

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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a City Council Work Session on Tuesday, September 11, 2018, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Acting Mayor John LeTourneau
 Councilmember Jill Johns
 Councilmember Mark Kuzma
 Councilmember Chris Riley
 Councilmember Melody Shryock (arrived at 5:37 p.m.)

Also Present: Police Captain Tim Frankfurth
 Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Mark Riverblood
 Community Development Director Timothy Gladhill
 City Engineer Bruce Westby
 Economic Development Manager Sean Sullivan
 City Planner Chloe McGuire Brigl

1. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Mayor LeTourneau called the City Council Work Session to order at 5:35 p.m.

2. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

2.01: Received Update on Highway 10 Plan: Ramsey Gateway Project

Community Development Director Gladhill reviewed the staff report.

Councilmember Kuzma asked if this model will take into account smart cars or whether it uses the current conditions.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that the model is based on current conditions, using a model accepted by traffic engineers, and will take into account projected growth through 2045.

Councilmember Kuzma stated that while he finds this information interesting, he does not believe that this takes into account technological advantages. He stated that with the way technology is moving he is unsure that traffic will be as bad as projected.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that while there could be technological advances, society is still automobile driven and the delays will increase in the next 20 years if nothing is done to improve Highway 10 in Ramsey.

Councilmember Riley referenced the comment of pushback and asked who is pushing back.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that the pushback has primarily been received from the property/business owners along Highway 10 that currently have direct access from the highway. He noted that in regards to the comments of improving the corridor, some property owners feel that the comments are directed towards specific properties. He confirmed that the Highway 10 Coalition is fully supportive of the planning efforts.

Councilmember Shryock asked for details on the composition of the Steering Committee.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that mailings were sent to the registered businesses in the database along with a note in the *Ramsey Resident*. He noted that the intent is to have members of the business community along Highway 10 provide input along with businesses that contribute to the City's employment base. He stated that thus far, there has been interest from about six people and the goal would be to have 12 members. He stated that staff will play a liaison role and the opportunity could be provided in the future for a representative from each Board/Commission to join as well if desired.

Councilmember Kuzma stated that he would like to see more information on the potential that technology could impact future traffic patterns. He noted that with more people able to work from home and the future availability of smart cars, that could help to decrease traffic.

Acting Mayor LeTourneau suggested including options for concurrent projects or projects that could be done in anticipation to better prepare.

Community Development Director Gladhill confirmed that is already occurring and highlighted some projects that have been completed and future projects that could occur prior to the Highway 10 improvement.

Acting Mayor LeTourneau noted that this planning will assist business owners along the Highway 10 corridor in planning for the future as the Highway 10 improvements will be occurring in the future.

2.02: Staff Update on 6401 Highway 10 Parking Lot Improvements

Community Development Director Gladhill reviewed the staff report.

Councilmember Riley stated that he would not support spending \$100,000 because the temporary nature would be a waste of money. He stated that perhaps it would make sense to open up that option to the strip mall owner to provide a no cost lease from the City, with the strip mall owner making the investment to improve the parking area with the knowledge that will be temporary until a street eventually goes through.

Councilmember Kuzma agreed that he would not support the City spending those funds but did like the suggestion to reach out to the strip mall owner.

Councilmember Johns agreed with the comments that she would leave the area as/is, reaching out to the strip mall owner.

Councilmember Shryock stated that perhaps the City would need to make some improvements at the entrance to the area but would also support leaving that area class five material.

Acting Mayor LeTourneau agreed with the consensus of the Council to leave the area class five.

2.03: Update on Highway 47 Plan

City Planner McGuire Brigl reviewed the staff report.

Councilmember Riley referenced code enforcement and asked if there has been progress with two of the properties previously discussed.

City Planner McGuire Brigl reported that there have been improvements at both properties. She noted that staff will be meeting with the City Attorney to discuss some of the ongoing enforcement issues for certain properties within Ramsey.

Councilmember Riley referenced noise and noise walls and found it interesting that several people seemed to bring up the same topic. He stated that he would not be interested in having noise walls on both sides, creating a tunnel feel that would not fit with the character of Ramsey. He noted that a number of the comments came from new construction homes that were built around the existing Highway 47.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that staff has been in contact with MnDOT to complete a noise analysis to determine the current noise levels.

Councilmember Shryock stated that perhaps an assessment could be done using nature barriers, such as greenscape that could provide buffering from noise.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated that more trees and landscape are planned along the greenway and perhaps the funding and priority be accelerated for that planting along the greenways.

Community Development Director Gladhill referenced the use of the Elm Crest District and confirmed consensus of the Council with that term. He noted that will help to provide an identity for that area and the location of that park.

Acting Mayor LeTourneau asked if the median in Highway 47 was discussed.

City Planner McGuire Brigl stated that the comments received did not support landscaping within the median because of the difficulty in maintaining that landscaping.

City Engineer Westby provided additional details on the MnDOT specifications for items within the right-of-way. He stated that there are some cities that have worked with MnDOT to put planters in the median, and that would be something the City could talk about.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated that median has the worst conditions for plantings and therefore it would be difficult to have plantings in that median.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that there has been discussion of perhaps incorporating a public art element on the noise wall.

Acting Mayor LeTourneau asked if there would be an opportunity to provide an update on Highway 47 during the Highway 10 update at the regular meeting.

Community Development Director Gladhill noted that a comment could be made stating that staff is working on the Highway 47 corridor planning and will bring a more robust presentation forward in the future.

3. TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

3.01: Review Future Topics/ Calendar

Councilmember Shryock stated that when she attended Night to Unite parties, she heard several comments about road conditions for roads maintained by the State or County. She referenced the narrowing of Sunfish at Bunker after Casey's General Store. She referenced the multiple entrances for Plants and Things at the Sunfish exit from Highway 10. She explained that one of the entrance locations aligns with a turn lane and can cause conflicts.

Community Development Director Gladhill noted that perhaps that could be brought forward at the October Public Works Committee meeting for further discussion.

Acting Mayor LeTourneau stated that in regards to roads there seems to be three categories: Highway 10 issues and improvements, road conditions and maintenance, and safety. He stated that perhaps a discussion could occur on road safety and identification of priority areas.

Councilmember Kuzma stated that he would be interested in how the City interacts with the County and State for roads that are owned by those parties. He stated that perhaps there is a communication to residents on how those comments can be provided to those entities that could be published in the *Ramsey Resident*.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that the transportation chapter of the Comprehensive Plan starts to go into some of that detail. He noted that further work could be done to develop more in-depth plans.

Councilmember Riley stated that those discussions would not have to go through the Public Works Committee, but the Public Works Department could be the conduit for communicating

that information with the County regarding County roads. He agreed that perhaps the *Ramsey Resident* be used to communicate to residents on the County responsibility for County roads.

Acting Mayor LeTourneau noted that he heard similar concerns for traffic safety at the Night to Unite parties, acknowledging that it is part of being a growing community.

City Engineer Westby stated that staff is working with the County to create the corridor studies on the County roads or for certain intersections. He stated that he will add the examples to his list for discussion. He noted that Anoka County has to be willing to come to the table as well.

4. MAYOR / COUNCIL / STAFF INPUT

None.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The Work Session of the City Council was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurtis G. Ulrich
City Administrator

ATTEST:

Katie M. Schmidt
Administrative Assistant

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.