

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. CALL TO ORDER 2

2. PRESENTATION..... 2

 2.01: Proclamation Declaring October 2017 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2

 2.02: 2017 Happy Days Festival Recap Presentation 2

3. CITIZEN INPUT 3

4. CONSENT AGENDA 3

5. APPROVE AGENDA 4

6. PUBLIC HEARING 4

 6.01: Public Hearing to Consider Adoption of Resolution #17-09-234 Adopting Assessments for Past-Due Charges on Municipal Utility Bills and Current Services Rendered..... 4

7. COUNCIL BUSINESS..... 5

 7.01: Consider Adopting Resolution #17-09-235 Adopting Proposed 2018 Payable Tax Levies (General, EDA, and Debt Service) and Schedule Public Hearing for December 12, 2017 5

 7.02: Considering Adopting Resolution #17-09-236 Adopting Proposed 2018 General Fund Budget and Resolution #17-09-237 Adopting Proposed EDA Budget 7

 7.03: Consider Inland Group Purchase Agreement 7

8. MAYOR, COUNCIL AND STAFF INPUT 8

9. ADJOURNMENT 8

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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 26, 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 Kristine Williams

Members Absent: Councilmember Melody Shryock

Also Present: City Administrator Kurtis Ulrich
Finance Director Diana Lund
Ramsey Police Sergeant Tim Frankfurth
Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Mark Riverblood
Public Works Superintendent Grant Riemer
City Engineer Bruce Westby
Human Resources Manager Colleen Lasher
Asst. City Administrator/Economic Development Manager Patrick Brama
Public Information and Event Specialist Nichole Wenberg

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Strommen called the regular meeting of the Ramsey City Council to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Strommen.

2. PRESENTATION

2.01: Proclamation Declaring October 2017 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Mayor Strommen read aloud the proclamation declaring October as domestic violence awareness month and noted that that item will be formally adopted by the Council as part of the consent agenda at tonight's meeting. She noted that a copy of the proclamation will also be provided to Alexander House.

2.02: 2017 Happy Days Festival Recap Presentation

Public Information and Event Specialist Wenberg provided a recap of the City's Happy Days festival, which took place on Saturday September 9th. She highlighted the events which led up to

the festival including the Taste of Happy Days, a movie in the park at Elmcrest, a Dueling Pianos event at the Fountains, the 5k fun run event, the pancake breakfast, and bike tour. She stated that at the festival, visitors browsed through the vendor stalls, checked out the classic cars show and electric car showcase, watched the parade, enjoyed food and entertainment throughout the day, and fireworks to wrap up the event. She stated that the following Sunday, the second annual 9/11 memorial golf tournament was hosted at North Fork. She thanked those that donated their time and energy to make the event a continued success. She also thanked the generous sponsors, whose contributions help to make the event wonderful each year.

Mayor Strommen thanked the volunteers and sponsors along with the members of City staff that contribute a significant amount of time and energy into making the event a success.

3. CITIZEN INPUT

None.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 4.01: Receive August 2017 Financial Reports – General Fund and Enterprise Funds
- 4.02: Note the Following Boards and Commissions Meeting Minutes:
 - Planning Commission Meeting Minutes dated July 6, 2017 and August 3, 2017
 - Economic Development Authority Meeting Minutes dated July 13, 2017
 - Environmental Policy Board Meeting Minutes dated July 17, 2017 and August 21, 2017
- 4.03: Approve the following Meeting Minutes:
 - 1) City Council Work Session dated September 12, 2017
 - 2) City Council Regular dated September 12, 2017
- 4.04: Approve Rental Licenses
- 4.05: Update on Alpine Park’s Baseball Field Renovation, and Approve Adding Storage Shed to Scope of Work
- 4.06: Adopt Resolution #17-09-224 Approving Cash Disbursements Made and Authorizing Payment of Accounts Payable Invoicing Received During the Period of September 7, 2017 through September 20, 2017
- 4.07: Adopt Resolution #17-09-233 Authorizing the Abatement of PID #24-32-25-12-0022 for Payable Year 2017 and Levying the Correct PID Number of #34-32-25-12-0022 for Payable Year 2017
- 4.08: Adopt Resolution #17-09-239 Authorizing Partial Payment to Park Construction Company for IP #16-54 Mississippi River Trail Phase III
- 4.09: Adopt Resolution #17-09-240 Authorizing Partial Payment to North Valley, Inc. for IP #17-00, Sunwood Drive Reconstruction
- 4.10: Adopt Resolution #17-09-241 Authorizing Partial Payment to Metro Utilities for IP #17-09, Bunker Lake Blvd Utilities Extension

- 4.11: Adopt Resolution #17-09-242 Authorizing Final Payment to Douglas-Kerr Underground LLC for IP #16-00; Div. C Andrie Street and 164th Lane Reconstruction
- 4.12: Adopt Resolution #17-09-243 Authorizing Partial Payment to North Valley, Inc. for IP #17-01 Alpine Drive Reconstruction
- 4.13: Adopt Resolution #17-09-144 Approving Amendment to Development Agreement for Riverstone (Project No. 17-106); Case of Capstone Homes
- 4.14: Adopt Resolution #17-09-223 Approving a Grant Agreement Between the City and Metropolitan Council, a Sub-Grant Agreement Between the City and Development (AEON), and a Subordinate Agreement Between the City and Development (AEON) Regarding the Development Known as Greenway Terrace; Case of AEON; LLC Greenway Terrace Agreements (Project #16-84)
- 4.15: Adopt Resolution #17-09-222 Hiring a Lead Police Records Technician
- 4.16: Adopt Resolution #17-09-238 Accepting Cash Donations to be Applied Toward the Happy Days Festival Fund
- 4.17: Adopt Resolution #17-09-221 Proclaiming October 2017 Domestic Violence Awareness Month

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

5. APPROVE AGENDA

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

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

6. PUBLIC HEARING

6.01: Public Hearing to Consider Adoption of Resolution #17-09-234 Adopting Assessments for Past-Due Charges on Municipal Utility Bills and Current Services Rendered

Presentation

Finance Director Lund reviewed the staff report and recommendation to adopt Resolution #17-09-234 adopting assessments for past-due charges on municipal utility bills (which may include water, sewer, street lighting, recycling, storm water charges, and penalties incurred) and current services rendered.

Public Hearing

Mayor Strommen called the public hearing to order at 7:13 p.m.

Citizen Input

There was none.

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

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

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

Council Business

Councilmember Kuzma referenced the top ten properties with amounts exceeding \$1,000 and asked if those accounts would be turned over to collections.

Finance Director Lund explained that there is a delinquent letter that is sent out after quarterly billing. She stated that the City has the ability to certify these amounts to the property taxes, which is a guarantee rather than attempting to go through an alternative collection process.

Motion by Mayor Strommen, seconded by Councilmember LeTourneau, to Adopt Resolution #17-09-234 Adopting Assessment for Past-Due Charges on Municipal Utility Bills (Which may include water, sewer, street lighting, recycling, storm water charge and penalties incurred) and Current Services Rendered.

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

7. COUNCIL BUSINESS

7.01: Consider Adopting Resolution #17-09-235 Adopting Proposed 2018 Payable Tax Levies (General, EDA, and Debt Service) and Schedule Public Hearing for December 12, 2017

City Administrator Ulrich reviewed the staff report and the City's strategic initiatives.

Finance Director Lund provided a summary of the 2018 general fund budget and levy as well as the City's tax capacity rate, providing comparison information to the rates from 2017. She reviewed the four main elements that compose the proposed increase in the budget including personnel funding, debt service, revenue reduction, and contracted services. She reviewed the tax capacity rates of the City over the past 12 years. She provided similar comparison information for the City's levy and towards the tax rate of other municipalities in Anoka County. She provided information on the proposed property tax information for the median value home in Ramsey and the difference a property owner would see from 2017 to 2018.

Mayor Strommen briefly recessed the meeting at 7:33 p.m. because of technical difficulties.

Mayor Strommen reconvened the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

Mayor Strommen stated that they have become aware of technical difficulties with the live broadcast but the recording is working and therefore the meeting will be rebroadcast through the QCTV website.

Finance Director Lund provided a comparison of the general fund budget for the past few years and reviewed the funding of the general fund, noting that the majority of the budget is funded by property taxes. She reviewed the general fund expenditures and provided additional information on the 2018 EDA proposed budget and levy which is proposed to remain constant to the 2017 rates. She stated that the final budget and levy will be considered for adoption on December 12, 2017, but noted that changes can be made to the budget and levy until that time. She stated that the preliminary tax information for the School District will not be included on the mailers that residents will receive.

Mayor Strommen stated that the Council has met in work session multiple times with extensive discussion and revision to reach this point.

Councilmember Riley stated that the budget proposed is an 8.54 percent increase and provided statistics on inflation for the nation and metro area as well as cost of living increases for other agencies. He stated that none of those statistics justify the 8.54 percent increase for the City. He reviewed some of the proposed increases from neighboring communities, which are half the rate Ramsey is proposing. He stated that based on that information he will not support an increase of this amount.

Councilmember LeTourneau thanked Councilmember Riley for sharing that information. He stated that this is a difficult decision and the Council has spent a number of hours to come to this point. He stated that the Council works with staff and the community at large throughout the year to come to a plan for moving forward and these numbers reflect the goals the community would like to accomplish. He explained that it may not be fair to compare the rates of the City to other cities because those communities have different needs and goals. He believed that this rate is reasonable for the activities that the City needs to accomplish.

Councilmember Kuzma stated that the City's Strategic Plan helps to drive these budget discussions. He noted that the need to update roads and infrastructure is a huge element. He explained that because the City did not choose to go with franchise fees, the road debt has to be bonded for and that puts pressure on the levy.

Mayor Strommen agreed that the road improvement costs put pressure on the levy. She stated that there was a time in the past when the roads were not included in the budget at all because they were not at the point where they needed repair. She stated that there has been discussion regarding franchise fees and the City instead chose a hybrid of bonding and assessment, which is ultimately funded through property taxes. She stated that in the past, there was no money in the budget for the roads. She stated that if a lower number is set, the City would need to look for a reduction in services, whether it would be roads that are not fixed or plowed. She stated that when comparing the rates of other cities, you would have to also consider if those cities have

franchise fees and the arrangement they have for fire and police services. She stated that the City is continuing to use the growth in the tax base to fund these obligations, which prior to the past few years have never been factored into the budget. She appreciated that the Council has been united in that commitment to finding a solution for the road improvements.

Motion by Councilmember LeTourneau, seconded by Councilmember Johns, to Adopt Resolution #17-09-235 Approving the Proposed 2017, Payable 2018 Tax Levy and Schedule Budget Public Meeting Date and to schedule budget/levy public meeting date on Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

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

7.02: Considering Adopting Resolution #17-09-236 Adopting Proposed 2018 General Fund Budget and Resolution #17-09-237 Adopting Proposed EDA Budget

Councilmember Kuzma stated that the Council has to set a preliminary number and the goal is to still slim down this figure before final adoption in December.

Motion by Councilmember LeTourneau, seconded by Councilmember Johns, to Adopt Resolution #17-09-236 Adopting the “Proposed” 2018 City of Ramsey General Fund Operating Budget and to Adopt Resolution #17-09-237 Adopting the “Proposed” 2018 City of Ramsey Economic Development Authority Fund Budget.

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

7.03: Consider Inland Group Purchase Agreement

Asst. City Administrator/Economic Development Manager Brama reviewed the staff report and recommendation to approve the Purchase Agreement with CAP Acquisitions LLC and to authorize the Bolton & Menk work order. He stated that the work order would keep the project moving forward and would give both parties a better idea of what costs should be expected, for a cost-share, for public infrastructure that will be needed as a result of this project.

Councilmember Riley stated that the EDA was supportive of this as this fits within the plans approved by the Planning Commission, noting that the EDA and City Council also reviewed a concept for this development. He stated that this is a market rate offer that would fit well into The COR.

Councilmember Kuzma stated that this is a great proposal that will fit well into The COR and will be a benefit for the aging population of Ramsey.

Motion by Councilmember Kuzma, seconded by Councilmember Riley, to approve the Purchase Agreement with CAP Acquisitions LLC for roughly 4.2 acres of City owned land and authorize the Bolton & Menk work order.

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

8. MAYOR, COUNCIL AND STAFF INPUT

City Administrator Ulrich announced upcoming meetings and events.

Councilmember Williams stated that this will be her last meeting as a Councilmember as she is relocating to Canada for her employment. She thanked the Council and staff noting that she has enjoyed her time of service.

Mayor Strommen stated that this is a fantastic opportunity for Councilmember Williams and her family and wished her the best. She thanked Councilmember Williams for her contributions over the years and for being a friend in addition to a colleague. She presented Councilmember Williams with a plaque for her service on the Council, Happy Days Committee, Ramsey/Nowthen Joint Powers Fire Board, Anoka County Joint Powers Group, EDA, the Ramsey Town Center Steering Committee, and Anoka Hennepin School Board Committee.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the City Council adjourned at 8:09 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.