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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, May 9, 2017, 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  
Police Chief Jeff Katers  
Public Works Superintendent Grant Riemer  
City Clerk Jo Ann Thieling  
City Engineer Bruce Westby  
City Planner Chris Anderson  
Asst. City Administrator/Economic Development Manager Patrick Brama

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Strommen called the regular meeting of the Ramsey City Council to order at 7:05 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Strommen.

**2. PRESENTATION**

**2.01: Proclamation Declaring May as Building Safety Month**

Mayor Strommen read aloud the proclamation declaring May as building safety month. She noted that the proclamation would be adopted as part of the Consent Agenda. She stated that this is important because a lot of people think permits are an annoyance but noted that the permits ensure safety. She thanked the building department for their continued efforts.

Katy Hauan, Building Department, stated that the City is in process of developing the electronic plan review which would have less delays, would be more efficient and streamlined, and would help conservation efforts as well.

Ellen Krueger, Building Department, stated that they are excited where this will take the City and provide both the residents and staff with efficiency, convenience, and safety.

City Administrator Ulrich stated that the building department does a great job of providing customer service and work with a variety of people, residents doing small projects through contractors with more elaborate plans. He stated that staff has worked to make the process more efficient and convenient.

### **3. CITIZEN INPUT**

Jennifer Shoemaker, 6150 Ridlen Avenue, stated that she had been an Anoka resident and they recently moved to Ramsey about 1.5 months ago. She stated that she has some safety concerns because there is a large population of older citizens in the neighborhood and she has four children that come and go. She stated that the street is very dark and since they have moved in there have been a few issues. She stated that the neighbors seem to be reluctant to call the police department with issues. She stated that Ramsey Chief Katers came and met with her to discuss her concerns. She stated that one woman who walks her dog has been stalked weekly but the man always wonders off before the police get there. She stated that her neighbor came over recently and stated that a woman walked into her house at 7:15 a.m. and introduced herself as a new neighbor when in fact she was not and had just entered the house without permission. She stated that she is not sure why the neighbors are reluctant to call the police but she wants people to know they can call the police. She noted some concerns with the homeless people sleeping on Kings Island and that Anoka is attempting to address this issue and this neighborhood is right near Kings Island and she wants to ensure that the neighborhood is safe. She stated that she also has concerns with River Place. She stated that the residents of River Place are regularly outside the dumpster area smoking and can watch everything that goes on in the neighborhood.

Mayor Strommen thanked Ms. Shoemaker for sharing her input and for being proactive in the neighborhood.

City Administrator Ulrich stated that he reached out to the City of Anoka regarding screening of River Place. He stated that the developer is going to install a fence this year. He noted that it was not a condition of approval but the developer is going to install a fence around the perimeter of the property. He stated that staff is also going to reach out to Village Bank in regard to restoration efforts on their parcel as well.

### **4. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- 4.01: Receive Cash and Investments for Period Ending April 30, 2017
- 4.02: Approve the following Meeting Minutes:
  - 1) City Council Work Session dated April 25, 2017
  - 2) City Council Regular dated April 25, 2017
- 4.03: Approve Licenses:

Solicitor  
Blaine Anoka Ice Cream/18005 Waco St NW

Transient Merchant

City of Ramsey Garden Club/ Sale Held on Municipal Campus

- 4.04: Approve Request to Declare Surplus Property
- 4.05: Approve Request of the Ramsey Foundation for Lawful Gambling Funds for the Concert Series
- 4.06: Adopt Resolution #17-05-110 Approving Cash Disbursements Made and Authorizing Payment of Accounts Payable Invoicing Received During the Period of April 20, 2017 through May 3, 2017
- 4.07: Adopt Resolution #17-05-108 Establishing Procedures Related to Compliance with Reimbursement Bond Regulations under the Internal Revenue Code (Bonding for 2017 Road Reconstruction Projects)
- 4.08: Adopt Resolution #17-05-112 to Hire Seasonal Public Works Maintenance Workers and Interns
- 4.09: Adopt Resolution #17-05-109 Requesting Anoka County to Withhold Certain Tax Forfeiture Land from Public Sale and Authorizing Acquisition of Tax Forfeiture Property (PIN 08-32-25-23-0014) for Public Purpose in the City of Ramsey
- 4.10: Adopt Resolution #17-05-113 Proclaiming May as Building Safety Month
- 4.11: Report from the Public Works Committee Meeting dated April 18, 2017:
  - 1) Consider Preventative Maintenance for 29-year old Well Pump and Motor at Central Park – *Ratify the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to consider of preventative maintenance to the well at a not-to-exceed cost of \$9,000 from the Capital Maintenance Fund, which includes replacement of the existing system with a Variance Frequency Drive and Pump.*
  - 2) Consider a Review of SCADA System and the Need for Redundancy Upgrades – *Ratify the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to consider Item #1 for 2017 for purchase of Spare Master Equipment and to have the Public Works staff budget as necessary for Item #2-4 in future years, as reviewed in Mr. LeFreniere’s April 6, 2017 report.*
  - 3) Consider Pedestrian and Traffic Concerns on Variolite Street and Receive Petition for Pedestrian Crosswalk – *Ratify the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to instruct City staff to review potential safety related improvements on Variolite Street including a proposed crosswalk, and present their findings and recommendations to the Public Works Committee at their May 16, 2017 meeting.*
  - 4) Consider Recommending City Council Approval of Plans and Specifications for Improvement Project #17-00, Sunwood Drive Reconstruction – *Ratify the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to approve the plans and specifications for Improvement Project #17-00, Sunwood Drive Reconstruction.*
  - 5) Consider Recommending City Council Approval of Plans and Specifications for Improvement Project #17-01, Alpine Drive Reconstruction – *Ratify the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to approve the plans and specifications for Improvement Project #17-01, Alpine Drive Reconstruction.*
  - 6) Consider Recommending City Council Authorization to Prepare Plans and Specifications for Improvement Project #17-09 Bunker Lake Boulevard Utilities Extension – *Ratify the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to authorize preparation of the plans and specifications for extended trunk and sanitary sewer and watermain along Bunker Lake Boulevard to Puma Street.*

- 7) Consider Recommending City Council Authorization to Prepare Plans and Specifications for Flashing Yellow Arrow Improvements to Signal System at Armstrong Boulevard and Sunwood Drive – *Ratify the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to authorize hiring of SEH, Inc., to prepare plans and specifications for converting the City-owned signage system at the intersection of Armstrong Boulevard/CSAH 83 and Sunwood Drive/147<sup>th</sup> Avenue to flashing yellow operations.*

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

## **5. APPROVE AGENDA**

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

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

## **6. PUBLIC HEARING**

None.

## **7. COUNCIL BUSINESS**

### **7.01: Consider Request to Appeal Solicitor License Denial; Case of Aaron Jahnke, Heston & Associates, Inc.**

City Clerk Thieling reviewed the staff report and recommendation for the Council to hear Mr. Jahnke's appeal as is allowed by City Code and to make a decision to approve or deny such license based upon information received.

Aaron Jahnke stated that he is proud and thankful to Police Chief Katers and City Clerk Thieling for their assistance. He stated that his situation was about 21 years ago and is no longer a silly young man. He stated that he has an 11-year-old daughter and 20-year-old son and respects the police and the laws of the land. He stated that he has a family and would be concerned if the Council issued a permit to a sexual offender and therefore takes this law seriously. He stated that he has been doing his job for eight years and has received permits in other communities such as Coon Rapids and Anoka. He noted that he fully respects the decision of the Council, whatever that may be. He presented information to the Council.

Councilmember Kuzma asked what Mr. Jahnke is soliciting for.

Mr. Jahnke replied that he would be soliciting for home repairs and kitchen remodeling and all the companies he works with have an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau.

Councilmember Riley asked for more information on the offense.

Mr. Jahnke stated that in 1995 there was an assault at his home involving himself and his mother and it was an unfortunate family situation. He noted that it was settled in court in 1997.

Councilmember Riley stated that the City has a policy that has worked well. He noted that this was identified as a problem and was not incorrectly denied but the policy also allows for an appeal with an explanation provided by the applicant, which is helpful in this case.

Mr. Jahnke noted that he was not a man at the time of the incident and is now a man.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Johns, to approve Mr. Aaron Jahnke's Solicitor's license.

Further discussion: Councilmember Shryock asked how long the permit would be valid. City Clerk Thieling replied that the permit would be good through December 31, 2017.

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

Mr. Jahnke thanked the Council and stated he will not let them down. He expressed his respect for the law.

**7.02: Consider Adopting Resolutions #17-05-106 and #17-05-107 Granting Approval of the Final Plat and Development Agreement for Woodlands 4<sup>th</sup> Addition (Project #16-102); Case of Lennar**

City Planner Anderson reviewed the staff report and recommendation to adopt Resolutions #17-05-106 and #17-05-107 approving the Final Plat and Development Agreement for Woodlands 4<sup>th</sup> Addition, contingent upon compliance with the Staff Review Letter dated May 5, 2017 and review and approval of the Development Agreement as to legal form by the City Attorney as well as review by the City Engineer regarding the cost estimates for the Stage I surety. He highlighted a few items that the applicant would like changed in the Development Agreement, and noted that he would support the two minor adjustments.

Councilmember Riley asked for input on the bigger issue, the added layer of protection for ecological easements and how the developer feels about that.

City Planner Anderson stated that the Metropolitan Council recommended having the elements placed in outlots that the City could take ownership of. He noted that staff would recommend easements that would provide additional protection that the drainage and utility easements do not provide along with signage that would alert people to the easement. He stated that the applicant seems supportive as long as the easement would not impact the layout of the lots.

Councilmember Riley asked how this development would be different than other developments.

City Planner Anderson replied that the southern portion of the lot was subject to a Comprehensive Plan amendment and protection of ecological elements is a focus. He stated that staff has stated in the past that it would be helpful to have this extra layer of protection. He noted that with a standard drainage and utility easement there is not that extra layer of protection and homeowners are often not aware of activities that cannot occur. He stated that the signage would be a benefit to call attention to the ecological easement. He noted that the boundary of the easement would be the same as the typical drainage and utility easement, it would simply provide another layer of protection.

Councilmember Kuzma asked who would be responsible for the additional expense if the additional layer is added.

City Planner Anderson stated that staff would work with the developer to draft the easement which would be recorded against the lots. He noted that enforcement would fall to the City, the same as a drainage and utility easement. He did not see that this would add a lot of added expense or work to the City but would provide an additional benefit and education that could help prevent issues in the future.

Councilmember Shryock asked and received confirmation that this additional layer of protection would be helpful and would make it easier for the City to enforce issues should they arise.

Councilmember Williams stated that she is not in favor of the City adding fee title to the lots but would support the direct staff recommends in order to be good stewards of the natural resources.

Motion by Councilmember Williams, seconded by Councilmember Johns, to Adopt Resolution #17-05-106 Granting Final Plat Approval of Woodlands 4<sup>th</sup> Addition and Resolution #17-05-107 Approving the Development Agreement for Woodlands 4<sup>th</sup> Addition, contingent upon compliance with the Staff Review Letter dated May 5, 2017 and review of the Development Agreement by the City Attorney and City Engineer with regard to legal form and the cost estimates for the Stage I surety; and to direct staff to work with the applicant to secure an ecological protection easement over the wetlands and stormwater ponds.

Further discussion: City Planner Anderson asked if that would include the minor revisions to the Development Agreement. He noted that a representative from Lennar is present as well. It was the consensus of the Council that the motion would include the minor revisions to the Development Agreement. Councilmember Riley asked if the applicant is in agreement with the ecological protection easements. Paul Tibon, Lennar, stated that they have worked with ecological easements in other developments and they do not oppose the easements as long as they do not encumber the lots. He stated that if the easements would help the City's enforcement ability they would be open to that discussion.

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

Mayor Strommen briefly recessed the meeting to address technical difficulties at 7:42 p.m.

Mayor Strommen reconvened the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

**7.03: Consider Easement Vacations, Final Plat, and Development Agreement for Brookfield 8<sup>th</sup> Addition (Project #16-78); Case of Brookfield Land, LLC**

City Planner Anderson reviewed the staff report and recommendation to adopt Resolution #17-05-111 granting Final Plat approval of Brookfield 8<sup>th</sup> Addition, vacating existing drainage, utility and temporary trail easements, accepting a pedestrian and bicycle easement, approving both a Development Agreement and Grading and Tree Clearing Agreement and directing staff to work with the applicant on an ecological protection easement for the wetlands and stormwater ponds. He noted that the primary contingencies identified by the City Council in February, which were the Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) and considering a request to participate in a cost share to complete the looping of the watermain to 166<sup>th</sup> Avenue have been addressed. He stated that the Metropolitan Council approved the CPA on April 26<sup>th</sup> and the Public Works Committee unanimously recommended the City contribute a not-to-exceed amount of \$50,000 to complete the looping of the water line. He stated that the Final Plat conforms with the approved Preliminary Plat, and new drainage and utility easements, and a new permanent trail easement will be provided with the Final Plat. He noted that a representative from Capstone Homes is present to address any questions that may arise.

Councilmember Johns referenced the cost share and asked if that was a do not exceed amount.

City Planner Anderson confirmed that the language would be capped at \$50,000 for the City's portion of the cost share.

Councilmember Riley noted that this case was delayed because of the Metropolitan Council but noted that two months later the item was approved with no changes. He asked the service that was provided then by the Met Council. He commended staff for their efforts.

Mayor Strommen stated that the item was not tabled awaiting a service from the Met Council but simply awaiting Met Council to have a full review and continue the dialogue.

Motion by Councilmember Kuzma, seconded by Councilmember Johns, to Adopt Resolution #17-05-111 Granting Approval of Final Plat, Easement Vacations, Easement Acceptance, and Agreements Related to Brookfield 8<sup>th</sup> Addition and to direct staff to pursue an ecological easement over the wetlands and stormwater ponds.

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

**7.04: Consider Adopting Ordinance #17-04 Amending Irrigation Requirements (Project #17-104)**

City Planner Anderson reviewed the staff report and recommendation of the Environmental Policy Board and the Planning Commission to adopt Ordinance #17-04 amending the irrigation standards.

Councilmember Riley asked for more information on the comment from the EPB regarding the task being counterintuitive.

City Planner Anderson stated that the zoning code requires all multi-family, commercial and industrial developments to install an underground irrigation system which the EPB felt was counterintuitive because of the groundwater concerns in Ramsey.

Motion by Councilmember Johns, seconded by Councilmember Williams, to waive the City Charter requirement to read the Ordinance aloud and to Adopt Ordinance #17-04 Amending Multiple Sections of the Ramsey City Code Relating to Irrigation Requirements.

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.

**7.05: Consider Adopting Resolution #17-05-103 Approving Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Advertisements for Bids for Improvement Project #17-00, Sunwood Drive Reconstruction**

City Engineer Westby reviewed the staff report and recommendation to approve the plans and specifications and authorizing advertisements for bids for Improvement Project #17-00, Sunwood Drive Reconstruction.

Motion by Councilmember Kuzma, seconded by Councilmember Shryock, to Adopt Resolution #17-05-103 Approving Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Advertisements for Bids for Improvement Project #17-00, Sunwood Drive Reconstruction.

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

**7.06: Consider Adopting Resolution #17-05-104 Approving Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Advertisements for Bids for Improvement Project #17-01, Alpine Drive Reconstruction**

City Engineer Westby reviewed the staff report and recommendation to adopt Resolution #17-05-104 approving plans and specifications and authorizing advertisements for bids for Improvement Project #17-01, Alpine Drive Reconstruction.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Kuzma, to Adopt Resolution #17-05-104 Approving Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Advertisements for Bids for Improvement Project #17-01, Alpine Drive Reconstruction.

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

**7.07: Consider Adopting Resolution #17-05-105 Ordering Plans and Specifications for Improvement Project #17-08, Flashing Yellow Arrow Improvements at Sunwood Drive and Armstrong Boulevard**

City Engineer Westby reviewed the staff report and recommendation to adopt Resolution #17-05-105 ordering plans and specifications for Improvement Project #17-08, Flashing Yellow Arrow Improvements at Sunwood Drive/147<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW and Armstrong Boulevard/CSAH 83.

Councilmember Kuzma stated that the preliminary cost would be \$40,000 and asked if the \$6,500 would be in addition or included.

City Engineer Westby replied that the \$40,000 is installation only and the \$6,500 would be in addition.

Councilmember Johns asked if the delayed hours would be at Bunker Lake Boulevard as well or just this intersection.

City Engineer Westby stated that the study is ongoing and noted that while each intersection is reviewed individually, he would assume they would be similar in hours.

Motion by Councilmember Shryock, seconded by Councilmember Johns, to Adopt Resolution #17-05-105 Ordering Plans and Specifications for Improvement Project #17-08, Flashing Yellow Arrow Improvements at Sunwood Drive and Armstrong Boulevard.

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

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

**8.01: Receive Update on Potassium Street Easement Dispute**

City Administrator Ulrich provided history on the disputed road easement for Potassium Street as well as an update. He stated that at some time last year it was determined that the best course of action would be to move the easement to the south and they are currently in negotiations. He stated that obviously, there is a conflict as the current deed does not show the easement but the past deeds do identify the easement. He stated that the long-term interest is that the road will never go through to the north and therefore moving the turnaround to the south would be in alignment with the future proposed alignment for the road. He stated that this course of action

would help to resolve the situation with the property owner and would align for future development of the adjacent parcel. He noted that the City has made an offer and negotiations will continue in attempt to find a possible solution to meet the interest of the public and the property owner. He stated that staff would still like to work with the property owner in attempt to find a solution rather than pursuing the legal route.

City Administrator Ulrich congratulated Asst. City Administrator/Economic Development Manager Brama for a recent award he received as Assistant City Administrator of the Year. He announced upcoming meetings and events.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the City Council adjourned at 8:32 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.*