

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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a City Council Work Session on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Mayor John LeTourneau (arrived at 6:20 p.m.)
Acting Mayor Chris Riley
Councilmember Mark Kuzma
Councilmember Jeff Menth
Councilmember Debra Musgrove
Councilmember Dan Specht

Members Absent: None

Also Present: City Administrator Kurtis Ulrich
Police Chief Jeff Katers
Public Works Superintendent Grant Riemer
Administrative Services Director Colleen Lasher
Deputy City Administrator Timothy Gladhill

1. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Mayor Riley called the City Council Work Session to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

2.01: Review Final Citizen Survey Questionnaire

City Administrator Ulrich reviewed the staff report and draft questions for the proposed survey.

Councilmember Musgrove referenced the questions related to parks, trails, and a community center.

Acting Mayor Riley explained that the answers would dictate the policy. He noted that new developments are not required to build a park, but instead are required to contribute towards a fund used for that purpose. He stated that the answers would dictate whether the community prefers smaller neighborhood parks or larger centrally located parks.

Councilmember Specht acknowledged that these questions are derived from the Council goals and the Strategic Plan but commented that some of the questions are vague and could be misinterpreted by residents. He believed that it would be difficult to gain meaningful information.

Councilmember Musgrove commented that she likes the additions related to financial stability for the City and would like to see additional items related to cost effectiveness and public safety.

City Administrator Ulrich noted that the question would be posed to allow residents to select as many of the items as they would like that they believe are important over the next five years.

Councilmember Kuzma commented that he would like to see something related to body cameras, as that will be an expensive expenditure but it is most likely something that will be needed in the near future.

City Administrator Ulrich confirmed that a question could be added as to whether the resident would support body cameras.

Police Chief Katers commented that he supports body cameras, noting that the equipment would be helpful to show that officers act in a responsible manner in the public and could help to address potential liabilities. He recognized that there is a cost for that equipment, noting that the largest cost is not the purchase of the equipment but the process, data storage and management. He stated that perhaps the intent of this question is to determine the priorities for the next five years and whether those match the existing Strategic Plan goals or should be updated for 2021. He stated that he does support the purchase of body cameras for the police.

Acting Mayor Riley commented that he also supports the purchase of body cameras but did not believe that question belongs on the survey. He commented that will be a decision of the Council.

Councilmember Kuzma commented that there is a cost for that equipment and would be more comfortable having the support of the public related to that purchase.

Councilmember Musgrove stated that she would support including the category of public safety, rather than being so specific. She stated that there are costs for the public safety department, and it is up to the Chief and Council as to the purchases that are highest priority in order to provide public safety services.

Mayor LeTourneau arrived.

City Administrator Ulrich agreed that the better choice would be to include public safety, as the other items do not go into specific details on the larger category choices. He stated that there are many things to factor into the use of body cameras and therefore it is perhaps too complex to include on this type of survey.

It was the consensus of the Council edit question 17 to delete learning environment and add public safety and fiscal responsibility. The Council decided not to add a question related to body cameras.

City Administrator Ulrich asked for input on whether to keep question 19 related to road financing.

Councilmember Kuzma commented that he would prefer to remove the question to avoid causing confusion and making it appear that the Council may reverse the decision on franchise fees that was just made.

Councilmember Specht commented that he would prefer to keep the question in order to continue to gain information on the number of residents that support different road funding mechanisms.

Acting Mayor Riley commented that he would prefer to remove the question for the time being and noted that perhaps the better idea would be to add the question again in four years once franchise fees have been in place for a bit and in preparation for the five year review.

Councilmember Musgrove recognized that the decision of franchise fees was just made, and residents have not yet had a chance to see whether they like it or do not like it and provide that input. She stated that if the question remains, she would have suggestions to the language. She stated that while she would like to see the question remain, she would be fine with the consensus of the Council.

It was the consensus of the Council to remove question 19 but keep that in mind for future surveys. Question 18 will be removed and question 14 will remain.

Mayor LeTourneau accepted control of the meeting.

Councilmember Specht suggested adding Zoom and other virtual meeting platforms to question 14, as it would be helpful to gauge during this time. The Council agreed.

Councilmember Musgrove noted that information related to demographics is provided from the County and was unsure whether it would be necessary to ask those questions in the survey.

City Administrator Ulrich explained that surveys ask for demographic information in order to provide more specific information for the answers to the questions. He provided the example of an issue being important for 70 percent of women but only 30 percent of men, or 80 percent of people within a certain age range believe a certain issue is important.

Councilmember Specht noted that the demographics could also identify gaps in who actually completes the survey which would allow the City to better target that demographic in the future.

City Administrator Ulrich explained that the information also helps qualify answers. He noted that perhaps skate parks are identified as a priority but it is then found out that only people 18 years of age filled out the survey, the Council could then see that may not be a priority of the whole community but only that segment that answered.

2.02: Discussion Regarding Union Contract Negotiations for AFSCME, LELS-Patrol, LELS-Sergeant and LELS-Captains (Discussion Closed to the Public)

Administrative Services Director Lasher suggested that the Council enter closed session for this discussion.

Motion by Councilmember Kuzma, seconded by Councilmember Menth, to recess the meeting to Closed Session at 6:30 p.m.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Acting Mayor LeTourneau, Councilmembers Kuzma, Menth, Musgrove, Riley, and Specht. Voting No: None.

The meeting reconvened to Open Session at 6:58 p.m.

Administrative Services Director Lasher reported that the Council returned from closed session where discussion occurred related to contract negotiations for AFSCME, LELS-Patrol, LELS-Sergeant, and LELS-Captains.

3. TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

3.01: Review Future Topics/ Calendar

Noted.

4. MAYOR / COUNCIL / STAFF INPUT

None.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The Work Session of the City Council was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurtis G. Ulrich
City Administrator

ATTEST:

Katie M. Schmidt
Administrative Assistant

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.

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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a Closed Session on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

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

Members Absent: None

Also Present: City Administrator Kurtis Ulrich
Administrative Services Director Colleen Lasher
Police Chief Jeff Katers
Deputy City Administrator Timothy Gladhill
Public Works Superintendent Grant Riemer

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor LeTourneau called the Closed Session of the City Council to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. COUNCIL BUSINESS

2.01: Discussion Regarding Union Contract Negotiations for AFSCME, LELS-Patrol, LELS-Sergeants & LELS-Captains

Administrative Services Director Lasher explained that the purpose of the case is for the Council to discuss the union contract negotiations for AFSCME, LELS-Patrol, LELS-Sergeants, and LELS-Captains.

3. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Specht, to adjourn the Closed Session.

Motion carried.

The Closed Session was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurtis G. Ulrich
City Administrator

ATTEST:

Katie M. Schmidt
Administrative Assistant

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.