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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2015, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

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

Members Absent: Mayor Sarah Strommen

Also Present: City Administrator Kurtis Ulrich
 Finance Director Diana Lund
 Police Chief Jeff Katers
 Public Works Superintendent Grant Riemer
 Human Resources Manager Colleen Lasher
 Community Development Director Timothy Gladhill
 City Engineer Bruce Westby
 Asst. City Administrator/Economic Development Manager Patrick Brama
 City Attorney Joe Langel

1. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Mayor LeTourneau 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

None.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 4.01: Receive Cash and Investments for the Period Ending February 28, 2015
- 4.02: Approve the following Meeting Minutes:
 - 1) City Council Work Session dated February 24, 2015
 - 2) City council Regular dated February 24, 2015
- 4.03: Approve Exemption for a Gambling License for Ramsey Fire Relief Association
- 4.04: Approve Community and Business Event Participation
- 4.05: Approve Request to Declare Surplus Property
- 4.06: Adopt Resolution #15-03-069 Approving Cash Disbursements Made and Authorizing Payment of Accounts Payable Invoicing Received During the Period February 19, 2015 through March 4, 2015
- 4.07: Adopt Resolution #15-03-055 Approving Amending 2014 General fund Budget
- 4.08: Adopt Resolution #15-03-056 Amending 2014 Economic Development Authority (EDA) Budget
- 4.09: Adopt Resolution #15-03-057 Amending 2014 Housing & Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Budget
- 4.10: Adopt Resolution #15-03-058 Amending 2014 Enterprise Fund Budgets and Adopt Resolution #15-03-059 Adopting 2015 Enterprise Fund Budgets
- 4.11: Adopt Resolution #15-03-070 Accepting Feasibility Report and Ordering Public Hearing for 2015 Street Maintenance Program Division B, Overlay Improvements; Improvement Project #15-00
- 4.12: Adopt Resolution #15-03-072 Approving a 2-Year Labor Agreement with LELS-Sergeants

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

5. APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Williams, to approve the agenda as presented.

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

6. PUBLIC HEARING

6.01: Public Hearing on Issuance of General Obligation (GO) Street Reconstruction Plan Bonds and on Street Reconstruction Plan and Adopt Resolution #15-03-061 Adopting a Street Reconstruction Plan and Approving the Issuance of General Obligation Street Reconstruction Bonds

Acting Mayor LeTourneau closed the regular portion of the City Council meeting at 7:03 p.m. in order to conduct a public hearing.

Presentation

Finance Director Lund reviewed the staff report and recommendation to approve Alternative 1 as this is the authorization to issue debt with final approval of the acceptance of the bond sale terms at the regular City Council meeting of May 26, 2015.

Public Hearing

Motion by Councilmember Johns, seconded by Councilmember Shryock, to open the public hearing.

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

Acting Mayor LeTourneau called the public hearing to order at 7:06 p.m.

Citizen Input

There was none.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Williams, to close the public hearing.

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

The public hearing was closed at 7:07 p.m.

Council Business

Acting Mayor LeTourneau called the regular City Council meeting back to order at 7:07 p.m.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Williams, to Adopt Resolution #15-03-061 Adopting a Street Reconstruction Plan and Approving the Issuance of General Obligation Street Reconstruction Bonds.

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

6.02: Public Hearing on Issuance of General Obligation (GO) Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Bonds and on Capital Improvement Plan and Adopt Resolution #15-03-062 Giving Preliminary Approval to the Issuance of GO Capital Improvement Plan Bonds in an Amount not to Exceed \$4.2 million and Adopting the City of Ramsey's Capital Improvement Plan (for GO CIP Bonding Projects only) for the Years 2015 through 2019

Acting Mayor LeTourneau closed the regular portion of the City Council meeting at 7:09 p.m. in order to conduct a public hearing.

Presentation

Finance Director Lund reviewed the staff report and recommendation to approve Alternative 1 as this is the authorization to issue debt with final approval of the acceptance of the bond sale terms at the regular City Council meeting of May 26 2015.

Public Hearing

Motion by Councilmember Shryock, seconded by Councilmember Johns, to open the public hearing.

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

Acting Mayor LeTourneau called the public hearing to order at 7:12 p.m.

Citizen Input

There was none.

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

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

The public hearing was closed at 7:13 p.m.

Council Business

Acting Mayor LeTourneau called the regular City Council meeting back to order at 7:13 p.m.

The Council discussed its support for the construction of Fire Station #2, acknowledging that several in depth discussions had occurred previously on this case.

Finance Director Lund explained that sale proceeds from the former Municipal Center site will be applied towards the bonds.

Motion by Councilmember Johns, seconded by Councilmember Kuzma, to Adopt Resolution #15-03-062 Giving Preliminary Approval to the Issuance of GO Capital Improvement Plan Bonds in an Amount not to Exceed \$4.2 million and Adopting the City of Ramsey's Capital Improvement Plan (for GO CIP Bonding Projects only) for the Years 2015 through 2019.

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

7. COUNCIL BUSINESS

7.01: Consider Adopting Resolution #15-03-060 Conditionally Granting the Consent to Transfer Control of the Cable Television Grantee and Cable Television System from Comcast Corporation to GreatLand Connections, Inc.

City Administrator Ulrich reviewed the staff report and recommendation to adopt the transfer resolution based upon the recommendation by Quad Cities Cable Communications Commission (QCCCC) based on the settlement and conditions imposed by the consent resolution.

Karen George, Executive Director of the QCCCC, provided a review of the transfer of ownership from Comcast Corporation to GreatLand Connections, Inc. She indicated that QCCCC has been negotiating a settlement agreement over the past two years to extend the franchise to August 31, 2020, with an automatic extension renewal to 2024. Ms. George advised of the terms of the settlement agreement and answered questions of the Council relating to the anticipated timeline for federal approval.

Motion by Councilmember Johns, seconded by Councilmember Williams, to Adopt Resolution #15-03-060 Conditionally Granting the Consent to Transfer Control of the Cable Television Grantee and Cable Television System from Comcast Corporation to GreatLand Connections, Inc.

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

Acting Mayor LeTourneau extended the City's appreciation to Ms. George for her work on this effort.

7.02: Consider Authorizing Professional Services, Cost-Share Agreement, and Review Updates Related to the Future Ramsey Business Park

Asst. City Administrator/Economic Development Manager Brama reviewed the staff report and recommendation to authorize Bolton and Menk to complete the work outlined in the submitted proposal and authorize the cost-share model agreement with Hageman Holdings and Pearson Properties for the professional services as outlined in the Request for Quotes (RFQ).

City Administrator Ulrich emphasized that this is not a City-owned business park per se but the City would take responsibility to determine how to provide public infrastructure so a business park can be created.

Acting Mayor LeTourneau thanked the EDA for its work as well as the EDA Council Liaisons Riley and Williams.

Councilmember Riley agreed that business parks are important to the City to keep the overall taxes low and the City has seen proof of that when a TIF District decertifies and the tax base is improved. He stated Ramsey has had a few successful business parks but currently they are all full with no open available land. Councilmember Riley also emphasized that the City of Ramsey would not own this land and the consideration is to facilitate infrastructure.

Acting Mayor LeTourneau stated the Council made the choice to not be the landowner or developer for this particular business park but in the past, the City has taken that role. He agreed with the importance to provide opportunity for commercial and business uses and assure diversity desired by the City's residents. Acting Mayor LeTourneau asked what the market bears for opportunities that can be within the rail corridor and if it creates a limit.

Asst. City Administrator/Economic Development Manager Brama explained the railroad train tracks on the south side of the proposed business park will create vibration that will affect properties within 100 yards of the rail. He stated manufacturing is a target user for this business park and many are precision manufacturers with equipment that is sensitive to vibration. Because vibration is the major concern, it is recommended such businesses locate outside of the 100-yard area or use construction methods to mitigate that issue.

Councilmember Riley stated the EDA held a thorough discussion on this issue after a presentation by Mike Mulrooney of ACG Consulting and it was pointed out there are many business parks located alongside railroad tracks in many communities. He stated the issue is the RFQ to study the infrastructure necessary to create a business park in this area, which would have to be studied by the City at some point so the area can develop.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Williams, to Authorize Bolton and Menk to complete the work outlined the submitted traffic analysis and feasibility study proposal and authorize staff to execute a cost share agreement with Hageman Holdings and Pearson Properties for work outlined in the feasibility study proposal; subject to amendments from the City Attorney.

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

7.03: Consider Adopting 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 adopt Ordinance #15-05 on second reading.

Councilmember Riley stated this action would sell surplus land and the parcels are specifically listed in detail as well as posted with CBRE 'For Sale' signage.

Councilmember Kuzma stated he had concerns with this ordinance originally but after discussion, it was indicated that citizens would be notified in advanced should there be a property of concern. In addition, this procedure will streamline the process in cases of multiple pieces of property such as located in The COR.

Motion by Councilmember Shryock, seconded by Councilmember Williams, to Waive the City Charter requirement to read the ordinance aloud and Adopt Ordinance #15-05 Authorizing the City of Ramsey to Sell Thirty-Five (35) Parcels of Real Property.

A roll call vote was performed by the Recording Secretary:

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

Motion carried.

7.04: Consider Adopting Resolution #15-03-071 Accepting Bids and Awarding Contract for Improvement Project #14-28, Ramsey Municipal Parking Ramp

Asst. City Administrator/Economic Development Manager Brama reviewed the staff report and presented bids received for Improvement Project #14-38, Municipal Parking Ramp. He described three alternatives for the Council's consideration and recommended to not include Bid Alternate #1, to include Bid Alternate #2, and to award of the contract to Construction Results Corporation, the lowest responsible bidder, at \$298,440.

Councilmember Kuzma stated the Council has discussed this project several times and determined the additional parking spaces are needed.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Shryock, to Adopt Resolution #15-03-071 Accepting Bids and Awarding Contract for Improvement Project #14-28, Ramsey Municipal Parking Ramp.

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

7.05: Consider City of Ramsey Response to Metropolitan Council Draft Water Resources Policy Plan

City Engineer Westby reviewed the staff report and recommendation to approve the draft response to the Metropolitan Council Draft Water Resources Policy Plan.

Councilmember Riley stated the Public Works Committee and City Council have not had the opportunity to discuss this draft response and tonight's meeting is the last opportunity to provide input. He requested the following revisions: Page 1, third paragraph, remove first sentence: *The City of Ramsey supports the regionalization of water systems, but only if such systems can be funded equitably across the communities they serve.* Page 1, third paragraph, second sentence, remove the word 'also:' *The City would ~~also~~ like to stress that...* Page 2, first paragraph, line 8, remove the word 'likely': *...but it would ~~likely~~ not be economically feasible if the intent...*

Acting Mayor LeTourneau asked City Engineer Westby to explain the purpose for including this sentence: *The City of Ramsey supports the regionalization of water systems, but only if such systems can be funded equitably across the communities they serve.*

City Engineer Westby explained that in order to implement a surface water supply system, the City cannot do it on its own from a financial standpoint and will need to act in unison with others. Also, regionalization is part of the City's Strategic Action Plan to think regionally, reach out to neighboring cities, and address things on a regional basis. The basis for that sentence is to carry that message forward from the Strategic Action Plan and the need for partners to address finances.

Acting Mayor LeTourneau thanked Councilmember Riley for his suggested revisions. He explained that the Environmental Policy Board had a lot of discussion about water, water conservation, and the pressure placed on the water aquifer due to increased development, resulting in a precarious position into the future. He noted there are limited options to address this issue and the Metropolitan Council has asked the City to consider all options including surface water that can be drawn from the Mississippi River to lessen the draw on the aquifer. The sentence under discussion addresses that direction from the Metropolitan Council and acknowledges that Ramsey cannot do this on its own.

Councilmember Riley noted the third paragraph addresses creating regional partnerships but he opposes saying the City supports the regionalization of water systems.

City Administrator Ulrich stated his support of that position as it would be premature at this point to jump to supporting regionalization of water systems until an analysis and determination has been made.

Acting Mayor LeTourneau suggested staff remove reference to regionalization and create language indicating the City supports considering all viable options to manage water systems.

City Manager Ulrich stated broader language is already included to look at regional partnerships.

Councilmember Johns stated the second half of that statement is being neglected but is also important to fit into the response. That sentence indicated: *'The City of Ramsey supports the regionalization of water systems, but only if such systems can be funded equitably across the communities they serve.*' Councilmember Johns stated that is an important caveat to the first half of the sentence.

Councilmember Williams agreed with Councilmember Riley's recommendation because the second paragraph achieves what is desired. She read the second paragraph indicating: *'The City of Ramsey supports the Met Council's goal of achieving sustainable water systems. However, achieving sustainable water systems across the twin cities metropolitan area must be achieved in an equitable manner.'*

Councilmember Shryock stated if the first sentence is removed, part of that issue is addressed in the second to the last paragraph where it states: *'The City also vigorously supports further exploration and implementation of water conservation methods, including reusing wastewater and promoting infiltration practices to aid in groundwater recharge.'* She supported making sure that whatever solution is brought forth, it is financially equitable with all communities receiving benefit.

Councilmember Kuzma reminded the Council that there is potential for a water shortage and the City is not only looking at a potential processing plant but the City is doing a lot with its holding ponds, rain gardens, and other water conservation measures. He agreed that regional support is needed to address this issue.

Acting Mayor LeTourneau thanked the Council for its comments and asked City Engineer Westby if he has received enough input to redraft the wording to reflect the Council's desire.

City Engineer Westby responded in the affirmative.

Motion by Councilmember Shryock, seconded by Councilmember Johns, to Approve the City of Ramsey Response to Metropolitan Council Draft Water Resources Policy Plan, as revised.

Further discussion: Councilmember Riley stated he is not confident the revision will support his concern to remove regionalization of the water system, and taking out the word 'likely' on page 2. City Engineer Westby reviewed the revisions he will make to remove reference to regionalization and stated on the second page, second to the last paragraph, he will strike the word 'likely.'

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

8. MAYOR, COUNCIL AND STAFF INPUT

City Administrator Ulrich provided an update on the Strategic Plan and announced upcoming meetings and events. He also announced that over 240 people have been trained in HeartSafe. It was noted that HeartSafe training is provided the first Monday of each month.

City Administrator Ulrich stated the City Council will reconvene its Work Session following adjournment

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the City Council adjourned at 8:16 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.