

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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a City Council Work Session on Tuesday, July 28, 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 Chris Riley
Councilmember Dan Specht

Also Present: City Administrator Kurtis Ulrich
Police Chief Jeff Katers
Public Works Superintendent Grant Riemer
Deputy City Administrator Timothy Gladhill
Senior Planner Chloe McGuire Brigl

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

2.01: Consider Options for Temporary Filling a Building Maintenance Vacancy

Public Works Superintendent Riemer provided an update to an upcoming vacancy in the Building Maintenance Worker Staff due to the retirement of an existing employee. Public Works Superintendent Riemer outlined a proposal for a temporary filling of this vacancy as soon as October.

Councilmember Menth asked for an overview of building maintenance needs and alternatives.

Discussion ensued about building maintenance needs and alternatives now and moving forward.

Consensus was to move forward with the Temporary Building Maintenance Worker.

2.02: Discuss 2020 Citizen Survey

City Administrator Ulrich presented the Staff Report. He highlighted changes from the previous Citizen Survey including remote meeting usage, updated Strategic Plan initiatives and road maintenance funding. He also reviewed response options including previous mailed surveys and options for online survey responses.

Councilmember Musgrove asked about the online survey option and thought that this would be a more cost-effective way to get more responses.

City Administrator Ulrich noted that by switching response options, the City would not be able to compare previous years' results and may not actually result in an increased response rate.

Councilmember Kuzma recommended to remove the road funding as the Council just agreed to a new franchise fee.

Councilmember Riley recommended that we revise the question to better reflect the final franchise fee amount and note the percentage property tax increase that this would reflect as an addition to the Property Tax Levy instead (15%).

Consensus was to continue the mailed survey format and bring back revised language pertaining to the road funding question for further discussion.

2.03: Receive Update on Code Enforcement Program

Deputy City Administrator Gladhill presented the Staff Report. He noted that current expectations of the community appear to exceed the current resources dedicated to this effort.

John Dehen, 14806 Bowers Dr NW, provided background on an issue he had with his neighbor. He advocated for a more proactive approach for repeat violations that did not require a complaint from a neighbor. He also advocated for better utilization of fines and citations.

Mayor LeTourneau outlined recent feedback received by the City Council from the community.

Councilmember Musgrove inquired if the current activity levels are normal or a result of the current COVID-19 Pandemic and more people staying home.

Deputy City Administrator Gladhill noted that it was probably both. While activity levels are extremely high this year in part to the COVID-19 pandemic, the expectations exceeding resources has been present for several years and is magnified by current conditions.

Police Chief Katers provided an overview of the Police Department's involvement in the enforcement side of the program. He expressed support for the utilization of the Police Department for enforcement but preferred that case management and code interpretation continue to be provided by the Community Development Department.

Councilmember Riley asked about recent changes to the program and if that had assisted in the program's effectiveness. He also supported looking at ways to improve the program based on tonight's discussion.

Councilmember Kuzma thanked Deputy City Administrator Gladhill for bringing this topic forward and encouraged Staff to bring feedback.

Consensus was to explore additional resources for the Code Enforcement Program as part of the draft 2021 Budget.

2.04: Discuss Public Input Plan for Ramsey Gateway Plan – US Highway 10/169 Improvements

Deputy City Administrator Gladhill provided an overview of upcoming planned public engagement opportunities in Anoka County’s Preliminary Design Process for Highway 10.

Mayor LeTourneau noted that many stakeholders along the corridor are in need of an update to the process sooner rather than later as it has been some time since the City completed its study.

Consensus was to request that Anoka County schedule an interactive meeting in the next 60 days in consultation with City Staff in order to provide a status update to corridor design efforts.

2.05: Consider Funding Options for Public Works Facility and Pavement Management Program

Councilmember Musgrove presented an option that would utilize a lower Franchise Fee for the construction of the Public Works Campus and fund the Pavement Management Program through the general tax levy. She noted that she felt that this compromise would be more accepted by the Community.

Mayor LeTourneau thanked Councilmember Musgrove for her idea but felt that the Franchise Fee is better suited for the Pavement Management Program as it provided a dedicated, protected funding source for road reconstruction.

Councilmembers Kuzma, Menth and Riley agreed that the Franchise Fee is better suited as a dedicated funding source for road maintenance and not for funding the Public Works Campus.

There was no direction given to change the proposed funding sources for the Pavement Management Program nor the Public Works Campus.

3. TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

3.01: Review Future Topics/ Calendar

Noted.

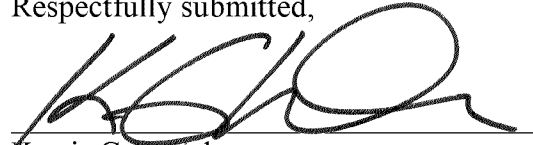
4. MAYOR / COUNCIL / STAFF INPUT

None.

5. ADJOURNMENT

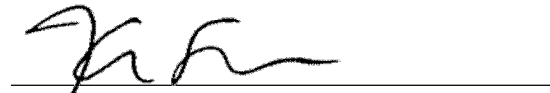
The Work Session of the City Council was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kurtis G. Ulrich
City Administrator

ATTEST:



Katie M. Schmidt
Administrative Assistant

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.