

**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 13, 2021, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Mayor Mark Kuzma
Councilmember Ryan Heineman
Councilmember Chelsea Howell
Councilmember Debra Musgrove
Councilmember Chris Riley
Councilmember Dan Specht
Councilmember Matt Woestehoff

Also Present: City Administrator Kurtis Ulrich
Finance Director Diana Lund
Fire Chief Matt Kohner
Police Chief Jeff Katers
Public Works Superintendent Grant Riemer
Administrative Services Director Colleen Lasher
City Engineer Bruce Westby
IT Manager Jason Fredrickson

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kuzma called the City Council Work Session to order at 5:33 p.m.

2. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

2.01: Discussion Regarding Non-Union Compensation

Administrative Services Director Lasher reviewed the staff report.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if there would be information coming back related to other staff that might be impacted by this.

Administrative Services Director Lasher commented that there are several male classes that show below the average market, and it is the intent to discuss that as part of the budget discussions.

City Administrator Ulrich stated that may be a part of union discussions as well.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if this formula would perhaps ramp down with new hires.

Administrative Services Director Lasher commented that points for a position do not change. She stated that when a position becomes vacant it is an opportunity to review the wage to determine if changes should be made. She noted that Ramsey continues to be on the low end for wage comparisons to the market.

2.02: Preliminary 2022 General Fund Budget/Levy Review

Finance Director Lund reviewed the staff report.

Councilmember Musgrove referenced the decrease in health insurance and asked the length of the contract.

Administrative Services Director Lasher replied that it is a three-year contract and provided details on the rate caps in years two and three.

Finance Director Lund stated that the reason for the decrease was related to COVID and the overall decreased use of the plan which is reflected in the rates.

Councilmember Heineman commented that people that fall in the average median and under would see a decrease in their liability if road financing were placed on the levy versus the franchise fee.

Councilmember Musgrove asked how the current franchise fees for businesses were calculated.

Finance Director Lund replied that the current franchise fee is not listed on that sheet and provided another document with that information. She compared the amount a commercial property would pay in franchise fees versus if the road debt were put on the tax levy.

Councilmember Heineman stated that it would appear that the difference for commercial properties is about \$400.

Finance Director Lund noted that these figures are only related to road debt and the levy number would not represent the full amount of property taxes.

City Administrator Ulrich stated that he would like to devote one worksession to personnel requests and union negotiation directions. He suggested that perhaps the Council suggest levy increase targets and the impacts that would occur to operations at those levels.

Councilmember Heineman suggested using a five percent increase scenario.

Finance Director Lund asked and received clarification that would only apply to the general fund and not the debt levy.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if additional questions could be directed to City staff in order to obtain additional clarification.

Finance Director Lund confirmed that emails related to the budget/levy could be sent to her and copied to City Administrator Ulrich.

2.03: Discuss Possible Uses of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (American Rescue Plan Act Funds)

City Administrator Ulrich reviewed the staff report.

Finance Director Lund stated that the guidance is being changed as to how funds can be used but the water treatment plant will still qualify as will the body worn cameras.

City Administrator Ulrich commented that additional discussion can occur because of the time allowed to use the funds. He noted that because half the city is not on City water and uses well water, full use of the funds for the water treatment facility may not be the best choice.

Finance Director Lund provided additional information on the revenue reduction use.

Councilmember Riley commented that if there is a way the funds can be used in a general fund manner that benefits the entire city, he would support that but is glad the City would have the backup option of the water treatment facility.

2.04: Select Three Councilmembers to Serve on the Deputy City Administrator/Community Development Director Interview Panel

Administrative Services Director Lasher reviewed the staff report.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if there are specific dates setup for the interviews.

Administrative Services Director Lasher commented that the first round would occur during the week of July 26th. It was noted most likely Wednesday and Thursday.

It was the consensus of the Council that Councilmembers Howell, Heineman, and Musgrove participate in the interview panel.

2.05: Discussion Regarding Union Contract Negotiations for AFSCME, LELS-Patrol, LELS-Sergeants, and LELS-Captains (Discussion closed to the public)

Administrative Services Director Lasher recommended that the Council enter closed session to discuss this item.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff, to recess the meeting to Closed Session at 6:18 p.m.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Acting Mayor Kuzma, Councilmembers Riley, Woestehoff, Heineman, Howell, Musgrove, and Specht.

The meeting reconvened to Open Session at 6:55 p.m.

Administrative Services Director Lasher stated that during the closed session the Council discussed union negotiations and directed staff to continue pursuit of closing the contracts.

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
Deputy City Clerk

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, July 13, 2021, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Mayor Mark Kuzma
Councilmember Ryan Heineman
Councilmember Chelsea Howell
Councilmember Debra Musgrove
Councilmember Chris Riley
Councilmember Dan Specht
Councilmember Matt Woestehoff

Members Absent:

Also Present: City Administrator Kurtis Ulrich
Police Chief Jeff Katers
Administrative Services Director Colleen Lasher
Public Works Superintendent Grant Riemer
Finance Director Diana Lund

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kuzma called the Closed Session of the City Council to order at 6:19 p.m.

2. COUNCIL BUSINESS

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

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

3. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Heineman, to adjourn the Closed Session.

Motion carried.

The Closed Session was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurtis G. Ulrich
City Administrator

ATTEST:

Katie M. Schmidt
Deputy City Clerk

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.