

**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, September 8, 2022, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present:     Chairperson Michael Olson  
                          Member Rachal Johnson  
                          Member William MacLennan  
                          Member Chris Riley  
                          Member Shanna Stewart  
                          Member Scott Wiyninger

Members Absent:     Member Chelsee Howell

Also Present:         Sean Sullivan, Economic Development Manager

**1.     CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Olson called the Economic Development Authority meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

**2.     APPROVE AGENDA**

Motion by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Wiyninger, to approve the agenda.

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

**3.     CONSENT AGENDA**

**3.01:   Approve Meeting Minutes Dated August 11, 2022**

Motion by Member Riley, seconded by Member Stewart, to approve the August 11, 2022, minutes as presented.

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

**4.     EDA BUSINESS**

**4.01:   Receive 2022 Summary of Business Appreciation Day Event**

Economic Development Manager Sullivan presented the staff report. He asked whether the EDA would be interested in offering a box lunch. This suggestion was made by one participant the past two years.

Member Stewart noted that was one suggestion out of the 100 plus attendees and therefore she would not support adding that element.

Member MacLennan stated that he does like the lunch and perhaps there would be an opportunity for a sponsorship for that element. He commented that it is not always easy to go to the clubhouse to get something to eat when you are on the course.

Member Riley stated that he would lean towards following the existing format. He stated that there continues to be positive feedback about the dinner and the price of the event, therefore he would hate to take away from the dinner or increase the cost of the event. He stated that he would be open to the option if there was a sponsorship of that cost.

Member Johnson stated that perhaps that is offered as an add-on option for registration and that way participants could make the choice on whether they would like to add that.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan commented that while that sounds like a good concept, it would be difficult logistically. He stated that there could be an option to offer box lunches for purchase prior to the event but is unsure the course would want to do that without having solid numbers. He stated that he would prefer an all or nothing approach.

Chair Olson agreed with the all or none approach. He stated that perhaps they could publicize that lunch will not be provided in the event flyer, but food would be available for purchase at the clubhouse.

Member Winyinger stated that personally he believes there would be benefit in pursuing a corporate sponsorship by a Ramsey business to determine if they would be willing to sponsor that lunch offering. He acknowledged the administrative burden as they would perhaps need to consider dietary restrictions. He agreed that the admission charge should not be raised in order to offer lunch.

Chair Olson agreed that the City or EDA should not contribute additional funds towards lunch, nor should the participants. He echoed the notion that perhaps a business would be willing to sponsor a box lunch for the event.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan stated that the registration form offers the opportunity for hole sponsorship or prize donations. He stated that staff does not solicit donations therefore asking for a sponsor would be a fundamental change as the event is meant to recognize and appreciate businesses. He also did not want to see businesses react negatively if one business was allowed to sponsor the lunch but perhaps another could not. He agreed that only one person requested this option. He agreed that staff could work with Northfork and perhaps patrons could purchase something in advance of their round. He noted that utilization of the clubhouse also financially benefits (The Links at) Northfork, a Ramsey business.

The consensus of the EDA to state in registration that food is available for purchase at the clubhouse.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan continued to review feedback received from the survey. He stated that there were comments that some events have more activities at the holes. He noted that perhaps they encourage businesses to do more at the sponsored holes.

Member MacLennan agreed that it is more fun to have interaction at the holes and would also be a benefit for the business to interact with the golfers.

Member Wyingner encouraged a dropdown menu on the registration that would provide some options for businesses to select, such as having signage, having employees at the hole, or having an activity. He noted that if there were more sponsors than holes, one business could have a sign with another business running an activity.

Member MacLennan noted that the activities could then be spaced out a bit.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan confirmed that staff attempts to space out those that have planned activities.

Member Johnson stated that perhaps staff could have some suggestions of what type of activities could be done at holes.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan confirmed that staff does provide ideas to those that reach out.

Member Riley liked the use of encourage rather than require. He stated that staff does have contact with sponsors and perhaps there is a goal for 50 percent of the holes to have activities and if they are running short on that goal, staff could suggest some ideas. He noted that they would also want to be mindful of the speed of play.

Member Stewart stated that if the best hole sponsor is acknowledged that could encourage businesses to do more.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan commented that ultimately staff would just have to pick the best hole sponsor during what is already a busy time for staff.

Member Riley commented that they could have fun with some of the prizes such as best hole, best dressed, etc.

It was the consensus of the EDA to offer prizes for the best hole sponsor and best dressed team.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan confirmed the consensus to continue with pre-draw. He asked for direction from the EDA to select the 2023 date for the event and to select Northfork

as the location. He stated that while he would love to go between the two courses in Ramsey, Rum River Hills does not have enough space to host the banquet portion for the event.

Member Riley commented that the event was recently held at Rum River Hills during COVID when there was not a dinner included.

Motion by Member Johnson, seconded by Member MacLennan, to select August 15, 2023 as the date for the 2023 Business Appreciation Day event and Northfork for the venue.

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

Member Riley thanked staff for the great event this year.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan recognized the other staff members that assisted in the event.

#### **4.02: Review Draft Mobile Food Unit (Food Truck) Ordinance**

Economic Development Manager Sullivan presented the staff report.

Chairperson Olson asked if there are a lot of changes in the proposed ordinance as opposed to what currently happens.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan replied that it is currently regulated through a Transient Merchant License and explained the differences.

Member Stewart noted that there was recently a food truck in the parking lot of Sammy's Pizza and asked if that created a conflict which brought this forward.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan replied that the ordinance was not drafted because of that. He acknowledged that a multi-tenant building can be tricky because a landowner can sign off on the application for the Transient Merchant License.

Member Stewart asked if the food truck only needs permission from the landowner and not the businesses.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan replied that currently that is true but that would not be the case under the draft ordinance.

Member MacLennan noted that the permission of the business would not be needed if the food truck is 100 feet or more from the business. He used the example of a food truck being in the grocery store development parking lot, but far enough from Acapulco to need the permission of that business, noting that the food truck could take business from the restaurant. He stated that the brick-and-mortar businesses invest a lot of money in their business and pay taxes, while food trucks do not pay the same taxes.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan replied that he does understand that argument but there are not that many food trucks in the community and did not anticipate an influx based on the implementation of a new ordinance. He stated that he would find it hard pressed for the ownership of the Acapulco development to allow a food truck because of the restaurant being in the development. He noted that if it were to happen, he did not think it would happen more than once because the restaurant would most likely voice concern to the ownership, who would want to protect their tenant.

Member MacLennan stated that he likes food trucks, but in a certain venue.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan stated that this is the type of feedback he expected from the EDA, and it is on point. He noted that Anoka is the only community around the area that does not allow food trucks, with the exception of its food truck festival. He stated that if Connexus wanted to bring in a food truck for their employees, this would provide that opportunity and would also ensure the truck is licensed and follows proper health and safety measures. He noted that if the EDA only wants to allow food trucks for special events, that could be the recommendation.

Member Stewart asked if an employer bringing in a food truck would be considered a special event.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan replied that special events are handled in a different way than a Transient Merchant License. He stated that a special event is a more extensive process as it is reviewed by police and fire in addition to the other departments involved. He noted that it would be more administrative work for different departments.

Member Stewart stated that there are a lot of industrial businesses in the community that may wish to bring in a food truck for employees and perhaps the special event process may deter an employer from choosing that.

Member Johnson asked if there is an estimate of the number of food trucks in the area.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan replied that he was unsure but could look into it.

Member Johnson stated that she does not anticipate there is a large number of food trucks in the area. She commented that this would be a good way to make food trucks attractive to the area and perhaps one of those businesses may consider Ramsey if they get to the point where they want a sit-down location.

Member Riley commented that he likes the draft ordinance concept. He recognized that they do not want food trucks to compete with local restaurants but also recognized the trend. He asked if the draft ordinance was developed using a template or based off other cities.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan replied that this process began in 2019 with a review of many different ordinances of other communities. He noted that originally the intent was to create a section within Transient Merchant Licenses, but it was too messy and therefore the idea

arose to create a separate ordinance was pursued. He confirmed that staff has reviewed the ordinances of many other communities as well as information from the League of Minnesota Cities.

Member Riley stated that he likes that this has requirements without being overly burdensome. He referenced the fees and asked if the City would incur most cost for an annual license rather than a 90-day license.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan confirmed that there would be the potential for more enforcement if a truck is operating for a longer period of time.

Member Riley asked if the fee has been analyzed to ensure it is a cost driven fee.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan confirmed that staff did compare the costs from many other communities and that it was in the middle.

Member Wyingner stated that he is generally in favor of the draft ordinance as it provides businesses with the ability to have an easier path to have a food truck. He commented that often restaurant entrepreneurs begin with a food truck and as they have success, they take the step to open a restaurant. He asked if the fee could be discounted for businesses that are headquartered in Ramsey. He stated that would show the City supporting its local businesses.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan asked for clarification on whether the intent would be to have a discount for restaurants that have a brick-and-mortar location and food truck or for residents of Ramsey that own a food truck.

Member Wyingner replied that the policy refers to the home base and therefore he would intend to apply that for businesses that choose to have their headquarters/home base in Ramsey.

Chairperson Olson stated that he has a neighbor that has a food truck and would agree that it would be appropriate to offer a discount for those food truck businesses that are based in Ramsey.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan stated that a license for one year is \$250. He noted that a brick-and-mortar restaurant has taken the step to invest in that business to have a sit-down location and is paying taxes at that location, therefore he would be more likely to support a discount for that license compared to a home-based business.

Member MacLennan stated that the one-year license is very cheap and did not believe it needed to be discounted. He stated that if a truck is doing well, not everyone would spend the extra money to open a brick-and-mortar location and could instead buy another truck or two. He stated that if the intent is to attract restaurant in The COR, perhaps food trucks should not be allowed in that area.

Chairperson Olson commented that he did not think there is a huge risk in adopting this ordinance and believed it adds nice definition. He stated that if the city were to become overrun with food

trucks, they could make an amendment to address that. He stated that food trucks also offer service for weddings, graduations, and other celebrations.

Member Johnson agreed noting that she does not see many food trucks in the area in general. She stated that they could also ask food truck vendors what their thoughts would be on opening a brick-and-mortar location.

Member Stewart asked if the Anoka regulation only applies to the business district area or whether the food trucks are not allowed for residential events.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan was unsure if there were residential restrictions. He noted that in the review there was no license option and the only exception specified was for a special event like the food truck festival. He stated that the intent today was to solicit feedback as this will go through the Planning Commission and City Council. He referenced the comments of Member MacLennan and asked if he would suggest limiting the licenses to a certain number per year, noting that some communities only issue a certain number of licenses per year. He stated that can be tricky for businesses that want to bring in a food truck if the licenses are already procured. He noted that feedback will be solicited from businesses and residents over the next year if this is enacted and they can continue to monitor.

Member MacLennan stated that he does not have a problem with a business bringing in a food truck for its employees. He stated that he would have an issue with a food truck coming to The COR each day and parking in the same spot which could deter a restaurant from coming to Ramsey. He stated that perhaps there is a limitation on where the truck and be located or how many times within a period the truck could be located in a certain spot. He stated that he does like the health and safety requirements.

Member Johnson stated that this is pretty limited to the summer months as most food trucks are not roaming communities in the winter. He did not believe many people would frequent a truck in the winter.

Member MacLennan stated that there is a food truck located at Do All Printing year round.

It was noted that food truck only serves food on a seasonal basis.

Member Stewart commented that there are food trucks that run year-round, but in more walking orientated metro areas such as Minneapolis and Saint Paul.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan commented that sometimes locations become unavailable. He noted that Do All Printing is part of the property that will likely be acquired for the Highway 10 project. He noted that the food truck business is working to potentially relocate to a brick and mortar space in Sunfish Lake Commons. He stated that method of operation that has gone on for the past many years, would not be allowed under the draft ordinance.

Member Johnson stated that if a food truck is becoming more successful and would like to move to a brick-and-mortar space, perhaps there is something that could be done to help with that transition.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan reviewed some of the current incentives that could be utilized for a restaurant. He noted that staff is looking at additional policies that could also be used as an incentive. He stated that he will provide the minutes from this meeting in the Planning Commission packet to assist in that review.

Member Wiyninger stated that perhaps the distance from a business is considered, noting that 100 feet from a restaurant is not that far.

Member MacLennan stated that he is not totally against food trucks but want to ensure that restaurants are considered and protected as well.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan confirmed the consensus of the EDA to support the draft Mobile Food Truck Ordinance with additional consideration to proximity of restaurants.

## **5. MEMBER / STAFF UPDATE**

Economic Development Manager Sullivan provided an update on proposed and ongoing development activity.

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Member Wiyninger, seconded by Member Johnson, to adjourn the meeting.

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

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Authority adjourned at 8:35 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.*