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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, December 13, 2016, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

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

Members Absent: Councilmember John LeTourneau

Also Present: City Administrator Kurtis Ulrich  
Finance Director Diana Lund  
Fire Chief Matt Kohner  
Police Chief Jeff Katers  
Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Mark Riverblood  
Public Works Superintendent Grant Riemer  
Civil Engineer II Leonard Linton  
Human Resources Manager Colleen Lasher  
City Clerk Jo Ann Thieling  
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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Strommen called the regular meeting of the Ramsey City Council to order at 7:03 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Strommen.

**2. PRESENTATION**

**2.01: Promotion of Ramsey Police Officer Chris Curtis to the Rank of Sergeant in the Police Department**

Mayor Strommen invited Chief Katers to the podium for a short presentation.

Police Chief Katers stated that the purpose of this case is to recognize Officer Chris Curtis for his promotion to the rank of Sergeant. He provided background information on Officer Curtis's career with the Ramsey Police Department and asked his wife to come forward and pin the promotion pins onto Officer Curtis to identify his change in rank. He congratulated Officer Curtis.

Mayor Strommen stated that it is wonderful to see such strong support from the family and department and to see growth from within the department.

### **3. CITIZEN INPUT**

None.

### **4. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- 4.01: Receive October 2016 Financial Reports – General Fund and Enterprise Funds
- 4.02: Receive Cash and Investments for Period Ending November 30, 2016
- 4.03: Schedule Public Hearing to Consider Adoption of 2017-2026 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
- 4.04: Approve Licenses:
  - Therapeutic Massage Establishment  
Krista Havlik Massage Therapy/7533 Sunwood Drive NW #212
  - Therapeutic Massage Therapist  
Krista Havlik/7533 Sunwood Drive NW #212
- 4.05: Approve the following Meeting Minutes:
  - 1) City Council Work Session dated November 22, 2016
  - 2) City Council Regular dated November 22, 2016
- 4.06: Adopt Resolution #16-12-243 Approving Cash Disbursements Made and Authorizing Payment of Accounts Payable Invoicing Received During the Period of November 17, 2016 through December 7, 2016
- 4.07: Adopt Resolution #16-12-242 Ordering Feasibility Report for Improvement Project #17-02, 2017 Mill and Overlay Improvements
- 4.08: Adopt Resolution #16-12-244 to Re-Hire an Administrative Services Intern
- 4.09: Adopt Resolution #16-22-246 Approving Amended and Restated Development Contract (Partial Release) for Alpha Development/Former Legacy Christian Academy Project
- 4.10: Adopt Resolution #16-12-250 Approving Final Payment to Pearson Brothers, Inc. for Improvement Project #16-00 Division A, 2016 Crackseal and Sealcoat Improvements
- 4.11: Adopt Resolution #16-12-251 Approving Final Payment to Kuechle Underground, Inc. for Improvement Project #12-22, Riverdale Drive Extension/Reconstruction
- 4.12: Adopt Resolution #16-12-252 Approving Partial Payment to Kuechle Underground, Inc. for Improvement Project #16-95, Zeolite Street Storm Sewer Extension
- 4.13: Adopt Resolution #16-12-253 Approving Partial Payment to Kuechle Underground, Inc. for Improvement Project #13-10, Garnet Street and 168<sup>th</sup> Avenue Reconstruction

- 4.14: Consider Adoption of Resolution #16-12-249 to Promote a Patrol Officer to Sergeant
- 4.15: Report from the Public Works Committee Meeting dated November 15, 2016:
- 1) Consideration of Recommending City Council Approval of Draft Water Supply Plan – *Ratify the recommendation of the Public Works Committee that the Draft Water Supply Plan be forwarded to the Environmental Policy Board and Planning Commission before it is reviewed by the City Council.*
  - 2) Update on Anoka County Highway Department Flashing Yellow Arrow Signal System Improvement Projects – *Ratify the consensus of the Public Works Committee that the City Council recommend this plan move forward coinciding with Anoka County and proceed with the study on both intersections with the condition that the study cost is under \$2,400.*

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

## **5. APPROVE AGENDA**

Councilmember Riley requested to move Item 7.10 (Consider Preliminary Approval of the City of Ramsey’s Draft Water Supply Plan) to be considered first without renumbering the remaining items.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Shryock, to approve the agenda as amended.

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

## **6. PUBLIC HEARING**

**6.01: Public Hearing to Consider 2017 Tax Levies and General Fund Budget & Adopt Resolution #16-12-237 Adopting the 2016, Payable 2017 Municipal Tax Levy; Adopt Resolution #16-12-238 Adopting the 2017 General Fund Budget and Adopt Resolution #16-12-239 Adopting the 2017 Economic Development Authority (EDA) Budget**

### **Presentation**

Finance Director Lund reviewed the staff report and the recommendation to adopt the final levy, the general fund operating budget, and the EDA fund budget as proposed.

### **Public Hearing**

Mayor Strommen called the public hearing to order at 7:25 p.m.

### **Citizen Input**

Riley Sunder, 6900 178<sup>th</sup> Avenue, stated that it appears the City will be spending about \$29,000 on the website design and noted that he could do the website redesign much cheaper.

Mayor Strommen noted that the budget has a placeholder and the redesign will come back before the Council as a formal action. She noted that there is complexity to the website because it houses archived files.

Finance Director Lund stated that the IT Department oversees the update and has obtained bids.

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

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

The public hearing was closed at 7:28 p.m.

### **Council Business**

Councilmember Riley stated that this has been discussed on multiple occasions and he did not think that decisions should be made in a vacuum. He stated that this is a proposed 5.1 percent to the tax levy. He reviewed other increases for wages, social security, and other rates of inflation which all range around one or two percent; therefore, he did not see a reason for a five percent increase. He stated that the intent is to remain consistent with the tax levy and noted that this is just the first in a five-year plan that only goes higher. He stated that he would not be supporting this budget for those reasons.

Councilmember Kuzma noted that the debt service for the roads is a driving force in the increase as the option for a franchise fee was not approved. He stated that the roads will continue to be a bulk portion of the increase. He stated that the Drug Task Force position was also an increased item but noted that he heavily supports that position in this current time with heroin use climbing in the metro area. He stated that the Drug Task Force position will provide the City with additional avenues in that matter.

Councilmember Shryock agreed with the comments of Councilmember Kuzma. She stated that she recently attended a presentation from the Anoka County Sheriff and found it astounding the problems that the County and State, as a whole, face and therefore supports a more proactive approach to the issue.

Mayor Strommen appreciated the information from Councilmember Riley. She commented that this a growing community and along with that comes investments that need to be made to protect that community, such as investment in the road infrastructure; noting that item had not been accounted for in previous budgets. She echoed the comments of support for the Drug Task Force officer, noting that is a strategic investment in the community before there are issues that greatly impact the quality of life and safety of the community. She stated that the Council reviews this information outside of a vacuum in order to make decisions not just for today but also for the

future, referencing the five-year budget outlook. She stated that this budget makes modest investments for the future without overspending.

Motion by Councilmember Kuzma, seconded by Councilmember Johns, to Adopt Resolution #16-12-237 Adopting the 2016, Payable 2017, Municipal Tax Levy; Adopt Resolution #16-12-238 Adopting the 2017 City of Ramsey General Fund Operating Budget; and Adopt Resolution #16-12-239 Adopting the 2017 City of Ramsey Economic Development Authority Fund Budget.

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

**6.02: Public Hearing to Consider an Application for On-Sale, Sunday and 2:00 a.m. Intoxicating Liquor License; Case of S&D Management, Inc. D/B/A Penalty Box Bar and Grill, 14077 St. Francis Boulevard NW, Ramsey**

**Presentation**

City Clerk Thieling reviewed the staff report and recommendation to hold a public hearing on a liquor license request and finally authorize the same for the new owner of Penalty Box Bar and Grill.

**Public Hearing**

Mayor Strommen called the public hearing to order at 7:37 p.m.

**Citizen Input**

There was none.

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

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

The public hearing was closed at 7:37 p.m.

**Council Business**

Councilmember Kuzma stated that in the past the business has held a big bash in the summer and asked if the new owner plans to continue that.

Debbie Danielson stated that she did not believe the business would hold a tent party as she believed that event has run its course.

Motion by Councilmember Kuzma, seconded by Councilmember Riley, to approve an on-sale, Sunday and 2:00 a.m. intoxicating liquor license application for S & D Management Inc. D/B/A Penalty Box Bar and Grill.

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

## **7. COUNCIL BUSINESS**

### **7.01A: Consider Preliminary Approval of the City of Ramsey's Draft Water Supply Plan (Previously Item 7.10)**

Civil Engineer II Linton reviewed the staff report and the recommendations from the EPB and Planning Commission as well as the recommendation to grant preliminary approval of the City's Draft Water Supply Plan.

Councilmember Kuzma asked how long staff has been working on this Plan.

Civil Engineer II Linton replied that staff has been working on the Plan beginning in July.

Councilmember Kuzma stated that this is an important document as there is a potential for a shortage and therefore management of the water is important.

Motion by Councilmember Kuzma, seconded by Councilmember Johns, to provide preliminary approval of the City of Ramsey's Draft Water Supply Plan as proposed.

Further discussion: Councilmember Riley referenced the chart which identified the growth of the City, that identified an increase in 2010 and a decrease after that which he was surprised to see. Civil Engineer II Linton stated that he has not researched the matter further but will look into that. Councilmember Riley referenced the chart which estimated that the demand for water would grow through 2040 and stated that a well will be added but that additional measures will be needed as well. Civil Engineer II Linton explained that the well proposed to be added in 2020 would not provide enough capacity to take the City to 2040. He noted that in the past it was determined that it would technically be feasible to take water from the Mississippi River and treat that water but advised that would have a large price tag and therefore the Council has chosen not to pursue that option until there is a regional interest. He stated that the template for the Plan was taken from the DNR which was heavily weighted towards reviewing alternative options. Councilmember Riley stated that perhaps that should be clarified in the Plan to provide additional explanation. Mayor Strommen referenced the future water demand projections and asked if any other factors outside population increase are taken into account. Civil Engineer II Linton replied that only population growth is taken into account. Mayor Strommen provided technical comments, identifying an industrial business that is currently listed under commercial. She noted that the cover and footer identify the document as a template and should possibly be updated to identify the Plan as Ramsey's Draft Plan. She recommended that those changes be updated prior to sending the Plan for review.

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

**7.01B: Consider Request for a Non-Traditional Animal License to Maintain a Pot-Bellied Pig on the Property Located at 15830 Andrie St NW; Case of Tom & Edie Harer**

City Planner Anderson reviewed the staff report and recommendation to adopt Resolution #16-12-240 and #16-12-241 approving the Findings of Fact favorable to the applicant and granting a Non-Traditional Animal License to maintain one pot-bellied pig at 15830 Andrie St NW. He stated that staff recommends the alternative method for animal waste, removing the waste from the property and noting that the applicant has an agreement with a local business owner that will accept the waste for composting and reuse on their site. He identified properties that received notice of this request and identified properties that have submitted written comments in proximity to the subject property. He noted that both property owners with abutting property have written letters in support of the request and the animal does not add a risk to the safety and wellbeing of the community. He noted that perhaps the City Code be revisited to determine if this specific section could be updated.

City Attorney Langel stated that as indicated the City has to consider the license application independent of any HOA covenants as those are private between the property owners.

Mayor Strommen noted that the Council has read the written letters received and advised that the Council cannot address comments regarding the HOA covenants. She welcomed brief comments that do not relate to the issue of the HOA covenants.

Mark Berglund, Attorney for Northfork Homeowners Association, stated that the HOA cannot influence or tell the Council what to do but believed that there were some things that should be considered. He stated that this request is by one individual but impacts more than just one individual. He stated that following this decision there will be further action by the HOA. He stated that as this moves forward, and if the license is granted, the request has been made after the action has been taken. He stated that the same thing is happening within the HOA, noting that the resident is asking the Council for permission to have something they are not permitted to have under the more restrictive HOA covenant. He stated that his concern is that by requesting a variance from the City Council, already knowing that this is a violation of the HOA community that they live in, perpetuates discourse within that development as they are ignoring the rules of the community. He stated that the impact is on the entire association of people and not just the applicant.

Tom and Edie Harer, 15830 Andrie Street, stated that Peter is a gentle and loving pet and is smaller than many dogs in the neighborhood. He is quiet and is not a nuisance to the neighbors, generating less noise and waste than larger dogs in the community. He stated that the neighbors did not even know of the pet until they invited them to meet the pet. He read portions of letters of support from abutting property owners. He stated that Peter lives primarily outside in a fenced in area but comes in the home from time to time, noting that there is an accessory structure painted to match the home in which the pet resides. He stated that their veterinarian has

stated that Peter is a pet and is not livestock, noting that the USDA also clarifies this type of pig as a pet rather than livestock.

Mayor Strommen stated that the Council appreciates the emotion surrounding this issue and will focus on the facts pertaining to the City Code.

Councilmember Kuzma stated that he lives within the Northfork community and is concerned that the applicant is requesting a non-traditional license. He was not sure why this was not done prior to purchase of the pet. He stated that he is also concerned with the other after the fact permits as well as the safety issue regarding animal waste. He stated that he is not in support of this request.

Councilmember Riley referenced the map which identified the location from which comments were received. He stated that he was struck by the fact that the people nearest to the property were in favor of the request and those opposing the request live some distance away therefore he was not sure how those property owners would be impacted by the decision.

Councilmember Shryock stated that her understanding is that a pot-bellied pig is considered a pet. She referenced the comment regarding their waste and stated that given the size of the pet she would compare the waste to be similar to any dog and therefore did not see that as an issue. She did not see how that would even be an issue as dog or cat waste could be all over someone's yard.

City Planner Anderson stated that topic was addressed because of the non-traditional animal license requested. He agreed that an animal of that size would not generate much more waste than a dog. He stated that in terms of composting, it is not uncommon for communities to prohibit animal waste from being composted which is why staff recommended building that alternative into the license.

Community Development Director Gladhill noted that this is being treated similar to dog waste, noting that the City would not allow accumulation of dog waste to be stored on the yard.

Councilmember Williams asked for clarification on whether the City Code prohibits backyard composting of animal waste.

City Planner Anderson stated that topic is not specifically addressed within City Code, therefore the exclusion could be viewed as being prohibited.

City Attorney Langel commented that if the item is not specifically prohibited, the result would be that the activity is allowed.

Councilmember Williams commented that this is only the second non-traditional animal license that has come before the Council. She appreciated the ability of staff to work through the ordinance in order to apply the regulations to such different requests. She stated that hopefully the license process will allow the City to respond to the requests in a reasonable manner.

Motion by Councilmember Williams, seconded by Councilmember Johns, to Adopt Resolution #16-12-240 Adopting Findings of Fact #0975 Relating to a Request from Edie Harer to Maintain a Pot-Bellied Pig at the Property Located at 15830 Andrie St NW and Resolution #16-12-241 Approving the Issuance of a Non-Traditional Animal License to Maintain a Pot-Bellied Pig on a Residential Property and Declaring Terms of Same.

Further discussion: Councilmember Shryock stated that she is curious as to why there was a delay in the applications but aside from that, that does not prohibit the City's ability to grant the approvals. Mayor Strommen stated that the City always encourages people to seek the proper approvals before the action takes place but notes that there is this process to remedy the situation after the fact. Councilmember Riley stated that he would like staff to consider this as a learning process and not be drawn into HOA covenants but instead focus on the City's policies and procedures.

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

#### **7.02: Consider Adoption of Resolution #16-12-248 to Approve Position Reclassification**

Human Resources Manager Lasher reviewed the staff report and recommendation to reclassify two current City positions, the Permit Technician Assistant and the Parks Lead Worker; both reclassifications were included as part of the budgeting discussions and are accounted for in the 2017 budget. This case seeks to accurately classify and compensate City employees for the work performed, noting that both job duties have changed significantly and the employees are currently working outside of their classification.

Motion by Councilmember Shryock, seconded by Councilmember Williams, to Adopt Resolution #16-12-248 to Approve Position Reclassifications.

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

#### **7.03: Consider Adoption of Resolution #16-12-245 to Approve the City's 2017-2018 Union Contracts**

Human Resources Manager Lasher reviewed the staff report and recommendation to adopt Resolution #16-12-245 to settle the two-year labor agreements with AFSCME, LELS-Patrol and LELS-Sergeants subject to review and approval of the contract language by the City Attorney.

Mayor Strommen thanked Human Resources Manager Lasher and City Administrator Ulrich for their efforts in this negotiation and mediation process.

Motion by Councilmember Johns, seconded by Councilmember Williams, to Adopt Resolution #16-12-245 to Approve the City's 2017-2018 Union Contracts.

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

**7.04: Consider Adoption of Resolution #16-12-247 to Approve the City's 2017 Non-Union Health Insurance Contributions and Non-Union Cost of Living Adjustments**

Human Resources Manager Lasher reviewed the staff report and recommendation to approve the non-union employee City health insurance contributions and cost of living adjustments (COLA) as accounted for in the 2017 City budget. The non-union health insurance contributions and COLA are the same amounts as discussed with the City Council for all other employee groups, including AFSCME, LELS-Patrol and LELS-Sergeants; this approach has proven to be an effective way to maintain internal equity, minimize the complexity of the budget and keep the payroll process streamlined.

Motion by Councilmember Johns, seconded by Councilmember Williams, to Adopt Resolution #16-12-247 to Approve the City's 2017 Non-Union Health Insurance Contributions and Non-Union Cost of Living Adjustments.

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

**7.05: Consider Introducing Ordinance #17-01 Amending Sign Standards for the Employment Districts to Allow a Second Ground Sign on Parcels with Multiple Road Frontages**

City Planner Anderson reviewed the staff report and recommendation to Adopt Ordinance #17-01 to allow a second permanent ground sign on parcels with multiple road frontages in the Employment Districts. He noted that this action is similar to the action that was taken for the business zoning district to allow a second permanent sign and advised that the ordinance would mirror that language.

Councilmember Riley stated that this appears to just be cleaning up language to make it more consistent, noting that the Planning Commission also recommended approval.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Kuzma, to introduce Ordinance #17-01, an amendment to Chapter 117 of the City Code, which Chapter is known as Zoning and Subdivisions, of the City of Ramsey, Minnesota.

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

**7.06: Future Business Park: Consider Rezoning Hageman Holdings Site**

Asst. City Administrator/Economic Development Manager Brama reviewed the staff report and recommendations from the EDA as well as the recommendation to direct staff to rezone Lot 1 Block 1, and Outlot B, Alpha Plat, to allow for a business park and quasi-public uses and to

direct staff to work with CapStone Homes to update the previously completed Bolton & Menk arterial infrastructure analysis.

Councilmember Kuzma asked if the County HRA funds would be applicable for this project.

Asst. City Administrator/Economic Development Manager Brama confirmed that the available EDA balance includes the County HRA funds available.

Councilmember Riley stated that the EDA discussed this topic the previous week and is supportive of both actions.

Mayor Strommen stated that she is supportive of updating the infrastructure analysis. She discouraged the City from having conversations about who would fund what in terms of infrastructure improvements because that can set expectations. She stated that things should become much more specific once the analysis is completed.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Shryock, to direct staff to rezone Lot 1, Block 1, and Outlot B, of Alpha Plat, to allow for a business park and quasi-public uses and direct staff to work with CapStone Homes to update the previously completed Bolton & Menk arterial infrastructure analysis.

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

**7.07: Consider Adoption of Ordinance #16-14 Granting a Franchise to Qwest Broadband Services, Inc. D/B/Z CenturyLink, to Construct, Operate, and Maintain a Cable System in the City of Ramsey**

City Administrator Ulrich reviewed the staff report and recommendation to adopt the Ordinance granting a franchise to CenturyLink to construct, operate and maintain a cable system in the City of Ramsey.

Councilmember Kuzma commented that this is a good thing to bring competition into the market and provide an alternative to residents.

Motion by Councilmember Kuzma, seconded by Councilmember Johns, to waive the City Charter requirement that the Ordinance be read aloud and Adopt Ordinance #16-14 Granting a Franchise to Qwest Broadband Services, Inc. D/B/A CenturyLink, to Construct, Operate, and Maintain a Cable System in the City of Ramsey, Minnesota.

A roll call vote was performed by the Recording Secretary:

Councilmember Riley	aye
Councilmember Shryock	aye
Councilmember Williams	aye
Councilmember LeTourneau	absent

Councilmember Johns            aye  
Councilmember Kuzma           aye  
Mayor Strommen                aye

Motion carried.

**7.08: Consider Authorizing Application for Federal Funding, and Consider Final Design for the Mississippi Skyway**

Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood reviewed the staff report and recommendation to authorize staff to apply for Federal funding (due on December 16, 2016) for the extension of the existing skyway at the rail station over Highway 10 and Riverdale Drive; additionally staff recommends advancing to Final Design for the “Mississippi Skyway” at this time, utilizing the previously awarded \$490,000 in National Park Service monies for the pedestrian bridge.

Councilmember Shryock thanked staff for their efforts on this, as this has been a long time coming.

Motion by Councilmember Shryock, seconded by Councilmember Johns, to approve the application for funding in the amount of \$1,000,000 from the Federal Lands Access Program and authorize the application of \$490,000 in National Park Service funds for Final Design services by Bolton & Menk Inc.

Further discussion: Councilmember Williams stated that she is not in favor of this project and is disappointed that this continues to be discussed as an essential safety feature when the item has not been identified as an essential safety feature in the Highway 10 corridor. She stated that she would not support this request and did not think that the City should continue to compete for Highway 10 transportation funds. Councilmember Riley echoed the comments of Councilmember Williams. He stated that there is an estimate of \$5,600,000 for the cost of skyway which is too much. He stated that the Council is always talking about other transportation and park needs that need this amount of funding that would be more useful. He believed that this would fall under the category of want rather than need. He believed moving this forward to the final design stage would be very premature and would not support the request. Councilmember Shryock asked for the funds designated for this and what other uses they could be applied to. Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated that the TAB provides awards for only trail related projects up to \$5,500,000 in the 2016 cycle. He noted that the next award cycle would be in 2018. He stated conceivably the \$1,000,000 requested to be pursued can only be used for connections to National Parks. Councilmember Shryock stated that as the Council has discussed Highway 10 there has been a consensus that things should be at a shovel ready state. She stated that the County Park plans are progressing, the City is progressing, and noted that this would provide connectivity to the neighborhood on the south side of Highway 10. Councilmember Kuzma stated that the City is bordered by the Rum River and Mississippi River and the bicycle trails are heavily used. He stated that this would provide an amenity that would bring further attention to the community. Councilmember Johns stated that she does support this request and noted that the skyway would be an economic tool to

connect the National Park to the businesses of Ramsey. She believed that this connection would be important for bikers and also for the community that lives south of Highway 10. She stated that the National Parks know that the funds will be important and will be used and therefore thought that the City should think big and bold. Councilmember Riley stated that this would be an exciting project but they are so close to the beginning. He noted that they have not even obtain 10 percent of the funding but yet is willing to spend that much. Councilmember Williams addressed the notion that the skyway system would improve the economic development, noting that the skyway has not been a mention of the EDA or any of the experts that they have spoken to. She noted that there are at grade trail connections that could be provided in existing neighborhoods at a lower cost than the skyway. Councilmember Shryock stated that as the Council looks at this project, skyway is probably not the correct term as this would be a pedestrian bridge. She noted that these funds are for specific areas and purposes and cannot be used for other elements. She asked the longevity of the final design once established. Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated that bridge technology does not change greatly over the course of several years. He explained that the \$490,000 would not cover the entire cost of final design and noted that perhaps a few years down the road some amendments would need to be made but advised that this portion of the design would cover the bridge engineering. Mayor Strommen agreed that she would not want to see this project compete with other projects but noted that these funds are specific to National Parks. She stated that the Council should be careful when speaking in absolutes but agreed that this could contribute to some of the factors mentioned tonight. She noted that Ramsey is different from other river communities as they are separated from the river by the railroad tracks. She stated that other river communities are investing in their river assets and downtowns that are built near the river. She believed that it is important for Ramsey to explore its connection to the river.

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

**7.09: Consider Adoption of Resolution #16-12-228 Authorizing FASTLANE Funding Application for Ramsey Boulevard Railway Grade Separation Improvements**

The City Engineer reviewed the staff report and recommendation to adopt Resolution #16-12-228 authorizing staff to submit a second funding application request for \$11,000,000 through the Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-Term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE) grant program for grade separating Ramsey Boulevard from the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railway crossing north of Highway 10.

Mayor Strommen asked if it would be helpful to have letters of support from legislative representatives.

City Engineer Westby stated that he has letters of support from some local businesses but noted that Mr. Tinklenberg is also pursuing additional letters of support from the legislative representatives.

Motion by Councilmember Johns, seconded by Councilmember Kuzma, to Adopt Resolution #16-12-228 Authorizing FASTLANE Funding Application for Ramsey Boulevard/CSAH 56 Railway Grade Separation.

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

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

City Administrator Ulrich announced upcoming meetings and events.

**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 9:52 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 Amanda Staple  
*TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*