

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. CALL TO ORDER2

2. PRESENTATION2

 2.01: Presentation and Recognition to Resident Laurie Hanson for her Outstanding
 Volunteer Service to the City of Ramsey2

 2.02: Receive an Update Regarding COVID-193

3. CITIZEN INPUT4

4. APPROVE AGENDA4

5. CONSENT AGENDA4

3. CITIZEN INPUT (Continued)5

6. PUBLIC HEARING6

 6.01: Public Hearing6

7. COUNCIL BUSINESS6

 7.01: Adopt Resolution #20-095 Appointing Board and Commission Members6

 7.02: Adopt Resolution #20-089 Approving Plans and Specifications and Authorizing
 Advertisements for Bids for Improvement Project #20-01, Variolite Street Reconstruction7

 7.03: Consider Multiple Requests Related to the Preserve at Northfork (Project #19-147);
 Case of BK Land Development9

 7.04: Adopt Resolution #20-092 Authorize Abatement of Abandoned Sign at 14037 Saint
 Francis Boulevard NW12

8. MAYOR, COUNCIL AND STAFF INPUT13

9. ADJOURNMENT13

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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 2020, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota. Meeting by telephone or other electronic means in accordance with Minnesota Statute 13D.021.

Members Present: Mayor John LeTourneau
Councilmember Nadine Heinrich
Councilmember Mark Kuzma
Councilmember Jeff Menth
Councilmember Debra Musgrove
Councilmember Chris Riley
Councilmember Dan Specht

Members Absent: None

Also Present: City Administrator Kurtis Ulrich
Fire Chief Matt Kohner
Administrative Services Director Colleen Lasher
Deputy City Administrator Timothy Gladhill
City Engineer Bruce Westby
Senior Planner Chloe McGuire Brigl

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor LeTourneau 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 LeTourneau.

City Administrator Ulrich read a statement related to the COVID-19 pandemic and local state of emergency. In declaring this Local State of Emergency, the City of Ramsey has determined that in person meetings and meetings conducted under Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.02 are not practical or prudent because of the declared health pandemic emergency.

2. PRESENTATION

2.01: Presentation and Recognition to Resident Laurie Hanson for her Outstanding Volunteer Service to the City of Ramsey

City Administrator Ulrich recognized resident Laurie Hanson for her outstanding volunteer service to the City of Ramsey. Recently staff received notice that Laurie Hanson, a 30-year Ramsey resident, has been picking up refuse as she takes her morning walks. Ms. Hanson has been doing this for the past six weeks and has collected over 100 bags of trash along the following corridors in Ramsey: County Road 116 between Speedway and Casey's General Store;

large stretches of Ramsey Boulevard, Sunwood Drive and Sunfish Lake Boulevard; Nowthen Boulevard from Ramsey Boulevard to 116; and Bunker Lake Boulevard between Sunfish Lake Boulevard and Ramsey Boulevard. Ms. Hanson isn't stopping there, each day as she goes out for her walks, she comes back with bags of trash. He thanked Ms. Hanson for her contributions to the community and commitment to the environment.

Mayor LeTourneau presented a certificate of appreciation and thanked Ms. Hanson for her efforts.

Laurie Hanson stated that she started doing cleanup because she had free time and noticed all the trash when taking walks. She commented that she thought she would stop at 10 to 15 bags but has just kept going. She stated that it has been good exercise and a great way to contribute to the community.

Councilmember Heinrich thanked Ms. Hanson for her willingness to get out there and make a difference in the community. She stated that it is a testament to what a big difference one person can make.

Councilmember Musgrove thanked Mr. Hanson for bringing the information forward to the City. She stated that it is cool to see that Ms. Hanson is cleaning the community while exercising.

Councilmember Menth thanked Ms. Hanson for this wonderful thing she has done for the City and all the residents.

Ms. Hanson stated that she has been shocked at the number of plastic gloves and masks she has picked up and commented that perhaps the City could make a statement on the website related to proper disposal.

Mayor LeTourneau stated that the City will share this message on its social media page. He expressed appreciation to the Hansons for their efforts.

2.02: Receive an Update Regarding COVID-19

Fire Chief Kohner provided an update on the COVID-19 pandemic. He reviewed local and statewide statistics. He stated that the increase in testing will provide more data. He stated that the Stay at Home Order had been extended to May 18th and an update is expected later this week. He encouraged the public to maintain social distancing.

City Administrator Ulrich stated that staff has been working on plans to reopen City Hall which includes Plexiglas dividers at customer stations. He stated that there are a number of public hearings coming forward and the City is working to implement a plan that would allow a limited number of in person testimony. He stated that in terms of City operations there have been a number of City event cancelations. He stated that there are no critical immediate budget concerns but there could be concerns later in the year and in the 2021 budgeting. He reviewed the impacts to City revenue resulting from the pandemic and closures of public facilities and highlighted some of the City events that have been canceled.

Councilmember Musgrove asked for details on the number of cases and the trends. She stated that she is happy to hear that Ramsey continues to do well. She stated that it seems the trend with City events is to stay closed rather than opening as other areas look to open.

Fire Chief Kohner stated that the numbers continue to climb across the state because of the increased testing capacity. He stated that the Ramsey numbers are low because not many people have been tested. He stated that the decision to close events is not specific to Ramsey as many communities continue to cancel events in order to maintain social distancing guidelines.

Mayor LeTourneau echoed that everyone is doing the best they can and anticipating a move towards more normal living. He stated that people should continue to social distance. He thanked Fire Chief Kohner and his staff for continuing to keep the community safe.

3. CITIZEN INPUT

None.

4. APPROVE AGENDA

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

A roll call vote was performed by the City Administrator:

Councilmember Heinrich	aye
Councilmember Kuzma	aye
Councilmember Specht	aye
Councilmember Musgrove	aye
Councilmember Menth	aye
Councilmember Riley	aye
Mayor LeTourneau	aye

Motion carried.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Kuzma, to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- 5.01: Receive Cash and Investments for Period Ending April 30, 2020
- 5.02: Note the Following Boards, Commissions and Committee Meeting Minutes:
 - Planning Commission Meeting Minutes dated March 4, 2020
 - Economic Development Authority Meeting Minutes dated March 12, 2020
- 5.03: Approve the following Meeting Minutes:
 - 1) City Council Work Session dated April 28, 2020

- 2) City Council Regular dated April 28, 2020
- 5.04: Adopt Resolution #20-096 Approving Cash Disbursements Made and Authorizing Payment of Accounts Payable Invoicing Received During the Period of April 23, 2020 through May 6, 2020
 - 5.05: Adopt Resolution #20-088 Calling for a Public Hearing on Consenting to the Issuance of Revenue Bonds and Authorizing the Publication of Notice of the Hearing Therefor (Suite Living Senior Care of Ramsey Project)
 - 5.06: Adopt Resolution #20-085 Revoking the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for Truck Garant at Property Located at 6021 Highway 10
 - 5.07: Adopt Resolution #20-086 Approving Metes and Bounds Subdivision and Sale of City Owned Land to Ramsey Hotel Group LLC
 - 5.08: Adopt Resolution #20-090 Authorizing a Temporary Dwelling Agreement for 16400 Uranimite St NW; Case of Kathie Charette
 - 5.09: Adopt Resolution #20-091 Accepting Drainage and Utility Easement Related to Riverstone 4th Addition; Case of Riverstone, LLC
 - 5.10: Adopt Resolution #20-097 Supporting the Expansion of Rum River Central Regional Park
 - 5.11: Adopt Resolution #20-093 Hiring a Seasonal Public Works Maintenance Worker
 - 5.12: Adopt Resolution #20-094 Hiring an Engineering Intern
 - 5.13: Approve Application for Special Events Permit for a Farmer's Market at New Life Church located at 17261 Saint Francis Boulevard NW

A roll call vote was performed by the City Administrator:

Councilmember Heinrich	aye
Councilmember Kuzma	aye
Councilmember Specht	aye
Councilmember Musgrove	aye
Councilmember Menth	aye
Councilmember Riley	aye
Mayor LeTourneau	aye

Motion carried.

3. CITIZEN INPUT (Continued)

Chelsea Houle, 5250 156th LN NW, stated that in reviewing things from a constitutional standpoint she is concerned with the Governor's Executive Order. She stated that she understands the intent of the original Stay at Home Order in order to prepare hospitals, but the extension continues with the statement that people should stay home in case they have COVID-19. She stated that is not required for other illnesses and she believes this to be a violation of residents' civil rights. She referenced action that other communities have taken and asked if the City should perhaps follow that path.

Mayor LeTourneau stated that from his point of view everyone needs to consider all of the variables as this is still a dynamic situation that continues to change. He commented that during

the first few weeks it was a high adrenaline area which has passed more to fatigue. He stated that no one has the answer, but this is a community that is working to protect itself and save lives. He thanked the resident for her comment, noting that she is not the first person that he has heard this comment from. He stated that these are conversations that people will and should have.

Ms. Houle stated that the constitutional rights are important and should not be sacrificed. She stated that as well intentioned as the Governor is, he does not have the right to impede the resident's constitutional rights.

Councilmember Musgrove stated that there was the update on COVID-19 earlier in the agenda and not a full discussion. She stated that there should be an item planned on a future agenda for a fuller discussion on the topic. She stated that her comment related to the numbers being positive did realize the increase in positive cases but also those that have recovered. She believed that the City should encourage ways that businesses can open in a smart way.

Mayor LeTourneau stated that there are gates in place with the Declaration of Emergency and discussions have taken place as to when and how things will be reviewed. He appreciated the concern but stated that Ramsey is working as a community to have these discussions and are bringing them forward on a regular basis. He stated that Ramsey continues to do good work in a positive way.

City Administrator Ulrich noted that a 30-day update could be scheduled for the next worksession meeting.

Councilmember Specht thanked the resident for sharing her concerns and participating tonight. He stated that he looks forward to having more discussion on the topic in the future.

6. PUBLIC HEARING

6.01: Public Hearing

There were none.

7. COUNCIL BUSINESS

7.01: Adopt Resolution #20-095 Appointing Board and Commission Members

Administrative Services Director Lasher reviewed the staff report and recommendation to appoint the following members, effective May 13, 2020:

- To the Economic Development Authority, Mr. Ryan Heineman to a term ending March 31, 2024
- To the Environmental Policy Board, Mr. Jared Little to a term ending March 31, 2024
- To the Park and Recreation Commission, Mr. Justin Loss with a term ending March 31, 2024
- To the Park and Recreation Commission, Mr. Matthew Guck to a term ending March 31, 2023.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Menth, to Adopt Resolution #20-095 Appointing Board and Commission Members.

Further discussion: Mayor LeTourneau thanked everyone that applied and interviewed for these positions.

A roll call vote was performed by the City Administrator:

Councilmember Heinrich	aye
Councilmember Kuzma	aye
Councilmember Specht	aye
Councilmember Musgrove	aye
Councilmember Menth	aye
Councilmember Riley	aye
Mayor LeTourneau	aye

Motion carried.

7.02: Adopt Resolution #20-089 Approving Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Advertisements for Bids for Improvement Project #20-01, Variolite Street Reconstruction

City Engineer Westby reviewed the staff report and recommendation to adopt Resolution #20-089 approving plans and specifications and authorizing advertisement for bids for Improvement Project #20-01, Variolite Street Reconstruction.

Councilmember Riley stated that the pedestrian crosswalk does have a lot of traffic and believes that there should be improvements. He stated that this option seems shockingly expensive and believed that price should be verified. He noted that a cost savings was shown previously which now appears to be taken back.

Councilmember Kuzma stated that he agrees that the crosswalk improvements are important and asked if staff could look more into the cost. He stated that there are a few other developments further down Variolite that could generate additional traffic. He recognized that this is an MSA route and asked if the road could handle the additional traffic in the future.

City Engineer Westby replied that the design will be able to accommodate the additional traffic anticipated through proposed proposals. He stated that any future improvements needed to support additional development would be determined through traffic studies and funded by that developer.

Councilmember Riley referenced a statement which describes high groundwater and issues with the subgrade, stating that he wants to ensure that the problem is addressed this time.

City Engineer Westby stated that there is about 100 feet of the existing street, north of Trott Brook, that has been fixed three times in the past 30 years because of the high groundwater. He stated

that the groundwater fluctuates seasonally, and the drain tile should draw the water away from the pavement. He explained that the City cannot control groundwater and the only way to ensure that area stays dry would be to install a lift station which would be very expensive. He stated that the proposed design should do a good job of keeping the base and subgrade dry through the three layers of drain tile. He stated that while he does not foresee any issues with the new design, he could not guarantee that.

Councilmember Menth stated that everyone knows about the high groundwater level/spring and asked if staff is still anticipating that even with the drain tile the water will go into the subgrade.

City Engineer Westby provided additional details on the groundwater level within the subgrade. He stated that the drain tile will keep the base dry, but the City cannot remove the groundwater without pumping. He stated that the City could repair the road multiple times and still have a lesser cost than a lift station.

Councilmember Menth asked if the road could be raised in that area to provide assistance.

City Engineer Westby confirmed that would help but the cost would increase numerous times higher than the cost of the drain tile or to repair the road again in the future.

Councilmember Musgrove asked for information on the success rate for this type of improvement.

City Engineer Westby stated that groundwater fluctuates and therefore there is not a one size fits all solution but did not anticipate that this would be a problem. He noted that he views this as one of the lower risk items within the corridor.

Councilmember Musgrove comments that the tile has not been used in the area in the past and therefore this should provide a higher degree of success. She appreciated that staff has worked with the residents in order to minimize the overall project costs and impacts.

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Menth, to Adopt Resolution #20-089 Approving Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids for Improvement Project #20-01, Variolite Street Reconstruction.

A roll call vote was performed by the City Administrator:

Councilmember Heinrich	aye
Councilmember Kuzma	aye
Councilmember Specht	aye
Councilmember Musgrove	aye
Councilmember Menth	aye
Councilmember Riley	aye
Mayor LeTourneau	aye

Motion carried.

It was the consensus of the Council that staff should continue to work with the sign style proposed with the ability for the Council to comment on the cost and details.

City Engineer Westby noted that item will be bid as an alternate and if the Council is not interested in pursuing the item with the bid cost, the item would not have to be awarded.

Councilmember Menth stated that if bids are going to be obtained on the signage, would it be possible to get costs on a pedestrian bridge.

City Engineer Westby replied that option was reviewed early in the process and those types of bridges (underpass or overpass) require the purchase of right-of-way from adjoining property along with the construction of improvements and has a cost in the hundreds of thousands.

The Council confirmed consensus with pursuing the signage as an alternate bid option.

7.03: Consider Multiple Requests Related to the Preserve at Northfork (Project #19-147); Case of BK Land Development

- 1. Motion to Adopt Ordinance #20-02 Approving Zoning Amendment from Planned Unit Development (PUD) to R-1 Residential (MUSA) District and R-2 Residential (Detached Villa) District**
- 2. Motion to Adopt Resolution #20-055 Approving Preliminary Plat**

Deputy City Administrator Gladhill reviewed the staff report and recommendation to adopt Ordinance #20-02 approving a Zoning Amendment on the subject property from Planned Unit Development (PUD) to R-1 Residential (MUSA) District and R-2 Residential (Detached Villas) District as well as adoption of Resolution #20-055 Approving Preliminary Plat for The Preserve at Northfork (Project #19-147): Case of BK Land Development, contingent upon formal adoption of the City's 2040 Comprehensive Plan and compliance with the staff review and approval of plans by the City Engineer.

Councilmember Heinrich stated that in the past review there were some concerns with roadways and parking related to public safety.

Deputy City Administrator Gladhill stated that he believed that has been worked out with 29 foot back to back streets that would require parking restrictions. He stated that if a majority of the Council wants to require 32-foot streets, that could be required, but believed the consensus was to allow the same width as the adjacent Riverstone development which is 29 feet.

Mayor LeTourneau confirmed that the previous consensus of the Council was to allow 29-foot streets, which mirrors the adjacent development.

Deputy City Administrator Gladhill stated that the roads have been increased to a width of 30 feet in compromise. He clarified that if a road is less than 32 feet in width, parking would be restricted to one side of the road. He stated that while 32-foot width would be preferred, 30 feet would be acceptable.

Councilmember Riley stated that in previous discussions for this development, he indicated that he would like to see more of the 80 foot lots and now that the developer had the opportunity to remove lots, the smaller lots remained consistent and the larger lots decreased in number. He stated that if that were to have swapped, that would have better fit the mix he was looking for with more larger lots and less smaller lots.

Deputy City Administrator Gladhill stated that the stormwater design and location of those ponds was based on the natural topography of the site. He stated that he believes that the developer attempted to create some additional space and separation between the larger existing residential lots. He stated that there was a joint worksession with the Planning Commission and City Council and it appeared that the majority of participating members were comfortable with the layout and proposed mix.

Zach Brown, applicant, stated that the reasoning behind the change was because of the locations needed for stormwater design. He stated that less lots overall is still better than the original proposal.

Councilmember Heinrich asked for details on the draft Comprehensive Plan and how this zoning fits with that designated land use.

Deputy City Administrator Gladhill stated that the draft Comprehensive Plan shows medium density residential (4-7 units per acre) and low density residential (3-4 units per acre). He stated that the 50-foot-wide lots would fall under medium density while the 80 foot lots would be in the low density residential.

Councilmember Riley stated that he will not support the request because the mix of lots does not reflect his prior input. He commented that if approved, the plan should require the trail to connect to the adjacent neighborhood, as recommended by the Planning Commission.

Mayor LeTourneau asked if the configuration falls within the stated residential district within the draft Comprehensive Plan.

Deputy City Administrator Gladhill confirmed that generally speaking the layout falls within the boundaries of the draft Comprehensive Plan.

Councilmember Menth stated that in reviewing the line between the medium and low residential in the draft Comprehensive Plan, it appears that the villas would bleed into the low-density area. He stated that he asked the developer to provide more 80-foot lots and less villas and believed that this went in the wrong direction.

Deputy City Administrator Gladhill replied that there may be three lots that do not exactly match the boundary between densities, which is why he said generally speaking the layout fits. He stated that if desired, the two or three lots could be amended to match the line.

Councilmember Heinrich asked if the lots bleed into the line because of the layout needed for stormwater management.

Mr. Brown explained that the villa layout has not moved from the beginning, noting that a villa has not been gained in the change of layouts. He explained why the proposed stormwater management was chosen. He stated that this plan attempts to place the least amount of density adjacent to Northfork, as desired by those residents. He stated that the only change to the plan was that some lots overall were lost but noted that the number of villas has not increased.

Councilmember Kuzma stated that in his opinion it would look odd to place an 80-foot lot in the area where the villas appear to bleed over the line and supports the proposed configuration.

Motion by Councilmember Kuzma, seconded by Councilmember Heinrich, to waive the City Charter requirement to read the Ordinance aloud and Adopt Ordinance #20-02 Amending Section 117-90 “MAP” of Chapter 117 of the City Code of Ramsey Minnesota.

A roll call vote was performed by the City Administrator:

Councilmember Heinrich	aye
Councilmember Kuzma	aye
Councilmember Specht	aye
Councilmember Musgrove	aye
Councilmember Riley	nay
Councilmember Riley	aye
Mayor LeTourneau	aye

Motion carried.

Motion by Councilmember Kuzma, seconded by Councilmember Menth, to Adopt Resolution #20-055 Approving Preliminary Plat for The Preserve at Northfork, contingent upon formal adoption of the City’s 2040 Comprehensive Plan and compliance with Staff Review and approval of plans by the City Engineer.

Further discussion: Councilmember Musgrove commented that she agrees with the plan which has been before the Council several times and the developer has made adjustments throughout the process. Councilmember Menth stated that everything he asked for was gained: the trail connecting the neighborhood, the pond along Alpine which buffers the neighborhood to the north, and the road was increased from 29 to 30 feet.

A roll call vote was performed by the City Administrator:

Councilmember Heinrich	aye
Councilmember Kuzma	aye
Councilmember Specht	aye
Councilmember Musgrove	aye
Councilmember Menth	aye
Councilmember Riley	nay
Mayor LeTourneau	aye

Motion carried.

7.04: Adopt Resolution #20-092 Authorize Abatement of Abandoned Sign at 14037 Saint Francis Boulevard NW

Senior Planner McGuire Brigl reviewed the staff report and recommendation to adopt Resolution #20-092 directing staff to hire a contractor to remove the signage as allowed by City Code. Staff has received complaints about the out-of-date signage and the cost of removal will be faster and more cost-effective than moving the case into Civil Court.

Councilmember Heinrich stated that she believes that this would be the right action, given the history of the building and the business that previously existed. She stated that this would be the right direction and send the right message.

Motion by Councilmember Heinrich, seconded by Councilmember Musgrove, to Adopt Resolution #20-092 Directing Staff to Hire a Contractor and Abate Abandoned Signage at 14037 St. Francis Boulevard.

Further discussion: Councilmember Menth commented that he believes the signage has many stores and asked if the massage sign could be removed without removing the other panels. Senior Planner McGuire Brigl clarified that the store front signage would be removed, and the contractor would either scrape the letters off the tenant sign or replace it with other vinyl. Councilmember Musgrove stated that she would want to ensure that the letters do not show through once scraped. Senior Planner McGuire Brigl confirmed that staff could be directed to replace that with a new panel or covered in vinyl. Councilmember Musgrove asked if the panel could be removed and replaced. Councilmember Heinrich agreed that the tenant panel should be removed and replaced with a new panel. Councilmember Menth believed that there is another massage sign near this location and asked if that would also be removed. Senior Planner McGuire Brigl commented that sign is located in the City of Anoka but noted that she could verify that. Councilmember Heinrich stated that this is not an action against massage businesses but taking a stance on an ordinance related to abandoned businesses. She stated that this case is unique in that the business was closed due to illegal activity and clarified that the City would not be actively pursuing abatement of signs.

A roll call vote was performed by the City Administrator:

Councilmember Heinrich	aye
Councilmember Kuzma	aye
Councilmember Specht	aye
Councilmember Musgrove	aye
Councilmember Menth	nay
Councilmember Riley	aye
Mayor LeTourneau	aye

Motion carried.

Mayor LeTourneau referenced a resident comment that the bar/restaurant sign on the shared signage space identifies the wrong name for that business as the business has changed names.

Deputy City Administrator Gladhill noted that this abatement case was in response to complaints and stated that staff does not have the resources to manage individual names of businesses that remain open and have changed titles.

8. MAYOR, COUNCIL AND STAFF INPUT

City Administrator Ulrich announced upcoming meetings and events.

Councilmember Musgrove noted that approved in the Consent Agenda was a permit for a farmers market at New Life Church. She stated that the event begins this Saturday and welcomed residents to attend and participate.

Councilmember Riley encouraged residents that have not yet filled out their census information to complete that action.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember Kuzma, seconded by Councilmember Heinrich, to adjourn the meeting.

A roll call vote was performed by the City Administrator:

Councilmember Heinrich	aye
Councilmember Kuzma	aye
Councilmember Specht	aye
Councilmember Musgrove	aye
Councilmember Menth	aye
Councilmember Riley	aye
Mayor LeTourneau	aye

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the City Council adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurtis G. Ulrich
City Administrator

ATTEST:

Katie M. Schmidt
Administrative Assistant

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.

A recording of this meeting is available for viewing online at www.qctv.org
<<http://www.qctv.org>>. Recordings are available for 36 months after the date of the meeting.