

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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a City Council Work Session on Tuesday, February 12, 2018, 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

Members Absent: Councilmember John LeTourneau

Also Present: City Administrator Kurtis Ulrich
Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Mark Riverblood
Human Resources Manager Colleen Lasher
Community Development Director Timothy Gladhill
Asst. City Administrator/Economic Development Manager Patrick Brama
Vice President of Land Services with CBRE Brian Pankratz

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Strommen called the City Council Work Session to order at 5:32 p.m.

2. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

2.01: Discuss Strategic Direction for Community Sign and Streetscape Plan

Community Development Director Gladhill reviewed the staff report.

Councilmember Kuzma stated that he likes the stone as it would continue the theme from the building and existing COR signage. He asked the lifespan of the stone, stating that perhaps that material has a longer lifespan than other materials.

Community Development Director Gladhill provided comparisons, noting that The COR sign along Highway 10 is not real stone and provided additional details. He stated that there are durable materials, that are not stone, that could last several decades. He stated that if the Council wants to use true stone, staff can also obtain a cost for that option.

Councilmember Riley referenced The COR sign which has stacked stone at the bottom of the pillars and noted that perhaps that would be a way to tie in that stone theme without the high cost.

Community Development Director Gladhill agreed that could be a cost-effective solution to tie together the themes.

Councilmember Riley asked if the City has asked what SuperAmerica would allow on their site in terms of signage.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that staff has not yet spoken with the business but would think that the City has a sign easement on the property. He agreed that staff would speak with the business after gaining the direction from the Council tonight.

Councilmember Johns stated that she would want to ensure that there is landscaping near the entrance monument signs. She stated that it would be more appropriate to have a smaller sign at the Bunker Lake Blvd/CR 47 intersection.

Councilmember Shryock referenced the sign located near PACT Charter School for The DRAW and asked for details on the materials used.

Community Development Director Gladhill provided additional details on the materials that were used to mimic stone.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood replied that the sign is holding up well and there has not been damage to the sign.

Councilmember Shryock noted that she does not like the color of the sign near PACT. She stated that she would like to have basic streetscaping guidelines along with signage and landscape guidelines to continue to give the City a brand and identity.

Councilmember Johns asked for clarification on the direction staff is looking for.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that although the decision does not have to be made tonight, staff would ultimately like direction from the Council. He stated that the desire would be to have the City of Ramsey logo as the main element of the signs and then secondary branding could occur for signs within different areas, such as The COR.

Councilmember Shryock stated that she would like more information on the cost and longevity of the different material options.

Councilmember Riley stated that he would like to see the City of Ramsey logo maximized. He noted that the stone element could stop and the whole top section of the sign could be the Ramsey logo. He agreed that there would be other places where people enter the City that would also benefit from signage branding.

Community Development Director Gladhill noted that it will still be important to have a section with tenant panels.

Mayor Strommen stated that the City of Ramsey logo and The COR logos are so different that it has bothered her. She suggested that the City of Ramsey logo be used consistently and if the City desires sub-branding, that could be worked out.

Mr. Pankratz stated that backlit signs are an amenity for businesses, especially along Highway 10. He stated that tenants will pay to rent the plaque tenant space, if it can be seen.

Councilmember Kuzma stated that he does not like The COR signage either as it is confusing. He noted that other people do not know what The COR is and instead the focus should be on the City of Ramsey.

Community Development Director Gladhill confirmed the consensus of the Council for staff to continue to work on the City of Ramsey signage, obtain cost for different materials, develop a landscaping plan for signage areas and develop further details on the streetscape plan.

Mayor Strommen referenced dynamic display signs, noting that often drivers miss the rotating elements. She stated that there should be a focus on what information would be displayed and if that is the appropriate place for a dynamic sign.

2.02: Policy for Televising Board and Commission Meetings and Attendance from Remote Location

City Administrator Ulrich reviewed the staff report.

Councilmember Riley stated that the problem would be if there are multiple members attempting to attend remotely. He suggested that perhaps a sign-up process be allowed and the first member that signed up could attend remotely for the meeting. He stated that as technology improves, this should be allowed as an option.

Mayor Strommen agreed that this would be helpful but noted that it would be a shame if there was only one person in attendance and six attending remotely. She agreed that perhaps a maximum of one or two members be allowed to attend remotely.

City Administrator Ulrich suggested that perhaps the notice be given by the member that would like to attend remotely at least 72 hours in advance. He confirmed that staff will draft a policy that would require advance notice and allow one member at a time to attend remotely.

Mayor Strommen asked for input on televising the other two Board/Commission meetings that are currently not televised.

It was the consensus of the Council that the EPB and EDA meetings could be televised and to direct staff to draft a policy on attending meetings from remote locations.

2.03: Discussion Regarding Proposed Updates to Personnel Policy

Human Resources Manager Lasher reviewed the staff report.

Councilmember Riley asked and received confirmation that a full print out of the changes could be sent to the Council to review.

Mayor Strommen asked if there were any questions on the summary of changes that were provided.

Councilmember Kuzma stated that this appears to simply be more of a housekeeping update to the policy.

City Administrator Ulrich noted that staff will send the full policy but will highlight the three sections that were mentioned in more detail by Human Resources Manager Lasher. He noted that the Council should advise staff if they find any items of concern.

2.04: Pricing Strategy (portions of this case may be closed to the public)

Asst. City Administrator/Economic Development Manager Brama reviewed the staff report. He recommended that the Council go into closed session to discuss pricing and noted that any other general questions could be addressed in open session.

RECESS AND RECONVENE

Motion by Councilmember Johns, seconded by Councilmember Kuzma, to recess the meeting to Closed Session at 6:15 p.m.

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

The meeting reconvened to Open Session at 6:26 p.m.

2.04: Pricing Strategy – continued (portions of this case may be closed to the public)

Asst. City Administrator/Economic Development Manager Brama stated that in closed session the Council discussed the pricing strategy for the sale of City owned land and came to a consensus. He noted that the pricing table will be updated accordingly.

3. TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

3.01: Review Future Topics/ Calendar

City Administrator Ulrich noted that the calendar has been updated as directed by the Council.

Mayor Strommen noted that the ability to attend meetings remotely was discussed tonight and can be removed from a future agenda. She stated that she has received concerns from residents for the entrance and crosswalk for Ramsey Elementary. She noted that the school is looking to redesign the entrance for the elementary school. She stated that she has concerns for Sunwood,

separate from the school, and noted that perhaps one discussion could be had on that roadway and the different elements.

City Administrator Ulrich stated that the corridor study is going to be pushed forward because of the school. He stated that if the City wanted to highlight and focus on the school section, perhaps that should be a separate item as the school will be coming back in the next 60 days with a redesign. He noted that the entire corridor will be a longer process and perhaps then it makes more sense to separate out that school section.

Councilmember Johns agreed that traffic has been backed up along CR 5/Sunwood the past year.

Councilmember Kuzma stated that he lives on the other side of the City and really appreciates the Armstrong interchange.

Councilmember Riley stated that he would be concerned that studying just the school section of Sunwood would not be the best method because the City would be studying that in a vacuum rather than focusing on the larger issue of the corridor as a whole.

City Administrator Ulrich stated the last discussion was with the School District and County and recognized the light at Alpine made it difficult for vehicles to get out of the school site.

Mayor Strommen stated that if there is an opportunity to do something in conjunction with the redesign of the school entrance, that should be taken and include that light at Alpine. She noted that while they have that discussion and study, they should be mindful of the long-term goals and the corridor as a whole.

4. MAYOR / COUNCIL / STAFF INPUT

City Administrator noted that County staff is in the neighboring room holding an open house about the trail corridor if the Council would like to ask any questions. He stated that the Council will hold a Strategic Plan worksession on February 20th from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The Work Session of the City Council was adjourned at 6:39 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.*