

**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, 2019, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Mayor John LeTourneau  
Councilmember Nadine Heinrich  
Councilmember Mark Kuzma  
Councilmember Debra Musgrove  
Councilmember Chris Riley  
Councilmember Melody Shryock

Also Present: City Administrator Kurtis Ulrich  
Fire Chief Matt Kohner  
Police Chief Jeff Katers  
Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Mark Riverblood  
Public Works Superintendent Grant Riemer  
Administrative Services Director Colleen Lasher  
Community Development Director Timothy Gladhill  
City Engineer Bruce Westby  
City Planner Chloe McGuire Brigl  
Economic Development Manager Sean Sullivan  
Elwyn Tinklenberg, The Tinklenberg Group  
Representative Peggy Scott  
Representative John Heinrich

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

**2.01: Review of Current Strategic Plan**

City Administrator Ulrich reviewed the staff report.

Councilmember Heinrich asked the response rate to the resident survey and how many residents were contacted for the survey.

City Administrator Ulrich estimated that there were about 650 respondents, noting that he would follow up with the exact figures and the percentages.

Mayor LeTourneau stated that each year the City Council wants to visit and work on the strategic plan, as that outlines the work not only for the current year but future years as well. He stated that this plan was developed in a long process that involved many stakeholders. He stated that the vision has remained the same, with some revisions to portions of the plan along the way. He stated that the discussion for this year was that there should be a review to determine if the current plan could remain with some revisions, or whether additional changes should be made. He explained that there have been new members added to the Council and that is why it will be helpful to have preliminary feedback on the strategic plan. He stated that after this meeting there would be a series of quick assessments for the members of the Council to complete, which will help to test the validity of the vision, values, mission, and objectives. He stated that based on the results of the cumulative responses it will help to guide the discussion next week.

Community Development Director Gladhill noted that the intent is to review the mission, value and vision, which will help staff to direct the strategy and action items for the Council to review in the future.

Councilmember Kuzma noted that the original plan was a little overzealous and has been scaled back a bit. He agreed that this has been a helpful tool to guide the work of the Council and staff.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if the results of the surveys will be available prior to the meeting next week.

Mayor LeTourneau confirmed that the results will be made available to the Council to review prior to next week's meeting, which will give a background on the type and depth of the discussion that will occur.

Councilmember Heinrich asked if this tool has been used in the past.

Mayor LeTourneau stated that although a review has been done in the past, this tool has not yet been used.

Councilmember Shryock stated that this tool seems like a great way to gauge the position of everyone and determine if there is consensus or whether a deeper discussion will be needed on the different elements of the plan.

Mayor LeTourneau stated that the tool of the strategic plan has served the City well, but it only works if the members of the Council are aligned. He noted that the assessments will be emailed to the Council members the next day or so with a goal to complete the assessments by Thursday night or Friday morning.

## **2.02: Review the City of Ramsey's Legislative Platform**

City Administrator Ulrich reviewed the staff report, which includes the City's legislative platform and legislative topics of interest to the City.

Representative John Heinrich thanked the Council for having them present tonight, as it is helpful to have this information from the City. He stated that he did submit the proposal to make the change for the funding for Ramsey Boulevard. He stated that he also authored a bill to bring the additional third lane from Hanson, not only to Round Lake Boulevard, but further into Anoka at 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue. He stated that his priority has been on items related to Highway 10. He asked the lifespan of a public safety vehicle before it is replaced.

Police Chief Katers stated that typically the estimated life of a police vehicle is five years because of the high number of miles put on the vehicles. He stated that replacement would depend upon the maintenance recommendation, noting that often vehicles are reused by another City department or sold in public auction.

Representative Heinrich stated that there has been some discussion on a possible bridge crossing from Dayton to Ramsey across the Mississippi River and noted that he looks forward to continuing those discussions. He stated that it is an honor to serve the cities of Ramsey and Anoka at the State Legislature.

Mayor LeTourneau thanked Representative Heinrich for his efforts in authoring bills. He stated that if there is a need for a City Councilmember or staff member from Ramsey to testify, please let him know. He stated that any member of the Highway 10 Subcommittee would be helpful for testifying on any Highway 10 related issue. He noted a recent breakfast that he attended which included members of the Highway 10 coalition and there was some confusion on whether the third lane would go to Round Lake Boulevard to direct traffic to Riverdale or forward further to 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Representative Heinrich stated that he is optimistic that if the approval were given to Round Lake Boulevard, for efficiency he believes that it would make sense to do one project that would go to 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue. He stated that his mindset is to try to push the issue, as it will need to happen eventually. He stated that whether the full extension to 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue is approved, or to Round Lake Boulevard, either would be helpful.

City Administrator Ulrich stated that at the State of the Cities earlier today, Anoka announced that MnDOT has funds to replace the bridge over the Rum River, along with the Thurston and Fair Oak interchanges. He stated that if the third lane can be added, that will help to get people off the highway during that construction period.

Mr. Tinklenberg commented that the City can appreciate the leadership and cooperative efforts of Representative Heinrich towards Highway 10 related issues. He stated that with everything going on at the legislature it would be helpful to have a coordinated group to ensure that a consistent message and correct information is being shared.

Representative Heinrich agreed that would be helpful.

Representative Peggy Scott stated that she has signed onto all of the bills authored by Representative Heinrich as it is important to support the region. She stated that the majority of her time this session has been spent related to the cleanup of the hazardous waste pit in Andover.

She stated that priorities of Ramsey seem similar to the priorities of the past. She stated that while Ramsey and Andover are net gainers in fiscal disparities, the growing communities are not net gainers in local government aide. She referenced the ability for digital notification and stated that they usually receive comments from little papers that receive revenue from publishing those notices.

Councilmember Kuzma commented that he is supportive of requiring notification through the smaller papers as many residents will continue to look for that information in those sources.

City Administrator Ulrich stated that a lot of Ramsey's infrastructure was built in the 1980's and therefore replacement is needed. He stated that additional funding options would be appreciated for transportation related infrastructure replacement.

Representative Heinrich asked if the desire for the City's own zip code would be within the authority of the House or Senate.

Councilmember Riley stated that the decision would be to the United States Postal Service and therefore while the decision is not of the House and Senate, perhaps the support of the representative would be helpful.

Representative Scott recommended contacting Barbara Harper at Mr. Emmer's office. She noted that their doors are always open at the Capital.

Representative Heinrich stated that the Ramsey and Anoka Day at the Capital is Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. He stated that there will be a private tour of the capital and there is a room reserved for the occasion. He welcomed members of the Council and staff to attend, along with members of the community.

Mayor LeTourneau asked City staff to send an email reminder to the Council and appropriate staff.

Representative Heinrich stated that he would welcome any members of the Council that are in the area to stop in and visit.

### **3. TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION**

#### **3.01: Review Future Topics/ Calendar**

City Administrator Ulrich stated that staff received a letter from a member of the Planning Commission, Patrick Surma, related to simplification of the City Code book. He shared the letter with the Council and stated that the topic can be part of the strategic planning session.

Mayor LeTourneau stated that the topic could be put into the strategic planning session. He stated that perhaps staff could respond to Mr. Surma and if the topic is not addressed at the planning session, there could be a brief discussion at a future worksession meeting.

Councilmember Riley stated that periodically there is updating of the City Code. He asked if the City has ever done a full revision of the City Code.

City Administrator Ulrich stated that an outside consultant is hired to do a Code recodification in order to review language for consistency and compliance. He recognized that there may still be some conflicting language within the Code that requires clean-up.

Councilmember Kuzma stated that the Council previously discussed dog licenses and whether they are necessary but he was unsure of the consensus.

City Administrator Ulrich stated that pet licensing and pet clinics is on the agenda as a future item but could be moved up if desired.

Councilmember Musgrove stated that she would like to know the process of how the licenses are issued. She explained her previous experience obtaining licenses and noted that perhaps the process could be streamlined.

Police Chief Katers stated that he could put together a presentation on the current process and the Council could then discuss whether revisions would be necessary. He recognized that there are technologies now available for identification and that is the primary goal of licensing, to ensure lost dogs could be returned, and perhaps requiring that technology would be sufficient.

Councilmember Riley stated that he is unfamiliar with the issue and therefore was uncertain that Council direction would be required.

Police Chief Katers replied that there are current City Ordinances that direct the process and therefore Council input would be necessary to guide any changes to the process.

Councilmember Heinrich stated that not all of the Commissions have an elected representative from the Council assigned as a liaison and asked if the Council has an opinion on that topic or whether the issue should be reviewed.

City Administrator Ulrich agreed that could be added for future discussion.

#### **4. MAYOR / COUNCIL / STAFF INPUT**

None.

#### **5. ADJOURNMENT**

The Work Session of the City Council was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurtis G. Ulrich  
City Administrator

ATTEST:

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Katie M. Schmidt  
Administrative Assistant

Drafted by Amanda Staple  
*TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*