

Joint Mtg -
City of Ramsey -
City of Elk River

**MEETING OF THE ELK RIVER CITY COUNCIL
HELD AT THE CITY OF ELK RIVER (UPPER TOWN CONFERENCE ROOM)
MONDAY, MAY 9, 2011**

- Members Present: Mayor Dietz, Councilmembers Gumphrey, Motin, Westgaard, and Zerwas
- Members Absent: None
- Staff Present: City Administrator Lori Johnson, Police Chief Bradley Rolfe, Fire Chief T. John Cunningham, City Engineer Justin Femrite, Finance Director Tim Simon, Marketing and Business Administrator Annie Deckert, and Executive Secretary/Deputy City Clerk Jessica Miller
- Also Present: City of Ramsey Council: Mayor Ramsey, Councilmembers Backous, Elvig, McGlone, and Wise; City Administrator Kurt Ulrich, Deputy City Administrator/Community Development Director Heidi Nelson, and Public Works Director Brian Olson

1. Call Meeting To Order

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the meeting of the Elk River City Council was called to order at 6:37 p.m. by Mayor Dietz.

2. Joint Meeting with the City of Ramsey

General Development Review

Ms. Nelson presented a PowerPoint outlining a general development review of the City of Ramsey.

Transportation Issues/Highway 10 Update

Mr. Olson presented a PowerPoint outlining transportation issues and an update on Highway 10.

Mississippi River Trail Corridor

Ms. Johnson explained that Ramsey and Elk River have successfully worked together to keep the Mississippi River Trail Corridor on the Elk River/Ramsey side of the river. It was originally proposed to only go on the other side of the river. The economic and recreational benefits of having the trail on the Elk River/Ramsey side were discussed.

Other Trail Connections (e.g. snowmobile)

Mayor Ramsey indicated that the City of Ramsey recently opened up additional snowmobiling opportunities and he has received questions from people on how to continue snowmobiling through Elk River. He would like Ramsey staff and Council to be aware of routes through Elk River. Mayor Ramsey noted that since Ramsey reopened the snowmobiling opportunities, the snowmobile groups have taken more responsibility in helping to enforce rules and maintaining the trails.

Chief Rolfe explained that the ditches along Highways 10 and 169 are designated trails but that you cannot continue west on Highway 10 from the 169/10 interchange. He added that

the County roads are also designated trails and that may be the best route. Chief Rolfe will provide Ramsey with the Sherburne County snowmobile trail map.

Public Safety – Mutual Aid

The Cities of Ramsey and Elk River belong to a public safety mutual aid agreement which seems to be working very well.

Mr. Olson indicated that the two cities also have a public works mutual aid agreement and thanked the City of Elk River for entering into it.

Utility Connections

Mr. Olson explained that Ramsey would like to explore various alternatives for possible utility interconnections with neighboring communities to solve potential water issues in the future. It was discussed that Elk River does not have a feasible solution for Ramsey at this time.

Rail Crossing Quiet Zones

Discussion took place on quiet zones. It was discussed that in order for Ramsey to be completely quiet zone, two crossings near 165th and Jarvis in Elk River would need to be converted to quiet zones. Ramsey indicated they may be willing to contribute funding if Elk River was interested in converting these two crossings.

Ms. Johnson explained that Elk River's focus for quiet zones has been downtown. She added that some of the crossings in Elk River are County road crossings and the County has not committed funding for conversion to quiet zones.

Jarvis Street Maintenance

Mr. Femrite outlined Elk River's street rating procedure. He stated that the results are not completely compiled yet but based on preliminary findings, Jarvis was rated pretty low and he would expect the road to be rebuilt within five years, maybe sooner.

Mayor Dietz questioned how the City of Ramsey handles street improvement projects. Mr. Olson explained their assessment process.

Ramsey Councilmembers stated they would assist in funding improvements to Jarvis Street.

Composting Site

Ramsey officials questioned if Elk River has any desire to locate the composting site near the Ramsey/Elk River border. Mayor Dietz indicated that the site is currently in a good, central location.

Sharing of Equipment/Staff

Mr. Ulrich explained that Anoka County is going through a process to identify services and equipment within its cities that can be shared. He indicated that there may be opportunities identified for sharing with Elk River.

Mayor Dietz indicated that Elk River is open to sharing whatever services and equipment that staff can work out.

Ramsey indicated they have a couple pieces of equipment that may be useful for Elk River to share, including a trail paving machine, 65" tree spade, and a ladder truck. Discussion took place on possibly sharing these pieces of equipment.

Discussion was held on snow plow routes on the Ramsey/Elk River border. It was discussed that it may be beneficial to review and discuss the routes so that one city is not traveling a distance to plow a road when another city is plowing an adjacent street. Mayor Dietz asked Mr. Femrite and Mr. Olson to discuss this and report back to their respective Councils.

The Councils discussed the potential to share staff positions. Councilmember Westgaard indicated he would like to review the organizational structure of both cities to see if there are ways the cities can assist each other.

Mayor Ramsey mentioned that Ramsey belongs to the North Metro Mayor's Association which includes many benefits. Mr. Ulrich stated he will provide Ms. Johnson with information on the organization.

Mississippi River Issues

The following Mississippi River issues were discussed

- Coon Rapids Dam renovation
- Mississippi River Critical Corridor regulations
- National River Recreational area

Mayor Ramsey explained that he believes that it helps if the two cities band together and speak as one voice when presented with issues of mutual interest.

Other Items


Councilmember Wise questioned what Sherburne County's policy on hard channel median barriers is. Discussion took place.

Mayor Ramsey reiterated that if there is anything Ramsey can help Elk River with (lobbying, etc) they welcome the opportunity to join forces in representation.

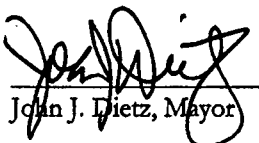
3. Recess

Mayor Dietz recessed the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Jessica Miller.



Tina Allard, City Clerk



John J. Dietz, Mayor