that it would be beneficial to bring this group together where they could all participate. At that time, the Council indicated it wanted staff to develop a framework in how it would work so the process could continue to move forward. Councilmember LeTourneau cautioned the Council to not pull back from that position.

Acting Mayor Backous clarified he is not saying to exclude residents but to first gather facts so residents are informed and then allow residents to weigh in. He pointed out this recommendation is to limit the group to five people but he thought all residents would be part of the discussion. Acting Mayor Backous stated he does not support limiting to five residents.

Councilmember LeTourneau stated he wants to reside in a process to allow for every participant to have the same basis to make an informed decision and that will take more than one meeting. He felt the hybrid alternative is the most efficient method and supports moving through as quickly as possible, noting it will require a fair amount of energy to bring all up to speed.

Assistant to the City Administrator Brama explained how the five residents would be selected at random.

Councilmember Kuzma stated he wants all Ramsey residents to know what a data center means from a tax standpoint rather than a residential development.

The Council discussed that while a Study Group may make a recommendation, it would be the responsibility of the elected members of the City Council to make the decision.

City Administrator Ulrich reviewed options to form a task force to make a recommendation or to schedule several Council Work Sessions to focus on data centers, address all of the issues in a factual way, invite expert and resident input, and reach a consensus.

The Council agreed that additional factual data is needed prior to the Council making a decision on how the property should be developed.

Motion by Councilmember LeTourneau, seconded by Councilmember Riley, to approve a hybrid approach of a traditional, structured Study Group that includes certain elements that were included in the OST process for the 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update, to provide the Study Group with a fact finding presentation, to bring forward a list of participants, and amended schedule.

Further discussion: The City Council debated the motion and questioned the process for setting the agenda. Development Services Manager Gladhill indicated staff will provide empirical data and assure a collaborative process when agenda topics are identified. Acting Mayor Backous and Councilmember Tossey restated their position that they would not vote in support of hiring a consultant. Development Services Manager Gladhill stated if it is an issue, the consultant portion can be eliminated, and staff will reprioritize tasks, which may result in an impact to timeline or other priorities.

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

7.03: Receive Building Permit Levels for 2013 Year to Date and Discuss Long Term Building Inspection and Plan Review Staff Needs

Development Services Manager Gladhill reviewed the staff report and general findings of substantially improved permit levels and strategic plan metrics related to staffing and acceptable response time. He described additional factors relating to potential interest rate changes, reduced inventory of vacant lots, larger projects currently under review, and recently approved projects that are nearing commencement. Development Services Manager Gladhill noted St. Francis has a full-time Building Official and part-time Inspector. He presented three alternatives to fill the current service gap and noted staff recommends approval of the interim solution and Interim Agreement for Services with the City of St. Francis at least through the recruitment of Ramsey's Building Official and analysis of the number of hours of service that can be provided by Inspectron, Inc. following that recruitment.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember LeTourneau, to approve an Interim Agreement for Services with the City of St. Francis for Building Inspection and Plan Review Services.

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

7.04: Consider Approval of Final Draft of Alternative Urbanwide Area Review (AUAR) Update for The COR (formerly Ramsey Town Center)

Development Services Manager Gladhill reviewed the staff report and described the need to update the alternative Urbanwide Area Review (AUAR) for The COR. It was noted staff recommends the City Council adopt the AUAR in its final form.

Motion by Councilmember LeTourneau, seconded by Councilmember Kuzma, to adopt Resolution #13-07-119 Adopting the Final AUAR.

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

7.05: Discussion Regarding the Economic Development Manager Position

City Administrator Ulrich stated this case was carried forward from tonight's Work Session and relates to the City's efforts to recruit for the Economic Development Manager position. He presented options to use a consulting firm for recruitment, continue the City's recruitment, discontinue recruitment, or utilizing brokers to market property and hiring an employee to back fill. It was noted staff recommends contracting with a search firm to fill the Economic Development Manager position.

Councilmembers LeTourneau and Riley spoke in support of Option 1 to use a consulting firm for recruitment, as the position was critical to develop vacant land and attract new businesses.

Councilmember Tossey stated his support to discontinue recruitment as he does not want to spend more tax dollars on consultants to fill a position that cannot change the real estate market.

Councilmember Kuzma stated he is not in favor of hiring consultants to do the process of hiring but in this case, having seen the outcome of the internal recruitment process, would support Option 1 to use a consulting firm for recruitment.

Acting Mayor Backous stated from an HRA standpoint he would prefer to post the property "For Sale;" however, from an economic development standpoint he also supports Option 1 to use a consulting firm for recruitment.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember LeTourneau, to approve Option 1: Continue recruitment efforts by utilizing the professional services of Springsted Incorporated, clarifying the role of this position, developing a profile and job announcement for the position, developing a recruitment strategy, and providing outreach to prospective candidates, with a cost ranging from \$3,800 to \$6,800.

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

8. MAYOR, COUNCIL AND STAFF INPUT

City Administrator Ulrich announced the opening of “Library on the Go,” upcoming meetings, and Joint Service Fire discussions. He advised of road projects and encouraged residents to use the train. City Administrator Ulrich referenced recent positive press articles and reported that Mr. Tinklenberg has indicated Mn/DOT is interested in a potentially earlier timeframe for the Highway 10 project.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember Tossey, seconded by Councilmember Kuzma, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the City Council adjourned at 8:51 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.