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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, August 22, 2017, 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
Police Chief Jeff Katers
Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Mark Riverblood
Public Works Superintendent Grant Riemer
Community Development Director Timothy Gladhill
City Engineer Bruce Westby

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Strommen called the regular meeting of the Ramsey City Council to order at 7:02 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Strommen.

2. PRESENTATION

None.

3. CITIZEN INPUT

Patrick Surma, 161st Avenue NW, stated that there are big events, such as the Game Fair, where the parking fills up. He stated that with the trail connection, the crosswalk needs to be improved. He noted that there also needs to be a way to move people down the road to the crosswalk and wanted to make sure that the topic stays on the top of the agenda for the City. He noted that he intended to attend the County Board meeting earlier today but was not able to.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 4.01: Receive July 2017 Financial Reports – General Fund and Enterprise Funds
- 4.02: Note the Following Boards and Commissions Meeting Minutes:
- Planning Commission Meeting Minutes dated June 1, 2017
 - Economic Development Authority Meeting Minutes dated June 8, 2017
 - Park and Recreation Meeting Minutes dated June 8, 2017
 - Special Planning Commission Meeting Minutes dated June 12, 2017
 - Environmental Policy Board Meeting Minutes dated June 19, 2017
- 4.03: Approve Licenses:
- Transient Merchant
JWT Heavenly Springers/5900 75th Ave SE, St. Cloud/8241 161st Ave NW
- Transient Merchant
FML Solutions Inc./429 Minnesota St N, Ortonville/8154 161st Ave NW
- Transient Merchant
Ice Coffee Girl/14540 Bowers Dr NW/8404 161st Ave NW
- Transient Merchant
G.I. Joe’s Food Truck/10006 Oakwood Ct N, Brooklyn Park/8204 161st Ave NW
- Therapeutic Massage Establishment
Balance Through Bodywork, LLC/14141 Iodine St NW
- Therapeutic Massage Therapist
Michele Reid – Balance Through Bodywork, LLC/14141 Iodine St NW
- 4.04: Approve Rental Licenses
- 4.05: Approve the following Meeting Minutes:
- 1) City Council Work Session dated August 8, 2017
 - 2) City Council Regular dated August 8, 2017
- 4.06: Approve Lease Agreement Amendment: Northern Light Church: 6701 Highway 10 Office Space
- 4.07: Adopt Resolution #17-08-204 Approving Cash Disbursements Made and Authorizing Payment of Accounts Payable Invoicing Received during the Period of August 3, 2017 through August 6, 2017
- 4.08: Adopt Resolution #17-08-203 Approving an Encroachment Agreement for a Chain Link Fence in a Drainage and Utility Easement at 7066 167th Crossing NW

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Mayor Strommen, Councilmembers LeTourneau, Johns, Kuzma, 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

None.

7. COUNCIL BUSINESS

7.01: Consider Adopting Resolution #17-08-197 Approving a Request for an Amended Conditional Use Permit for Motor Vehicle Sales and Repair at 6845 Highway 10 NW (Project No. 17-136); Case of EJ Properties LLC

Community Development Director Gladhill reviewed the staff report and recommendation to approve Resolution #17-08-197 granting an Amended Conditional Use Permit to allow additional motor vehicle sales/repair tenants to operate on the subject property; as long as the applicant brings the property into compliance with the terms of the Conditional Use Permit and Zoning Code. He noted that staff and the Planning Commission support this recommendation.

Motion by Councilmember Kuzma, seconded by Councilmember LeTourneau, to Adopt Resolution #17-08-197 Approving the Issuance of an Amended Conditional Use Permit to EJ Properties LLC, to Allow Motor Vehicle Repairs and Motor Vehicle Sales in the H-1 Highway Business District and Declaring Terms of Same, contingent upon bringing the subject property into compliance with the terms of the Conditional Use Permit and Zoning Code.

Further discussion: Councilmember LeTourneau stated that obviously the issues on the site would need to be brought into compliance and wanted to ensure that it remain a high priority. He stated that he would like an effort to be put together to ensure that this property remains in compliance and was unsure how the property keeps getting out of compliance. He stated that it is odd that a user would not be in compliance with code and then would ask for a conditional use permit for an exception outside of that code. Community Development Director Gladhill noted that the easy to address items have been addressed and confirmed that it would continue to remain a focus as that is a goal of the City Council.

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

7.02: Consider Approval of Final Plat and Site Plan for Greenway Terrace (Project #16-84); Case of Aeon, LLC

Community Development Director Gladhill reviewed the staff report and recommendation to approve the requested Final Plat and Site Plan. He noted that the proposed project appears to comply with the bulk standards of The COR Design Framework and the proposed use would be an asset to The COR development as well as the City of Ramsey. He stated that staff supports this recommendation contingent upon compliance with the Staff Review Letter.

Councilmember LeTourneau stated that the Council has seen this a number of times and noted that he does support the request. He recognized that the Planning Commission recommended approval, the project meets objectives of the Strategic Plan, provides housing that is needed and

also helps the City to accomplish goals that the rest of the community wants in terms of retail and entertainment. He noted that as more housing units are provided, that inches the City towards the goal of getting more businesses.

Motion by Councilmember LeTourneau, seconded by Councilmember Shryock, to Adopt Resolution #17-08-188 Granting Final Plat Approval of Greenway Terrace and Resolution #17-08-189 Granting Site Plan Approval for Greenway Terrace, contingent upon compliance with the Staff Review Letter.

Further discussion: Mayor Strommen stated that this will provide an opportunity for the other amenities in The COR that the rest of the community desires. She stated that the original vision for The COR included apartments and townhomes and a large amount of density. She stated that the idea was always to concentrate density around the transit oriented development. She noted that while people may have thought those elements would all come in together, the timing may not be coordinated in the way people may want, as it comes in pieces. Community Development Director Gladhill stated that the piece that people often forget is the strategy for the community to plan for growth in order to maintain the rural character of the community that has been echoed throughout by many residents. He noted that this strategy allows the City to better manage its growth to reach goals and maintain that rural character while still providing options for life cycle housing. He noted that there are now housing products available for those moving out of their parent's home, buying their own home with their family, and for the senior stages when people often downsize or move into senior housing.

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

7.03: Consider Approval Actions for Cole Addition Located Near 168th Ave NW and 168th Ln NW; Case of Bryon and Lynn Cole (Project No. 17-132)

- 1. Introduce Ordinance #17-12 Vacating Certain Drainage and Utility Easements**
- 2. Adopt Resolution #17-08-202 Approving Final Plat and Development Agreement**

Community Development Director Gladhill reviewed the staff report and recommendation to introduce Ordinance #17-12 Vacating Drainage and Utility Easements on the subject property and adopt Resolution #17-08-202 granting Final Plat approval for Cole Addition contingent upon compliance with the Staff Review Letter. He noted that the developer has revised the plans to meet the minimum design standards for the cul-de-sac and provided sufficient documentation to verify that no wetlands exist on the subject property.

Councilmember Kuzma asked for more information on the variance on the sidewalk and if that would delay the project.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that variances are issued by the Planning Commission and therefore the developer would need to make that request to be reviewed by the Planning Commission. He stated that the deadline for the September meeting is tomorrow and he was unsure that could be met. He noted that the variance would be reviewed by the physical

conditions of the site and therefore he was unsure that would be granted. He stated that in the position of the developer, time is of the essence, and therefore they have decisions to make as well. He noted that the developer can choose to take the decision of the City Council or could choose to pursue the option for a variance but noted that there is no guarantee the variance would be approved.

Brian Cole, 6918 118th Avenue NW, thanked Community Development Director Gladhill and his staff for getting the process to this point as he began working on this years ago. He stated that he has been a Ramsey resident for 40 years, 20 of that at his current home. He stated that the only issue is the sidewalk issue. He stated that he has no problem putting the sidewalk on his plat, if that is required by the Code, but asked who would be responsible for the cost outside of his plat, as he does not believe he should be responsible for that cost. He noted that there are four cul-de-sacs within Brookfield and only one has a sidewalk. He thanked Community Development Director Gladhill and his staff for all their time and hard work throughout this process.

Councilmember Kuzma asked if it would make a difference if there is a sidewalk or not.

Mr. Cole stated that it does not matter to him. He stated that he spoke with the neighbor to the north last week and told him he did not think there would need to be a sidewalk. He stated that once he heard from staff he updated the neighbor. He stated that it is not a hardship for him but he cannot speak for the neighbor.

Councilmember Kuzma stated that if it does not affect the project, he would support this going back to the Planning Commission to see if a variance could be granted to waive the sidewalk requirement.

Mayor Strommen stated that the applicant would need to apply for that variance and he is not asking for that.

Councilmember Johns stated that there was a mention that there would be a credit for the portion for the sidewalk not within his plat and asked for more information.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that the estimate was \$10,000 to extend the sidewalk outside of this parcel and believed the trail credit would be about \$4,800, which would leave a gap. He stated that the Council could direct staff to look for a funding mechanism to fill the gap if desired. He identified the parcel that is opposed to the sidewalk, noting that the property owner prefers to park vehicles that would then overhang the sidewalk. He advised that the portion of land is still within the public right-of-way.

Motion by Councilmember Johns, seconded by Councilmember Williams, to introduce Ordinance #17-12 vacating certain drainage and utility easements in the City of Ramsey, Anoka County, Minnesota and to Adopt Resolution #17-08-202 Granting Approval of a Development Agreement and Final Plat for Cole Addition, contingent upon compliance with the staff review letter.

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

7.04: Consider Adoption of Resolution #17-08-205 Granting Final Plat and Development Agreement for Anoka Hennepin 2nd Addition; Case of Anoka Hennepin School District

Community Development Director Gladhill reviewed the staff report and recommendation to approve of the Plat. He noted that this is a Minor Plat (with three or less lots and no public infrastructure at this time) and therefore the request was not reviewed by the Planning Commission. He noted that the Commission will review all future steps in the review process.

Chuck Holden, Anoka Hennepin School District, stated that they have great plans for Ramsey noting that it is an exciting time. He stated that part of the global referendum going to the voters in November is a new school in Ramsey which would be a sister school to Oxbow Elementary and Rum River Elementary which are two-story schools. He provided a mockup of the new school which would align the entrance to 170th Street. He stated that the site would be about 34 acres in size and could house 1,000 students with 42 classrooms. He reviewed the two-story design and explained that the two-story concept would allow pods of grade levels around the gym, media center and cafeteria while still providing additional classroom space on the upper level. He stated that they spoke with staff at Oxbow and Rum River in order to obtain tips on what works and does not work in the layout and design. He noted that the two-story design works well and would be an attractive building and site. He stated that they are looking to do the same thing in Blaine on Lever Street as the population in that city is increasing even more quickly than Ramsey. He stated that if approved and if the referendum is approved they would bid the project this winter and begin construction in the spring with the intent to open in the 2019/2020 school year. He noted that the intent with the referendum would also be to remodel Anoka High School. He stated that the use of portable classrooms is a safety risk as they require children to walk outside in all types of weather. He noted that they would intend to remove the portable classrooms at Anoka High School and Anoka Middle School. He noted that the referendum would also support remodel of other facilities including libraries to meet the demand of the current time. He stated that the tax impact for the entire referendum is about \$11 per month for the average home price in the School District at \$200,000.

Councilmember Riley stated that this looks great and asked if this would keep all the Ramsey kids in Ramsey.

Mr. Holden confirmed that would be the intent, to cut down the population at Ramsey Elementary and allow growth for both locations. He noted that middle school students would still attend Anoka Middle School with upgrades to those classrooms as well.

Councilmember LeTourneau asked for information on the rumor that he has heard that Ramsey Elementary is at capacity and is not allowing additional enrollment.

Mr. Holden noted that the current enrollment for Ramsey Elementary is 1,330 which is over capacity. He stated that there are 145 Ramsey kindergarten students that will attend Wilson Elementary.

Mayor Strommen stated that she has a student that recently graduated Ramsey Elementary and attested that the school is busting at the seams.

Councilmember LeTourneau stated that he has heard many comments about this topic from residents and is happy to see this solution coming forward.

Mayor Strommen noted that Councilmember Williams participated in the Task Force for the School District on this topic.

Councilmember Williams acknowledged that there was a lot of thoughtful discussion on the topic, the needs, issues of capacity, and the referendum. She stated that the School Board took into consideration all the input received from the public to make an informed discussion. She commended the teachers and administrative staff that have done an amazing job using buildings that are past their lifespan. She expressed the importance of getting out and speaking and finding a way to plan for the future.

Mr. Holden thanked Councilmember Williams for her work and thoughtful contributions.

Motion by Councilmember Williams, seconded by Councilmember Johns, to Adopt Resolution #17-08-205 Granting Final Plat and Development Agreement Approval of Anoka Hennepin 2nd Addition.

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

7.05: Receive Update on Proposed Plat Known as Northfork Meadows Located Near Puma Street and Alpine Drive; Case of Paxmar (Project #17-126)

Community Development Director Gladhill reviewed the staff report and stated that staff believes that it is reasonable to move to the next step in the review process to include Preliminary Plat and a Comprehensive Plan Amendment. He noted that taking this step does not obligate the City Council to approve the project but will continue discussions and continue momentum towards compromise.

Community Development Director Gladhill confirmed that the majority of the site would require a Comprehensive Plan amendment, although a portion of the site could go by without it. He stated that another opportunity would be to use a Planned Unit Development, which would provide flexibility in addition to the Comprehensive Plan Amendment.

Mayor Strommen asked if any of the discussions have included the issue of whether the City has the right designation in the Comprehensive Plan. She stated that she has a high threshold for

significant amendments to the Comprehensive Plan. She questioned if something has changed and whether that should be considered from a higher-level planning perspective.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that staff has not done a full market study but the developer brings up a number of points as to what is happening around there and what can be sustained as well as what needs to be pulled through that site in terms of infrastructure. He stated that staff is trying to work towards something in the middle in terms of density. He stated that the property owner is willing to provide conservation easements and contributions towards the Itasca Trail Corridor which would be a benefit to the community. He stated that the big picture would look at the overall development in this area and what would be appropriate density transition. He noted that the same developer owns another parcel and similar conversations will occur for that parcel.

Councilmember Riley asked for information from the resident meetings and asked whether the residents agree that the density transitioning is a good compromise.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that some supported that transitioning as a compromise but there is still some sentiment that this property has been guiding as low-density residential for years.

Councilmember Shryock stated that there are still a lot of comments from residents regarding the density transitioning. She stated that there are also comments regarding the public utilities and infrastructure and whether existing residents in already built developments would be required to hook-up.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that the public sewer and water would only be pulled into this parcel and not existing developments. He noted that even if the infrastructure were being pulled through previous developments, the City Charter specifies that existing residential properties would have the option whether or not to hook-up to services and would not be required to hook-up.

Councilmember LeTourneau stated that he appreciates the input and participation from staff and the public along with the developer. He stated that he continues to be curious how to best move forward as he would like to learn more and encourage the engagement between staff and the community. He stated that he supports the continuation of this adventure.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that staff intends to continue the trend of resident participation and noted that there would be more opportunities to continue the community engagement process.

Mayor Strommen stressed that decisions have not been made at this point one way or the other.

Councilmember Riley stated that he likes the density transitioning and from that standpoint it would make sense.

Councilmember Kuzma stated that he would like to hear input from residents.

Mayor Strommen stated that they could allow resident input but encouraged the input to remain on a high level as this is very early in the process.

Val Kruger, 15021 Kangaroo Street, thanked the Council for allowing her to present her opinion on the proposed Comprehensive Plan amendment, noting that 97 percent of her neighbors have signed a petition of the same opinion. She stated that she and her husband have lived in Ramsey for over 40 years and have lived in a quiet atmosphere as they desired even though the City continued to grow. She stated that they always knew that the land near them would be developed under low density residential as identified in the Comprehensive Plan. She stated that her worry is that if the density is changed that would change the quiet life that people in that area have enjoyed for years. She stated that the increased density would increase traffic and noise. She acknowledged that those items would still exist with lower density but the stress on traffic and noise would be lessened with lower density. She stated that they oppose the change in zoning but are not opposed to development of the parcel. She stated that they support low density residential, which would be a good transition from the rural residential lots that they live on. She stated that they attended the public meeting with the developer and staff and while the revised plan is a step in the right direction, they still question if changing the Comprehensive Plan is the right decision for Ramsey. She noted that the developer is asking for a lot of changes that make the development work for the developer only. She stated that they would support the larger lot size required under the zoning. She stated that if the Council does allow this to move forward she would ask that the lot size be made 80 feet for the homes along Kangaroo Street, which has been provided in the revised plan. She also asked for a noise buffer along the homes on Kangaroo Street through a landscape berm and trees. She referenced the comparison of the Capstone development and noted that includes a lot of open space for its residents to play on while this proposal does not include any. She stated that they are not opposing the growth of the City but the change to the Comprehensive Plan and zoning code.

Lonnie Brock, 14215 Kangaroo Street, stated that her property has already been reduced because Alpine is growing in what it was designated to be. She asked which direction the City sewer and water would come to reach this site, whether it would come from Alpine or Bunker. She stated that if it comes down Alpine she would not have to hook-up to it but believed that she would have to pay for it to come past her house. She stated that if the density is too high, it would be hard for the residents on her street to get onto the roadway. She stated that she built on her property because it was an open, rural community and noted that if the City starts putting in high density housing, when the land is zoned low density, she would hope not to live long enough to see it happen. She stated that it would be such a change in what she intended and has been able to live on her property for years. She believed that her opinion should count at least a little bit.

Community Development Director Gladhill noted that the utilities would come from Bunker and Puma Street. He noted that eventually a line may come down Alpine in order to loop the watermain to provide redundancy in the system. He noted that even if there is a line in the future to loop the trunk line, existing residents would not have to hook-up to the service. He noted that if the utility is pulled past a home, that would not be the obligation of the homeowner. He provided an example of Garnett Street in which sewer and water were provided but the homeowners were only charged if they desired to hook-up to the utility.

Leslie Clark, 15150 Kangaroo Street, stated that when they purchased their property they did their research to determine the homes that would eventually be built behind them. She stated that Kangaroo Street has the least number of trees behind their property and the concern would be that she would see 4.5 homes behind her. She stated that she could envision two to three homes, which would be the 80-foot lot width, but did not want to see 4.5 homes behind her home as that would change the rural character of her home. She stated that while she likes the idea of trees or a berm that was suggested by another resident, she loves to be around people and the opportunity to meet new neighbors and therefore felt that a trail would be a great amenity. She stated that she would also want to see a park as there would be a lot of homes in that area without a park to play in. She stated that this would also put more pressure on the schools so she was glad to hear the presentation from Mr. Holden. She noted that her home is in the boundaries for Franklin Elementary in Anoka and therefore do not attend school in Ramsey.

May Tafoya, Kangaroo Street, echoed the comments made by Val and Lonnie and urged the City not to change the Comprehensive Plan.

Mayor Strommen thanked the residents for their input tonight and throughout the process thus far.

Kent Roessler, Paxmar, stated that they had the opportunity to meet the residents at the public meeting and are happy to meet some of their desires. He noted that it would not be feasible to build homes with 80-foot lots. He stated that they have a lot of experience and know what would work and what would not work. He stated that they have incorporated the concessions that the residents asked for at the public meeting into the revised plan except for making all the homes 80-foot lots. He stated that they decreased the density by 19 lots, extended the lot lines along the homes on Kangaroo Street to 80-foot lots and added the additional screening between those homes. He stated that they are here tonight to get the input of the Council before they invest more money into this process. He stated that if the Council is not interested, they would like to hear that now before they go further.

Mayor Strommen stated that she would not want to cut off the conversation prematurely. She stated that the Comprehensive Plan looks at the big picture to infrastructure and roadways. She recognized the concern with traffic and the impacts on Highway 10. She stated that therefore the risks to changing the plan needs to be considered. She agreed with the comments regarding greenspace. She noted that with this many families there needs to be places close to home for those kids to play rather than expecting families to get in the car to travel to a bigger park further away.

Councilmember Shryock stated that through the planning process she always appreciates everyone being able to comment. She noted that the residents have been great stepping up and Paxmar has been listening to find something that everyone can live with. She was confident that they would be able to find something that everyone will like in the end. She agreed that keeping communication open would be important.

Councilmember LeTourneau stated that he cannot provide an opinion at this point and would like more time to process all the information to understand what the underlying reasons are for the concerns.

Councilmember Riley stated that this seems to fit pretty well with what was approved with Capstone and would seem to be an extension of that. He noted that the decision for Capstone was not slaved over, most likely because of the lack of neighbors that came forward.

Councilmember LeTourneau agreed that is what he is struggling with.

Community Development Director Gladhill noted that the super majority of the Capstone parcel was already zoned correctly for that development but acknowledged that a Comprehensive Plan amendment was needed for a portion of that site that was designated commercial.

Councilmember Kuzma stated that the landowner has land that he wants to sell to a developer and acknowledged the concern of the neighbors but noted that there is a balance there.

Lonnie Brock asked if there could be a signal light at Alpine and Highway 10, noting that you cannot get onto Highway 10 from Alpine because of the traffic.

Mayor Strommen replied that the City is in the business of eliminating the lights on Highway 10 rather than putting more lights onto the highway.

Community Development Director Gladhill noted that there is a Highway 10 planning study which identifies an improvement for that intersection outside of a stoplight.

7.06: Review Inland Group Proposed Project

City Administrator Ulrich reviewed the staff report. He noted that the Planning Commission and EDA have reviewed this information and based on the input from the developer, EDA and Planning Commission, Concept Layout C appears to be the preferred site. He asked for input from the Council.

Keith James, Inland Group, thanked the Council for their time. He noted that this is his third time out to meet a body of the Ramsey government and stated that he continues to be impressed. He stated that Inland began about 30 years ago with a focus on multi-family construction. He stated that they branched out into affordable senior housing as well as traditional retirement housing. He stated that there seemed to be a gap in the affordable senior housing and the traditional retirement housing which left a gap for seniors in the middle of those two groups that did not qualify for the income limits of the affordable product and did not need the service provided in traditional retirement communities/assisted living. He stated that the Affinity brand was then born. He stated that they came to Minnesota with their product and they like to have a node within a market. He provided a summary of the units that would be available at the development. He noted that the Affinity product does not use an activities staff person to draw people out and instead use a grassroots effort. He explained that there are many residents with gardening knowledge and therefore they are beneficial to the gardening program. He noted that

the grassroots concept helps to build a sense of community between the residents. He stated that while they are based in Washington, they would hire local contractors, builders, and architects. He stated that they are not attempting to rebuild the wheel and would instead use local expertise. He hoped that the welcome they received from the EDA and Planning Commission would continue with the Council.

Councilmember Kuzma asked for more information on the financial stability and how the project would be funded.

Mr. James replied that of the 20 communities that have been built or under construction have been privately financed. He stated that they have a portfolio that would support private financing and they would use their own equity. He estimated 18 months to construct and about 12 months to stabilize at which point they would get permanent funding and noted that they have substantial relationships with lenders such as USBank.

Councilmember Shryock stated that this is a timely product and agreed that there is a needed niche in the market. She stated that she agrees with Concept C and appreciates that the residents would have access to the park and the other residents in the community would also have access to that park, that has always been desired.

Mr. James stated that Concept C was their clear choice as well, mostly because of the view of the park that would be provided to residents. He stated that they also like that Concept C did not have a building along Sunwood, noting that if his building was placed along Sunwood that could create a canyon affect along the roadway. He stated that he much prefers the building setback with the ability for commercial and retail buildings to fill in on Sunwood.

Councilmember LeTourneau stated that he is happy that Mr. James is here and believes that the project is worthy and likes the idea of 55 plus housing. He stated that he likes that Mr. James understands the needs in the market and the gap that this project would fill. He stated that he would prefer the building to be along the roadway to understand why the early concept for The COR was to have building on the roadway and not parking lots. He stated that he does like the integration of retail but is unsure of the awkward visual that could create.

Mr. James stated that these are conceptual plans and not the actual concept of the developer. He stated that their intent would be to park within a garage structure under the building and therefore would shoot for less surface parking than what is shown. He stated that they like the idea of a central park and having that open on all sides.

Councilmember LeTourneau stated that he is more concerned with the retail space and parking along Sunwood that would be proposed. He stated that Concept D aligns more with his perception.

Community Development Director Gladhill confirmed that these concepts were developed by economic development staff in order to discuss possible locations and not from the developer.

Mayor Strommen stated that part of the confusion is that this discussion is regarding site location and the layout is different for each concept because it was developed by staff.

Councilmember Williams stated that in the EDA meeting, the group liked Concept C because it would allow the commercial development to remain on Sunwood Drive and would push the residential development further from the roadway. She provided additional details on the road alignment and how that could be moved. She stated that there was also discussion with what a four-story building might look like compared to the existing buildings in The COR. She noted that Concept C was the preference of the EDA.

Councilmember Johns stated that she is very excited to see this product come to Ramsey as it is a much needed product here. She agreed with Councilmember LeTourneau that she does not want to see parking lots lining Sunwood Drive and perhaps drawing the building forward. She believed that either Concept C or D would be a good fit. She was very supportive of the project and would love to see it move through to the next stage.

Mayor Strommen also agreed that this is a good project and agreed that Concept C is a good fit. She stated that people seem to be caught up on the parking for the remnant commercial parcel that would be left and noted that if the concept was drawn differently with the parking that could have eliminated the comments on that element. She noted that this appears to be heading in the right direction and hoped to see Mr. James back in the future.

7.07: Consider Approving Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release by and between the City of Ramsey, Minnesota and McDonald's USA, LLC

City Administrator Ulrich reviewed the staff report and recommendation to approve the settlement agreement mutual release by and between the City of Ramsey and McDonald's USA, LLC.

Councilmember Riley asked if this would release the City from all claims.

Jason Asmus, Briggs and Morgan, confirmed that the settlement would give both parties release from any claims the other party may have. He stated that by virtue of filing the resolution and quick claim deed the title would be returned to the City.

Mayor Strommen stated that this has been a thoroughly frustrating and disappointing experience.

Councilmember Williams stated that while a McDonald's would have been preferred, she is excited to see what better options may come forward.

Motion by Councilmember Williams, seconded by Councilmember LeTourneau, to approve the settlement agreement and mutual release by and between the City of Ramsey, Minnesota and McDonald's USA, LLC, and adopt Resolution #17-08-206 Authorizing Transfer of Right-of-Entry contained in Deed and Authorize the Mayor and City Administrator to execute and record the Quit Claim Deed.

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

8. MAYOR, COUNCIL AND STAFF INPUT

City Administrator Ulrich announced upcoming meetings and events.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the City Council adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurtis G. Ulrich
City Administrator

ATTEST:

Jo Ann M. Thieling
City Clerk

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.