

## UNAPPROVED

### COON RAPIDS CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION OF FEBRUARY 8, 2012

A work session of the Coon Rapids City Council was called to order by Mayor Tim Howe on Wednesday, February 8, 2012, at 6:15 p.m. in Conference Room #1 at Coon Rapids City Hall.

Members Present: Mayor Tim Howe, Councilmembers Denise Klint, Melissa Larson, Paul Johnson, Jerry Koch, Bruce Sanders

Members Absent: Councilmember Scott Schulte

Staff Present: City Manager Matt Fulton, Assistant City Manager Matt Stemwedel, City Engineer Doug Vierzba, City Clerk Cathy Sorensen

### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Howe called the work session to order at 6:15 p.m.

### 1. PROPOSED UNIVERSITY AVENUE UPGRADE PROJECT

City Engineer Doug Vierzba introduced Andy Witter, Jason Orcutt, and Matthew Parent of Anoka County, who presented information on the proposed University Avenue Upgrade Project. They shared that an open house will be held on Wednesday, February 15 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Blaine City Hall. He encouraged the Council and staff to direct questions from the public to Anoka County, adding they have been working hard on public relations and information sharing through their website and other ways to ensure good communication, especially during median closures.

Discussion was held on the potential warrants and locations of noise walls. Anoka County noted readings were conducted last fall to determine a need for noise walls, although they anticipate they will likely be needed.

Councilmember Johnson inquired if they have considered routes for funeral processions along University Avenue. Mr. Orcutt said they have met with all businesses along University Avenue and will continue to meet with them to address specific concerns such as this.

Councilmember Sanders inquired about pedestrian crossings. Mr. Witter said pedestrian crossings will be constructed at the signalized intersections.

Mayor Howe inquired about whether there will be sidewalks or trails included in this project. Mr. Witter said there will be trails created on both sides of the roadway.

City Manager Fulton encouraged the County to consider other weed control options for noise wall accents as they can be hard to maintain. He also inquired about the status of the Main Street project. Mr. Witter said they are on track for an August 2012 completion.

City Manager Fulton asked if the grade design for the Foley project will be completed by spring in order to install signage for The Harvest Grill. He also inquired about the status of their detour signs requested a couple months ago. Mr. Witter said he would follow up and respond.

Mayor Howe inquired about the status of the possibility of park passes being allowed for access to Bunker Hills during the construction period. City Manager Fulton said there have been casual discussions and that he will be following up with the County further. He encouraged the Council to bring up this topic at their upcoming Local Government Officials meeting.

Councilmember Klint asked about the possibility of directional signage at Egret Boulevard to help direct traffic.

## 2.    LAWFUL GAMBLING CONTRIBUTION TO COON RAPIDS COMMUNITY STRENGTH FOUNDATION

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City Manager Fulton explained the Council is asked to consider reallocation of monies from the 5% Contribution of Lawful Gambling fund to be given to the Coon Rapids Community Strength Foundation (CRCSF) for community events such as the Fourth of July firework display or any other community event as outlined in the Foundation's bylaws.

In 2009 the City started collecting a 5% contribution from all Lawful Gambling organizations. The ordinance went into effect July 21, 2009, so the City only collected for the 4th quarter of 2009. As of January 20, 2012, the City has a fund balance of \$38,624. Each year the amount will vary due to the contributions. In 2009, the amount was \$6,783.27; 2010 - \$20, 327.53; and as of 1/20/12 for 2011 - \$18,605.20 (still missing one check). In August of 2011, \$7,092 was taken from this fund for the Fireworks display that occurred in July 2011. Ordinance 2018 (July 21, 2009) outlines what the City can do with the contributions as defined in Minnesota statutes.

In the past, the City has helped fund the Fireworks Display through this account along with funds from The Lions, citizen donations, TC Gateway, and other organizations. With the formation of the new Coon Rapids Community Strength Foundation, their mission is to "To promote and enhance the quality of life in the City of Coon Rapids by supporting community celebrations and events." This would be an excellent opportunity to help fund this Foundation. The Council may want to allocate the entire 5% contribution to the Community Strength Foundation or just a portion and retain the balance for using on other projects deemed important to the Council.

Mayor Howe outlined the Foundation's mission and vision, adding this effort will help better promote the concert series, allow for donations to the high school all-night graduation party, and help offset the City budget.

City Manager Fulton noted if approved he would like to request funds from the Foundation for the upcoming Citizens Academy.

Mayor Howe said that once established they could possible reduce the proposed designation to something less. He added the Foundation has also submitted a request to the Coon Rapids Mortgage Assistance Foundation for designation of specific funds that could be used towards the proposed Police Department memorial fund. He said their hope is that this will expand City celebrations, adding annual reports will be shared with the Council.

Council consensus was to direct staff to bring forward for formal consideration their intent to annually contribute 90% of the revenues received from the 5% Charitable Contribution required to be made by local charitable gaming license holders as well as 90% of the annual community grant made by TCGateway to the Community Strength Foundation.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

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There was no other business.

**ADJOURN**

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Mayor Howe adjourned the work session at 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Sorensen  
City Clerk