

Memorandum

TO: City Council
FROM: Tom Wesolowski , Public Works Director
DATE: March 3, 2025
SUBJECT: Ramsey County GIS Users Group 2026-2030 Joint Powers Agreement
ITEM NUMBER: 8.f
SECTION: CONSENT AGENDA

REQUESTED MOTION

To authorize the mayor and city manager execute the renewal of a joint powers agreement between the city and members of the Ramsey County Geographic Information Systems Users Group.

INTRODUCTION

Since 1997, the city has participated in the Ramsey County Geographic Information Systems Users Group (RCGISUG) through a joint powers agreement. The group's goal has been to encourage organizations to work together to develop a means to share resources, data, and ideas for the establishment and maintenance of geographic information systems (GIS) within local units of government.

DISCUSSION

Participation in the RCGISUG enables the city to obtain digital representation of the Ramsey County parcel base map and associated attribute data from its taxation database. Since inception, the range of available digital information has been expanded to include representation of physical features, such as buildings, road edges, water bodies and contours. These data sets form the foundation for the city to accurately map and inventory municipal infrastructure, including sanitary and storm sewers, trails, streetlights, and water service.

The RCGISUG also provides a forum for municipalities and agencies located in Ramsey County to work together to enhance the GIS information and tools available to residents and local government.

The operational costs for the group are based on an annual budget adopted by the board and the costs are shared by the members of the group. For the last 10+ years the calculation to determine the members share of the annual costs has been based on the population served from the latest census population and it is likely population will continue to be used to calculate future annual fees. The city's annual cost for the last three years has been approximately \$2,710 and are expected to near remain near that amount for the term of the new agreement.

By continuing participation in the joint powers agreement, the city has access to other governmental agencies to obtain valuable information for land use analysis, development, mapping, parcel history, TIF districts, CIP projects, etc. The city also has access to aerial color

photos and physical features that are updated every 2 years out of the user group's budget. The Users Group also provides licensing to the Pictometry software, providing oblique aerial photographs of the city and NearMap, which provides more frequent aerial data with flights 2-3 times a year.

The existing joint powers agreement (JPA) expires on December 31, 2025. The new JPA will be effective January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 and is essentially the same as the previous agreement. A copy of the new agreement is attached at the end of this report.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the city council authorize the mayor and city manager to authorize the renewal and execution of the joint powers agreement between the city and the members of the Ramsey County Geographic Information Systems Users Group.

ATTACHMENTS

[RCGISUG JPA 2026-2030](#)