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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 24, 2013, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

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

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Acting City Administrator/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 to the City Administrator Patrick Brama
City Attorney Joe Langel

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Strommen called the regular meeting of the Ramsey City Council to order at 7:00 p.m., and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. PRESENTATION

None.

3. CITIZEN INPUT

Jim Bendtsen, 14131 Junkite Street NW, spoke against the franchise fee proposed by the City Council, which he finds to be a tax to raise funds for road construction. He stated why he felt franchise fees were a regressive tax that is not fairly applied across the City and the amount to be taken is more than needed for anticipated road reconstruction.

Mayor Strommen stated City Engineer Westby will provide additional information on franchise fees tonight. She encouraged residents to attend and provide input at the Open House on October 1 and the public hearing on October 8. She stated it would be helpful to hear if there is a preferred method that would provide adequate resources, noting the issue is to repair roads and create funds on a reliable basis.

John Enstrom, 8702 181st Avenue, stated his concern with issuing bow hunting permits to owners of two-acre lots, noting with bow hunting often times the deer travels onto someone else's property. He suggested the City follow State guidelines that require written permission from the property owner to permit hunting on their property, no hunting within 500 feet from structures, and that you must be the property owner.

Mayor Strommen stated the City enforces its ordinances and the DNR enforces its game laws. She noted Police Chief Way is in attendance and has heard these concerns.

Bob Barry, 9539 Highway 10, Optimum Appliance, asked if the City Council would be willing to consider a permit at tonight's meeting, noting it is for a good cause (suicide prevention)

Mayor Strommen noted this same timing situation occurred last year when the City Council showed leniency but at that time it was indicated there is a process to be followed. She asked the City Council if it was willing to add this case.

When polled, there was City Council consensus to follow the established policy and procedure.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Kuzma, seconded by Councilmember Backous, to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda, as revised to remove Item 4:02.

4.01: Receive August 2013 Financial Reports – General Fund and Enterprise Funds

~~4.02: Note the Following Boards and Commissions Meeting Minutes:~~

- ~~1. Planning Commission Meeting Minutes dated August 1, 2013~~
- ~~2. Environmental Policy Board Meeting Minutes dated August 5, 2012~~
- ~~3. Economic Development Authority Meeting Minutes dated August 8, 2013~~
- ~~4. Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes dated August 8, 2013~~

This item was removed from the Consent Agenda and considered as Item 7.2

4.03: Accept Resident Petition to Consider the Installation of a Stop Sign at the intersection of Potassium Street and 143rd Circle

4.04: Approve License Applications:

Transient Merchant

Jacob Fuller – Edward Jones, 320 East Main Street, Anoka, MN 55303

Temporary On-Sale Liquor

Church of St. Katharine Drexel, 7101 – 143rd Avenue NW – Suite G, Ramsey, MN 55303

4.05 Approve the Following Meeting Minutes:

1. City Council Work Session dated September 3, 2013
2. City Council Regular dated September 10, 2013

- 4.06: Approve Replacement of Police Chief Vehicle
- 4.07: Approve Amendment to Lease Agreement with PACT Charter School for Storage Space at 6701 Highway 10
- 4.08: Adopt Resolution #13-09-166 Approving Cash Disbursements Made and Authorizing Payment of Accounts Payable Invoicing Received During the Period of September 5, 2013 to September 18, 2013
- 4.09: Adopt Resolution #13-09-163 Accepting Trail Grant Award of \$100,000 for the Trail Along Anoka County Road #83 (Central Park to Alpine Drive Trail); and Authorizing Staff to Complete the Plans and Specs and Advertise for Bids
- 4.10: Adopt Resolution #13-09-164 Approving Partial Payment to Dave Perkins Contracting for IP 13-12 North Commons COR THREE Utilities
- 4.11: Adopt Resolution #13-09-165 Approving Partial payment to North Pine Aggregates, Inc. for IP 12-20; CSAH 83 (Armstrong Boulevard) – Sunwood Drive
- 4.12: Adopt Resolution #13-09-172 to End Firefighters’ Probation
- 4.13: Adopt Resolution #13-09-138 Calling for a Public Hearing on the Proposed Adoption of a Modification to the Development Program for Development District No. 1 and the Proposed Adoption of the Modification to the Tax Increment Financing Plan for Tax Increment Financing District No. 2
- 4.14: Report from the Personnel Committee Meeting dated September 17, 2013:
 - 1) Resolution to End the City Engineer’s Probation – *Ratify the recommendation of the Personnel Committee to adopt Resolution #13-09-169, to remove Mr. Bruce Westby from probation and retain him as the City’s full-time regular City Engineer.*
 - 2) Resolution to Reclassify the IT Specialist to an IT Coordinator – *Ratify the recommendation of the Personnel Committee to adopt Resolution #13-09-170, reclassifying the current IT Specialist to an IT Coordinator at \$27.03 per hour, effective October 12, 201, and to waive the six-month probationary period.*
 - 3) Resolution to Accept the Fire Marshal’s Resignation – *Ratify the recommendation of the Personnel Committee to adopt Resolution #13-09-171 accepting the Fire Marshal’s resignation.*

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

5. APPROVE AGENDA

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

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

6. PUBLIC HEARING

6.01: Public Hearing and Levy of Assessments for Past-Due Charges on Municipal Utility Bills and Current Services Rendered

Mayor Strommen closed the regular portion of the City Council meeting at 7:16 p.m. in order to conduct a public hearing.

Public Hearing

Mayor Strommen called the public hearing to order at 7:16 p.m.

Presentation

Acting City Administrator/Finance Director Lund advised of the City services provided and purpose of the hearing to take input from residents with nonpayment of utility and abatement services. She described the notice process and indicated the amount to be certified is \$452,620.01.

Citizen Input

There was none.

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

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

The public hearing was closed at 7:19 p.m.

Council Business

Mayor Strommen called the regular City Council meeting back to order at 7:19 p.m.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Kuzma, to adopt Resolution #13-09-167 Adopting Assessments for Past-Due Charges on Municipal Utility Bills (which may include Water, Sewer, Street Lighting, Recycling, Storm Water Charges and Penalties Incurred) and Current Services Rendered.

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

6.02: Public Hearing and Adopt Ordinance #13-17 to Amend 2013 Rates and Fees Related to Water Trunk and Existing Reimbursement Agreement

Mayor Strommen closed the regular portion of the City Council meeting at 7:19 p.m. in order to conduct a public hearing.

Public Hearing

Mayor Strommen called the public hearing to order at 7:19 p.m.

Presentation

Development Services Manager Gladhill reviewed the staff report and described the purpose of the public hearing to consider adoption of an ordinance to amend the 2013 Water Trunk Fee to create a two tier fee. The second tier of water trunk fee is required in order to honor an existing reimbursement agreement with 21st Century Bank related to the extension of utilities to the Brookfield and Sweetbay Ridge developments.

Citizen Input

There was none.

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

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

The public hearing was closed at 7:21 p.m.

Council Business

Mayor Strommen called the regular City Council meeting back to order at 7:21 p.m.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Johns, to waive the City Charter requirement to read the ordinance aloud and adopt Ordinance #13-17 Amending the 2013 Water Trunk Fee.

A roll call vote was performed by the Recording Secretary:

Councilmember Tossey	aye
Councilmember Kuzma	aye
Councilmember Riley	aye
Councilmember Johns	aye
Councilmember LeTourneau	aye

Councilmember Backous aye
Mayor Strommen aye

Motion carried.

7. COUNCIL BUSINESS

7.01: Authorize Staff to Obtain Bids and Establish the Construction Team for Elmcrest Park’s Community Building

Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood reviewed the staff report and answered questions of the City Council relating to the process to obtain competitive bids for components of this project with the most competitive bids being combined into a package to allow value engineering. In addition, Ramsey contractors will be invited to bid as they are best suited to have low mobilization costs. At the request of the City Council, Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood described how the park was named and creation of the architectural design and scope, noting it has a distinct agriculture theme that recognizes the City’s history.

The Council thanked Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood for his years of work on this project. It was pointed out that the picnic area is designed so it can be closed in various ways to address windy days and also accommodates multi use. The Council thanked Studio 55 for its design assistance, Park & Recreation Commissioners for fostering this project, and the Youth Athletic Association and Northern Lights Soccer Association for their support.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood thanked the Youth Athletic Association for its significant donation of \$40,000 towards this project.

Motion by Councilmember Backous, seconded by Councilmember Tossey, to authorize staff to obtain bids for Elmcrest Park’s Community Building and approve a not-to-exceed amount of \$42,770 for Bidding and Construction Administration by Studio 55.

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

Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated the Park and Recreation Commission will embark on a competitive process over the next several months to design a playground and landscape associated with the park building, something residents around the Park and Park users have asked about for years. This matter will be considered by the City Council in the spring of 2014.

7.02: Note the Following Boards and Commissions Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Riley stated the Economic Development Authority Meeting Minutes dated August 8, 2013, did not reflect the corrections made at the EDA meeting.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember LeTourneau, to note the following Boards and Commission Meeting Minutes:

1. Planning Commission Meeting Minutes dated August 1, 2013
2. Environmental Policy Board Meeting Minutes dated August 5, 2013
3. Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes dated August 8, 2013

and to postpone consideration of the Economic Development Authority Meeting Minutes dated August 8, 2013, until corrected and resubmitted.

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

8. MAYOR, COUNCIL AND STAFF INPUT

8.01: Meeting to discuss 167th Avenue Node Future Land Uses – Thursday, September 26 – 6:00-9:00 p.m. – Anoka Ramsey Room

8.02: Franchise Fee Update

City Engineer Westby provided an update on franchise fees since the Council called for a public hearing. He stated staff has gathered information so the public can learn about franchise fees and a special edition of the *Ramsey Resident* addressing franchise fees will be mailed on September 25, 2013. In addition, the City's website will contain franchise fee information. City Engineer Westby described the stations that will be available during the October 1, 2013, Open House to provide information to the public and the October 8, 2013, public hearing where input will be taken. He stated CenterPoint and Connexus have indicated there are limitations to their invoicing process and that information will be made known as it is received and refined.

Mayor Strommen stated the information has not always included that the proposed franchise fee means the City would no longer assess property owners for street projects.

8.03: Septic System Pumping

Development Services Manager Gladhill provided updates on the notifications to private property owners due for septic inspection pumping.

8.04: Development Project Updates

Development Services Manager Gladhill stated the City just issued the Stoney River permit, a \$10 million 72-unit memory care and assisted living project with a groundbreaking scheduled on September 25, 2013.

Development Services Manager Gladhill stated the City received an application for a 77 lot plat called Brookfield 4th Addition. In addition to the standard public hearing, the City will also hold a public informational meeting on October 3, 2013, so the public can meet the developer and get additional information.

Development Services Manager Gladhill stated the Metropolitan Council has issued preliminary forecasts for the region on population, households, and employment and is requesting City input. He indicated staff will meet with the Metropolitan Council later in October to request adjustment to be more consistent with the City's plans and following that, will request City Council feedback.

Mayor Strommen noted the Metropolitan Council's preliminary projections lay the groundwork for the next round of Comprehensive Plan updates so it is important for the City to provide input at this time.

Development Services Manager Gladhill announced the September 26, 2013, public meeting to discuss the 167th Avenue node future land uses.

Mayor Strommen stated support for the collaborative process planned for the 167th node as it is a good opportunity for residents to provide early input and participate.

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 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Lund
Acting City Administrator/Finance Director

ATTEST:

Jo Ann M. Thieling
City Clerk

Drafted by Carla Wirth
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.