

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
CITY OF RAMSEY
ANOKA COUNTY
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

The City of Ramsey Economic Development Authority (EDA) conducted a regular meeting on Thursday, October 13, 2022, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Chairperson Michael Olson
 Member Chelsee Howell
 Member Rachal Johnson
 Member William MacLennan
 Member Chris Riley
 Member Shanna Stewart

Members Absent: Member Scott Wiyninger

Also Present: Sean Sullivan, Economic Development Manager

4. EDA BUSINESS

4.01: Request Recommendation to Complete COR Site Improvements, Infrastructure and Wetland Analysis

Economic Development Manager Sullivan presented the staff report.

Member Howell asked if task one has already been completed or whether there would be more work needed to complete that in addition to the delineation that was completed.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan replied that the delineation work in task one has been completed but more wetland analysis was yet to be done. He explained that in order to complete a delineation, the vegetation has to be growing and therefore that was completed during the appropriate season to ensure there would not be additional delay to complete the report.

Member Howell asked how these project costs would be recouped through development.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan replied that some of these costs have been identified in the CIP, such as Zeolite Street improvements. He stated that the other costs are able to be funded through TIF or could be schedule through the CIP or street improvement program. He stated that most of the costs, aside from building the waterfront park, are TIF eligible expenses. He explained that those costs could be spent now and reimbursed later if TIF is used. He stated that once the costs are better known, staff would present more specific options for funding. He noted that the study itself could be funded through TIF.

Member Stewart asked for clarification on purchasing wetland somewhere else.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan replied that in the past if you filled a wetland there were a few options in that you could create additional wetlands onsite, you could purchase wetland credits, or purchase wetlands offsite.

Member Stewart asked where the new wetlands would be purchased and whether that would be somewhere the City does not want to develop in the future.

Kevin Kielb, Bolton & Menk, stated that people establish wetlands in certain watersheds and areas in the state. These wetlands are “certified and banked” and are available for purchase to offset other wetlands that are filled in. He noted that other parties can then purchase the credits from that bank to offset their wetland impacts. He provided additional details on the process for the creation of wetland credits. He provided some general estimates of the cost for wetland credits, noting that price fluctuates depending on availability and geographic location. He stated that thus far they have delineated the wetlands in the COR and they are researching where wetlands have been moved or created. He explained that if one acre of wetlands is disturbed, two acres would need to be replaced. He reviewed some of the additional details that would be within the report that will help to eliminate hidden costs.

Chairperson Olson asked if the wetland credits would be local.

Mr. Kielb replied that the credits would need to be within a reasonable watershed, noting that he was unsure of the exact boundaries but advising that it would be within the regional area.

Member Johnson recognized that there would be a water feature in The COR and asked if there is a plan to have more wetlands or water features within that area.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan replied that the areas marked in red are anticipated to be filled to create more buildable area within The COR. He stated that once they have the costs known, they would determine if that is a cost the City would want to bear. He stated that the City could then choose whether that cost is rolled into the land price or split between the City and future development. He stated that staff believes that there will be an economy of scale in using the dirt from the excavation of the waterfront area to fill the desired areas.

Member Riley commented that this would seem to be follow up to the decision the EDA made in February. He stated that the work has not been able to be done inhouse and therefore this action would contract that work out.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan confirmed that to be true and noted that the intention was to keep the EDA informed in the process. He recognized that there may be more cost than originally anticipated due to wetland replacement and that will be flushed out through this study.

Member Riley stated that his other question was whether this would be the right time to complete this work but acknowledged that the TIF funds are available now and the work would need to be done prior to November of 2023 if that funding is going to be used.

Motion by Member Stewart, seconded by Member MacLennan, to recommend to City Council to authorize the Wetland and COR Infrastructure proposals utilizing TIF District (2, 14) funds.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Olson, Members Stewart, MacLennan, Howell, Johnson, and Riley. Voting No: None. Absent: Member Wiyninger.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Member MacLennan, seconded by Member Stewart, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Olson, Members MacLennan, Stewart, Howell, Johnson, and Riley. Voting No: None. Absent: Member Wiyninger.

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Authority adjourned at 8:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sean Sullivan
Economic Development Manager

ATTEST:

Wendy Schlueter
Economic Development Administrative Assistant

Draft by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.