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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 27, 2018, 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

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  
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 7:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Strommen.

**2. PRESENTATION**

**2.01: Presentation of 2017 Photo Contest Winners**

Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated that the photo contest began early in 2017 with the purpose of supplementing the City's Comprehensive Plan and Parks Master Plan. He reviewed the different categories and the Board/Commission that voted on each category. He presented the winners of each category and the grand prize winner that was selected by the City Council. He stated that the contest will occur again in 2018 and encouraged residents to submit photographs to share with the community.

Mayor Strommen stated that this was a great way for residents to showcase what they love about the community. She hoped for good participation in the event for 2018.

### **3. CITIZEN INPUT**

None.

### **4. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- 4.01: Approve Rental Licenses
- 4.02: Adopt Resolution #18-041 Approving Cash Disbursements Made and Authorizing Payment of Accounts Payable Invoicing Received During the Period of February 8, 2018 through February 21, 2018
- 4.03: Adopt Resolution #18-046 Approving a Sidewalk Agreement and Density Transition Easement Related to Estates of Silver Oaks 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition (Project #17-119); Case of Royal Oaks Realty
- 4.04: Adopt Resolution #18-047 Granting a One (1) Year Extension to the Site Plan Approval for National Self Storage, Located at the Northeast Corner of Bunker Lake Boulevard and Ramsey Boulevard (Project No. 16-108); Case of Troy Halverson
- 4.05: Adopt Resolution #18-040 Authorizing Partial Payment to Kilmer Electric Co. Inc. for Improvement Project #17-06; Installation of Emergency Generator for Well #3
- 4.06: Adopt Resolution #18-042 Authorizing Partial Payment to Park Construction Company for IP #16-54, Mississippi River Trail Phase III
- 4.07: Adopt Resolution #18-043 Authorizing Final Payment to Metro Utilities, Inc. for IP #17-09, Bunker Lake Boulevard Utilities Extension
- 4.08: Adopt Resolution #18-044 Authorizing Final Payment to North Valley Inc. for IP #14-27, Mississippi River Trail Phase II – Riverdale Drive to Armstrong Boulevard
- 4.09: Adopt Resolution #18-050 to Authorize an Adjustment to the Starting Hourly Wage for Temporary Seasonal Employees Working in the Public Works Department

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

### **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, LeTourneau, and Riley. Voting No: None.

### **6. PUBLIC HEARING**

None.

## **7. COUNCIL BUSINESS**

### **7.01: Consider Preliminary Plat for Rum River Prairie (Project #17-149); Case of Eric Thomsen**

City Planner Anderson reviewed the staff report and recommendation to adopt Resolution #18-023 approving the Preliminary Plat of Rum River Prairie. He noted that staff believes that the proposed development is reasonable and compatible with the character of the surrounding development.

Motion by Councilmember Kuzma, seconded by Councilmember Johns, to Adopt Resolution #18-023 Granting Preliminary Plat Approval of Rum River Prairie, contingent upon compliance with the Staff Review Letter.

Further discussion: Mayor Strommen thanked staff and the Planning Commission for addressing the questions the Council would have otherwise raised.

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

### **7.02: Consider Preliminary Plat and Site Plan of Affinity at Ramsey (Project No. 17-142); Case of Inland Group**

Community Development Director Gladhill reviewed the staff report and recommendation to adopt Resolution #18-032 approving the requested Preliminary Plat for Affinity at Ramsey and adopt Resolution #18-033 approving the requested Site Plan for Affinity at Ramsey. He stated 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 noted that in addition, the City Council approved by resolution, the Sketch Plan associated with the project. He stated that staff is support of this action contingent upon compliance with the Staff Review Letter.

Mayor Strommen noted that there has been a healthy discussion on this item in the past.

Councilmember Riley asked for details from the applicant.

Keith James, representing the applicant, thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak. He expressed appreciation for the continued support for the project. He stated that further development of the plan has occurred since the last presentation including materials, number of units, and details on parking. He stated that the facility in Egan is under construction and that facility continues to gain deposits on units each week. He welcomed any questions the Council may have.

Councilmember Kuzma asked for the estimated range on rents.

Mr. James replied that rents would begin at \$1,400 and would run up to \$2,200 noting that rents would be all inclusive of utilities with the exception of telephone.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Kuzma, to Adopt Resolution #18-032 Granting Preliminary Plat Approval for Affinity at Ramsey and Resolution #18-033 Granting Site Plan Approval for Affinity at Ramsey.

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

### **7.03: Consider Adopting Resolution #18-049 Authorizing Civil Engineering Planning Services from Bolton & Menk for Highway 10 Planning Effort**

Community Development Director Gladhill reviewed the staff report and recommendation to proceed forward with the Work Order. He noted that Bolton & Menk was the engineer for the Highway 10 Access Planning Study and therefore there are a number of efficiencies of this firm proceeding forward with the work as opposed to bringing in a new firm. He noted that the Public Works Committee recommended approval of the Work Order, contingent upon ensuring that these efforts did not conflict with the priorities or efforts of the Greater Minnesota Gateway Coalition, which prioritizes all Highway 10 projects. He advised that staff has confirmed that said coalition is generally supportive of this effort.

Eric Johnson, Bolton & Menk, stated that the approach of the Highway 10 Access Planning Study left a lot of options open. He stated that while the approach is valid, this study will establish a clean singular vision to resolve uncertainty in the corridor. He commented that the rail grade separations should be included in this study as well. He stated that there needs to be flexibility built into the vision and advised that can be done in many pieces. He noted that there has been a state of flux for stakeholder along the corridor and this study will help to answer a lot of their questions and encourage reinvestment in the properties. He stated that Anoka is close to having funding in place to remove the signals at Fair Oak and Thurston, which will push that congestion into Ramsey at Sunfish Lake Boulevard.

Angie Bersaw, Bolton & Menk, stated that they will be building off the Highway 10 Access Planning Study. She stated that phase one is still in the planning phase and this would narrow down the single option. She explained that phase two would begin designing that concept and noted that phase two is not included in the work order tonight. She provided additional details on the approach and how this would differ from the Highway 10 Access Planning Study noting that this phase would provide the right sized solution, align priorities, identify key components and footprints, and find the best combination to meet the goals in order to find a vision that can be supported by all. She stated that the second phase would focus on creating a roadmap to construction and identifying a plan to gain funding. She provided additional details on the stakeholder engagement process. She reviewed the proposed schedule for phase one and the future phase two, noting that phase two is not being requested tonight and could include funding partners.

Councilmember Kuzma asked for details on specific details that would be included in phase two.

Ms. Bersaw replied that the concept level design will include details on intersections, needed improvements, and the design footprint while further details would be worked out in the phase two.

Mayor Strommen noted that the Public Works Committee discussed this topic in depth.

Councilmember Riley stated that the Committee had a robust discussion on this topic. He stated that this is a lot of money and while he does not believe that this should be the responsibility of Ramsey, he does understand that this is the first step and a lot of the future steps will not take place without this step. He stated that he wanted to ensure that there was confirmation from the other corridor partners on the development of this plan, as elements of the Highway 10 plan will not go forward without the support of all the partners.

Mayor Strommen noted that the plan was shared with the Highway 10 coalition and they are supportive.

Councilmember Johns stated that the Committee also discussed the need for the stakeholders in the corridor to have some certainty and this phase will provide the necessary answers to those stakeholders.

Councilmember LeTourneau stated that he attended the most recent Highway 10 coalition meeting and the primary item is the Anoka Fair oak and Thurston improvements. He stated that there was discussion as to what could happen concurrently, without competing for funding, and it was determined that this is necessary work that is appropriately staged and would not compete with funding for Anoka. He stated that the funding is significant and asked for information on the possibility of shared funding. He stated that he recalled that anything the City paid for planning on the Armstrong interchange was attributed to the City's share of funding and asked if this planning would similarly count towards the City's ultimate share of funding for the Highway 10 improvements.

Community Development Director Gladhill confirmed that this planning effort would be counted towards the City's share of funding for the improvements. He stated that the City taking initiative on this phase of planning may provide for a more beneficial approach to ask for funding partners on the second phase of design.

Mayor Strommen agreed that in the recent models of success, the City contributing the first amount of funding has shown the dedication and brings in additional funding partners.

City Administrator Ulrich stated that MnDOT has shown a lot of support for this corridor, as that agency funded the original Highway 10 Access Planning Study. He noted that the project has good State and local support.

Councilmember Kuzma stated that the City has made an investment with Mr. Tinklenberg's efforts at the legislature on behalf of the City and noted that this study will help to bring the improvement to the next phase more quickly.

Councilmember LeTourneau asked for information on the balance of the public improvement revolving fund.

Community Development Director Gladhill commented that he is unsure of the balance but noted that there are sufficient funds to complete the project and still have a healthy balance.

Motion by Councilmember LeTourneau, seconded by Councilmember Johns, to Adopt Resolution #18-049 Authorizing Civil Engineering Design Services to Complete the Highway 10 Plan.

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

**7.04: Consider Introducing Ordinance #18-01 Amending Lot Width Requirements for Cul-de-Sac Lots in the R-1 Residential (Rural Developing) District**

City Planner Anderson reviewed the staff report and recommendation to adopt Ordinance #18-01 amending the minimum lot width standard in the R-1 Residential (Rural Developing) District to 100 feet for lots on the bulb of a cul-de-sac. He stated that the Planning Commission supported this action but directed staff to revise the language to specify that the measurement was to be made at the required front yard setback. He noted that this ordinance amendment will likely reduce future requests for variances to lot width for cul-de-sac lots.

Councilmember LeTourneau asked for information on the history of the 200 feet minimum lot width and how that threshold arose in the first place.

City Planner Anderson stated that he was unsure of the reasoning for the minimum lot width but stated that perhaps that arose when the City was incorporated.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember LeTourneau, to introduce an Ordinance amending the lot width requirement for cul-de-sac lots in the R-1 Residential (Rural Developing) District.

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

**7.05: Consider Approval of Site Plan for Ramsey Elementary Campus 2 (Project #17-109)**

- **Introduce Ordinance #18-03 Approving Zoning Map Amendment to Public/Quasi-Public**
- **Adopt Resolution #18-004 Approving Comprehensive Plan Amendment to Public/Quasi-Public and Approving Site Plan**

Community Development Director Gladhill reviewed the staff report and recommendation from the Planning Commission and staff to adopt Ordinance #18-03 rezoning the subject property

from R-1 Residential (MUSA) to Public/Quasi-Public and adopt Resolution #18-004 approving the Comprehensive Plan Amendment and Site Plan for Ramsey Elementary Campus 2.

Councilmember LeTourneau asked for details on trail access and whether the trail to the east would connect to the broader system.

Community Development Director Gladhill noted that as shown, the trail is for internal purposes as the City currently does not have a trail along CR 5.

Councilmember LeTourneau stated that this will be a public/quasi-public space and wanted to ensure that there is an opportunity for better connection for the community through the trail system in the future.

Councilmember Shryock stated that there is a trail along CR 5 by Brookfield that would travel to Variolite. She agreed that trail extensions to the south would be helpful.

Councilmember Kuzma asked for details on safety and security.

Steve Anderson, representing the applicant, stated that the buildings have a single point entry for the school buildings. He explained that all the entries are locked and there is a visitor entrance which allows a visitor to enter a vestibule where they can scan their identification which is then run through a verification system. He stated that this building would also be equipped with cameras. He noted that they are also reviewing additional equipment that could be used to promote safety and security throughout the building.

Councilmember Kuzma stated that this planning process is the time to implement the materials necessary for safety and thanked the School District for taking that effort.

Mr. Anderson stated that the School District continues to review the technology available to determine enhancements that can be made to the security systems.

Councilmember Riley referenced the trail element and asked staff to weigh the greater good of a trail connection over additional landscaping to act as a buffer to one neighborhood.

Councilmember Johns stated that the corridor along CR 5 should remain a priority for trails and connections.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that there is sufficient space and right-of-way along CR 5 for a trail connection and noted that there is language that could be added to a condition.

Mayor Strommen agreed that the City should plan for the long-term. She noted that bussing kids long-term across a street may not continue to be feasible and therefore it is important to reserve that trail connection to ensure that can get kids safely to school.

Motion by Councilmember Kuzma, seconded by Councilmember Johns, to introduce an Ordinance amending Section 117-90 “MAP” of Chapter 117 of the City Code of Ramsey, Minnesota and to Adopt Resolution #18-004 Approving a Comprehensive Plan Amendment, Contingent Upon Metropolitan Council Approval, to Change a Land Use Designation and Approving Site Plan for Ramsey Elementary Campus 2.

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

**-048 Accepting Bids and Awarding Contract for 2018 Crackseal and Sealcoat Improvements, Improvement Project #18-04**

City Engineer Westby reviewed the staff report and recommendation to adopt Resolution #18-048 accepting bids and awarding a contract to Pearson Brothers, Inc. in the amount of \$434,699.22 for the base bid plus three bid alternatives for 2018 Crackseal and Sealcoat Improvements, Improvement Project #18-04.

Councilmember Kuzma referenced Jarvis and asked if both the Elk River and Ramsey sides would be included.

City Engineer Westby confirmed that both sides would be completed.

Councilmember Riley asked the difference between the City of Ramsey’s maintenance schedule and the schedule for the city of Elk River.

City Engineer Westby stated that Ramsey’s maintenance schedule is very typical and was unsure why the element was not in the Elk River plan. He stated that he plans to follow up with Elk River on the aspect.

Councilmember Riley stated that he supports the approach using alternative bids to ensure the full budgeted amount is used.

Motion by Councilmember Kuzma, seconded by Councilmember Johns, to Adopt Resolution #18-048 Accepting Bids and Awarding Contract for 2018 Crackseal and Sealcoat Improvements, Improvement Project #18-04.

Further discussion: Councilmember LeTourneau commented that he appreciates the process and the fact that City Engineer Westby provides a complete history and the details of each step to explain the full process. He stated that this helps to explain how complicated this road process and demonstrates how the City is working to improve the roadways.

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

**7.07: Update on Current and Future Recycling Goals**

City Planner Anderson reviewed the staff report, providing an update to the City Council on the current recycling activities and future recycling goals.

Mayor Strommen asked if it would be possible to have organic/compostable recycling receptacles at City Hall. She noted that resources are used in the building but also sets the example for others.

City Planner Anderson commented that he can work with the building maintenance staff and agreed that it is becoming more typical to find those receptacles.

Mayor Strommen stated that some gas stations have receptacles for recycling near their gas pumps, while others do not and asked if there is outreach that can be done to those businesses in the community.

Councilmember LeTourneau stated Coborn's has gone above and beyond on their own initiative to offer recycling bins near the gas pumps and agreed that activity should be encouraged.

City Planner Anderson stated that Coborn's was recognized by the Anoka Board of Commissioners, along with PACT Charter School, for recycling efforts.

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

City Administrator Ulrich announced upcoming meetings and events.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Councilmember Shryock, seconded by Councilmember Johns, 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.*