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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 24, 2015, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Mayor Sarah Strommen  
Councilmember Jill Johns  
Councilmember Mark Kuzma  
Councilmember John LeTourneau  
Councilmember Chris Riley  
Councilmember Melody Shryock  
Councilmember Kristine Williams

Members Absent: None

Also Present: City Administrator Kurtis Ulrich  
Fire Chief Dean Kapler  
Police Chief Jeff Katers  
Public Works Superintendent Grant Riemer  
Community Development Director Timothy Gladhill  
City Engineer Bruce Westby  
City Planner Chris Anderson  
Asst. City Administrator/Economic Development Manager Patrick Brama  
City Attorney Joe Langel  
Environmental Policy Board Chair Tom Stodola

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Strommen 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 Strommen.

**2. PRESENTATION**

None.

**3. CITIZEN INPUT**

None.

#### **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 4:08:

- 4.01: Note the following Boards and Commissions Meeting Minutes
  - 1. Environmental Policy Board Meeting Minutes dated January 5, 2015
  - 2. Economic Development Authority Meeting Minutes dated January 8, 2015
  - 3. Planning Commission Meeting Minutes dated January 8, 2015
  - 4. Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes dated January 8, 2015
- 4.02: Consider Acquisition of Tax Forfeit Properties
- 4.03: Approve the following Meeting Minutes:
  - 1. City Council Work Session dated February 10, 2015
  - 2. City Council Regular dated February 10, 2015
- 4.04: Approve Licenses:

Peddler

Winta Ice Cream, 13328 – 89<sup>th</sup> Avenue N., Maple Grove, MN 55369

Special Events

- Mn State Society Daughters of the American Revolution, 27157 Dakota Ave., Elko, MN 55020
- 4.05: Authorize Donation of Hurst Extrication Tools to the Anoka County Fire Training Academy
- 4.06: Adopt Resolution #15-02-045 Approving Cash Disbursements Made and Authorizing Payment of Accounts Payable Invoicing Received During the Period of February 5, 2015, through February 18, 2015
- 4.07: Adopt Resolution #15-02-051 Establishing Procedures Relating to Compliance with Reimbursement Bond Regulations under the Internal Revenue Code
- ~~4.08: Adopt Resolution #15-02-050 Accepting Feasibility Report and Ordering Public Hearing for 2015 Street Maintenance Program Division B, Overlay Improvements; Improvement Project #15-00~~ This item was removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered at the March 10, 2015, City Council meeting.
- 4.09: Adopt Resolution #15-02-037 to Enter into a Residential Recycling Program Agreement with Anoka County to Receive SCORE Funds for 2015
- 4.10: Adopt Resolution #15-02-047 Awarding Contract to Pearson Bros., Inc. for 2015 Street Sweeping
- 4.11: Adopt Resolution #15-02-048 Approving an Amended Development Agreement for Brookfield 5<sup>th</sup> Addition; Case of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Bank
- 4.12: Adopt Resolution #15-02-052 Authorizing Acquisition of a Permanent Easement Necessary for Construction of a Watermain Loop

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

#### **5. APPROVE AGENDA**

Motion by Councilmember Shryock, seconded by Councilmember Johns, to approve the agenda as presented.

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

## **6. PUBLIC HEARING**

### **6.01: Public Hearing and Consider Resolution #15-02-049 Ordering Cooperative Agreement for Jarvis Street Reconstruction and Railroad Crossing Quiet Zone Improvements; Improvement Project #15-20**

Mayor Strommen closed the regular portion of the City Council meeting at 7:05 p.m. in order to conduct a public hearing.

#### **Public Hearing**

Mayor Strommen called the public hearing to order at 7:05 p.m.

#### **Presentation**

City Engineer Westby reviewed the staff report and recommendation to adopt a resolution ordering a Cooperative Agreement for proposed City Improvement Project #15-20, Jarvis Street Reconstruction and Railroad Crossing Quiet Zone Improvements. It was noted the total cost to the City is \$875,305 plus assessments to ten properties with direct access to Jarvis Street at \$4,500 per property, totaling \$45,000. Staff recommends conducting a special assessment benefit study to assure the assessment does not exceed benefit to the property. It was noted that a four-fifths vote of the Council is required to adopt the assessment.

Councilmember Kuzma asked for clarification on the cost difference between straight curb and surmountable curb and how additional curb cuts would be addressed.

City Engineer Westby estimated a B618 curb would be few thousand dollars less expensive. He indicated if a resident wants an additional curb cut, staff would look at those on a case-by-case basis and also work with the Community Development staff to assure City Code requirements are not violated.

#### **Citizen Input**

David Huan, 16341 Jarvis Street NW, and owner of the house next door, agreed the road is in bad condition and needs repairs but he is not sure the curb and gutter are needed. He stated he has a second access, which was raised by Councilmember Kuzma. Mr. Huan stated his other concern relates to the cost and increase in taxes because of the improvements. He estimated this will cost him \$10,000 and asked if it is fair.

Mike Mulvaney, 16169 Jarvis Street NW, stated his support for surmountable curb so he can more easily back up his travel trailer. He asked about the potential for utilities to be installed in the near future that will require the road to be torn out and patched.

Motion by Councilmember Johns, seconded by Councilmember LeTouneau, to close the public hearing.

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

The public hearing was closed at 7:25 p.m.

### **Council Business**

Mayor Strommen called the regular City Council meeting back to order at 7:25 p.m.

City Engineer Westby stated the City has no plans to extend utilities to this portion of Jarvis Street.

Councilmember Riley described the Council's long process of considering how to fund street projects and finding that assessments are appropriate with the option of paying over a period of time. He noted the City is also assuring properties receive benefit to the level being assessed.

Councilmember Kuzma stated his support for this project, which is located in his Ward. He stated in the Northfork development, due to the high number of wetlands, it is too expensive to extend utilities and this project area is in close proximity to that location. He asked staff to address types of curbs.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer explained his preference for a more sturdy B18 curb design rather than a surmountable curb that allows for more turf damage.

Sharon Mulvaney, 16169 Jarvis Street NW, commented on the number of abandoned properties that have only weeds, not turf.

Mayor Strommen stated a B18 curb design would also create longevity of the road pavement to extend the City's investment.

Councilmember Shryock stated her support for the project as staff will be working with residents to address additional curb cuts on a case-by-case basis.

City Engineer Westby confirmed that staff will be working with those residents and assuring City's Codes are met.

Motion by Councilmember Kuzma, seconded by Councilmember Riley, to Adopt Resolution 15-02-049 Ordering Cooperative Agreement for Jarvis Street Reconstruction and Railroad Crossing Quiet Zone Improvements; Improvement Project #15-20.

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

## **7. COUNCIL BUSINESS**

### **7.01: Adopt Resolution #15-02-046 Approving the Environmental Policy Board's Statement of Purpose and Scope**

City Planner Anderson introduced Environmental Policy Board (EPB) Chair Tom Stodola.

Environmental Policy Board Chair Stodola presented the EPB's Statement of Purpose and Scope and recommendation for approval.

Councilmember LeTourneau, EPB Liaison, stated his support for the EPB's recommendation, indicating it is great work, narrows the focus of the EPB, and creates greater value for the City.

Councilmember Kuzma concurred.

Councilmember Johns stated her appreciation for the EPB's willingness to change meeting dates to assure the application timeline is not impacted.

Councilmember Williams complimented the EPB's thoughtfulness for fitting into an established process.

Motion by Councilmember LeTourneau, seconded by Councilmember Johns, to Adopt Resolution #15-02-046 Approving a Statement of Purpose and Scope for the Environmental Policy Board.

Further discussion: Councilmember LeTourneau stated the EPB wants to try this process for one year, making adjustments and being flexible as necessary. Mayor Strommen extended the Council's appreciation to the EPB for addressing its purpose and how to best engage with the City's processes and goals. Councilmember LeTourneau thanked City Planner Anderson and Community Development Director Gladhill for their work with the EPB on this item.

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

### **7.02: Consider Interim Topsoil Specification for 2015 Construction Season**

City Planner Anderson reviewed the staff report and recommendation of the Environmental Policy Board (EPB) to utilize the Common Topsoil Borrow specification found in Mn/DOT's 2014 edition of *Standard Specifications for Construction*.

Councilmember Kuzma stated his support as this sounds like a reasonable request.

Mayor Strommen asked if the EPB will also address other means for water conservation.

City Planner Anderson answered in the affirmative, noting an educational component needs to go along with it.

Councilmember Riley asked whether neighboring cities use a similar definition for top soil.

City Planner Anderson stated the requirement for a top soil is not unusual and while several communities have some kind of requirement for top soil, Ramsey's specification is much more specific.

Motion by Councilmember Shryock, seconded by Councilmember Williams, to Approve Standard Operating Policy #011-15 Allowing the use of the Common Topsoil Borrow Specification from Mn/DOT's 2014 edition of *Standard Specifications for Construction*.

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

**7.03: Adopt Ordinance #15-03 Amending City Code Section 117-351 (Home Occupations)**

City Planner Anderson reviewed the staff report and recommendation of the Planning Commission to adopt Ordinance #15-03. It was noted that this ordinance was introduced at the February 10, 2015, City Council meeting and is now eligible for adoption.

Councilmember Johns thanked staff for bringing this matter forward. She stated she had received complaints on the number of vehicles and if viewable from the back yard.

Motion by Councilmember Johns, seconded by Councilmember Shryock, to Waive the City Charter Requirement to read the Ordinance Out Loud and Adopt Ordinance #15-03 Amending Sections 117-351 (Home Occupations) of the Ramsey City Code.

A roll call vote was performed by the Recording Secretary:

Councilmember Johns	aye
Councilmember Riley	aye
Councilmember Williams	aye
Councilmember Shryock	aye
Councilmember LeTourneau	aye
Councilmember Kuzma	aye
Mayor Strommen	aye

Motion carried.

**7.04: Introduce Ordinance #15-05 Authorizing the City of Ramsey to Sell Thirty-Five (35) Parcels of Real Property**

Asst. City Administrator/Economic Development Manager Brama reviewed the staff report and recommendation to introduce an ordinance authorizing the City to sell 35 parcels of City-owned real property. It was noted that if introduced, this ordinance will be brought back for final adoption at the City Council's March 10, 2015, meeting.

Mayor Strommen reviewed the Council's discussion at a previous Work Session and consensus that each parcel needed to be identified.

Councilmember LeTourneau stated this is a housekeeping consideration to meet Charter requirements, assure residents are aware of the potential sale of City-owned property, and informing them of an opportunity to provide input.

Mayor Strommen agreed and stated it allows residents to provide input if they find there is value for the property to remain publicly owned.

Councilmember Riley noted the intent has always been to develop the properties listed, not public ownership. He stated the ordinance identifies the properties for sale, which are also posted with a 'For Sale' sign.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Williams, to Introduce Ordinance #15-05 Authorizing the City of Ramsey to Sell Thirty-Five (35) Parcels of Real Property.

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

**7.05: Consider Transfer of Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Funds to the General Fund for Building Permit Charges for Single-Family Home; Case of Homes for Our Troops**

Community Development Director Gladhill reviewed the staff report and recommendation to transfer Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) funds to the General Fund for a request to donate the costs of a building permit for Homes for Our Troops.

Mayor Strommen stated support for the City's policies that provide guidance when such situations arise and assure criteria is fairly applied.

Councilmember LeTourneau described the wide support from community and business members for this project. He stated his support for the request.

Motion by Councilmember LeTourneau, seconded by Councilmember Shryock, to Approve the Transfer of up to \$4,000 from the Housing and Redevelopment Authority Fund to the General Fund for a Request to Donate the Costs of a Building Permit for Homes for Our Troops.

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

**7.06: Approve New Model for Ramsey Town Center 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Additions; Case of Purmort Homes**

Community Development Director Gladhill reviewed the staff report, two alternatives for consideration, and recommendation to grant approval of a new floor plan for a single-family home in Ramsey Town Center 10<sup>th</sup> Addition not currently utilized within the subdivision and containing additional architectural requirements not found in other subdivisions within the community.

Mayor Strommen noted staff has done a good job in outlining why the Council would consider such a deviation.

Councilmember LeTourneau stated he is not prepared, based on personal experience, to make this decision and after listening to staff's presentation about making accommodations, when appropriate, the issue is one of consistency. He stated in this case, it is a unique lot and situation so he will rely on staff's recommendation.

Mayor Strommen stated when these cases have been considered in the past, the concern was from residents who had already bought and moved into the area should standards be lessened. It was an issue of fairness within one neighborhood. She noted this is a parcel on the end, almost a remnant piece, with a unique configuration and slope issues. Mayor Strommen stated she would not support a dual standard being unfairly applied but thinks in this case, there are unique circumstances to this particular lot to justify a deviation.

Councilmember Riley stated staff's original recommendation is that the proposal was not supported but that a two-car garage modification would result in staff support.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that is correct and this may be one of the cases staff could support if given direction by Council. He clarified that because this is unique, it would not apply to other properties within The COR.

Councilmember Kuzma expressed concern with the requested deviation and asked if a retaining wall could be installed.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that is an option but there will be space lost for a structural retaining wall and the City may need to maintain it because of the trail.

Councilmember Shryock noted the house design will be flipped to locate the garage towards the neighbor and the porch towards the trail. She asked if the roof pitches are within the City's guidelines.

Community Development Director Gladhill answered in the affirmative.

Councilmember Shryock stated the main issue then relates to the porch, which is not as visible given how the house will be positioned. Because of the unique positioning on the property and elevations, she supported the requested deviation.

Mayor Strommen asked if other homes have two-car garages.

Community Development Director Gladhill answered in the affirmative, noting some have three-stall garages. He stated with smaller lots and homes, staff hears about the need to provide adequate options for storage.

Motion by Councilmember LeTourneau, seconded by Councilmember Shryock, to Approve the New Floor Plan as presented for Lot 1, Block 2, Ramsey Town Center 10<sup>th</sup> Addition, only.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Mayor Strommen, Councilmembers LeTourneau, Shryock, Johns, Riley, and Williams. Voting No: Councilmember Kuzma.

## **8. MAYOR, COUNCIL AND STAFF INPUT**

City Administrator Ulrich announced upcoming meetings and events including a tour by the Metropolitan Council.

Councilmember Riley reported that he and 24 Troop #233 Scouts were trained in HeartSafe. It was noted that training is provided the first Monday of each month.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the City Council adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kurtis G. Ulrich  
City Administrator

ATTEST:

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Jo Ann M. Thieling  
City Clerk

Drafted by Carla Wirth  
*TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*