

Councilmember Kuzma introduced the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

RESOLUTION #17-02-047

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT POLLINATOR INITIATIVES IN THE CITY OF RAMSEY AND TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO TAKE THE MAYORS FOR MONARCHS PLEDGE ON BEHALF OF THE CITY

WHEREAS, the City of Ramsey is dedicated to promoting and maintaining a healthy urban and natural environment today and in the future; and

WHEREAS, pollinating insects, such as bees, butterflies, moths, flies, and others are integral to a healthy ecosystem and to a wide diversity of essential foods, including fruits, nuts, and vegetables; and

WHEREAS, many pollinators, including native bees and the iconic monarch butterfly, are threatened by the loss of natural flowering habitat, pesticide use, pathogens, and parasites; and

WHEREAS, the North American monarch population has declined by more than 90% over the past two decades; and

WHEREAS, cities, towns, and counties can play a critical role in helping protect pollinators by multiple actions including providing pollinator habitat in public parks, along roadways and/or in median strips, at community gardens and municipal buildings; and

WHEREAS, residents and businesses of the City of Ramsey can also make a difference by planting native milkweed and nectar plants to provide habitat and food for monarchs and other pollinators in locations where people live, work, learn and play; and

WHEREAS, restoring pollinator habitat will contribute to a clean environment, one of the Strategic Imperatives of Ramsey's Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ramsey has recently completed a sustainable landscape project that incorporated native milkweed into the planting plan and worked with Ramsey Elementary School to assist with a pollinator friendly planting project on their campus; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ramsey has taken steps to eliminate barriers for residents and businesses to establish landscapes with native grasses and wildflowers to create new pollinator habitat and to promote water conservation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ramsey has amended its ordinances providing a more streamlined process for homeowners desiring to undertake hobby beekeeping on the properties; and

WHEREAS, the use of pesticides for control of harmful pests sometimes has unintended consequences against beneficial insects such as bees and butterflies, including monarchs, and the insect predators, which are often pollinators as well; and

WHEREAS, there has been increased scrutiny specifically on the link between a class of pesticides commonly used that contain neonicotinoids and a decline in pollinators;

WHEREAS, the City of Ramsey is aware of the concerns associated with the use of neonicotinoids and is consciously working to ensure they are not used on public lands; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ramsey wants to do its part in restoring the population of pollinators in general and the monarch butterfly in particular.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RAMSEY, ANOKA COUNTY, STATE OF MINNESOTA, as follows:

- 1) That the Ramsey City Council hereby supports the Mayors for Monarchs program and supports the Mayor in taking the Mayors for Monarchs Pledge.
- 2) That the Ramsey City Council hereby supports pollinator friendly initiatives on public lands such as eliminating the use of neonicotinoid products; sourcing plant material and trees from nurseries that do not use neonicotinoids or other pesticides proven to be harmful to pollinators; and over-seeding unused or little used turf areas in parks with more pollinator beneficial plants such as clover.
- 3) That the Ramsey City Council hereby supports efforts to communicate to the public the importance of protecting pollinators and to encourage property owners, both residential and commercial, to be more conscious of pollinator stewardship practices on their properties.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Councilmember Johns, and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

Mayor Strommen
Councilmember Kuzma
Councilmember Johns
Councilmember LeTourneau
Councilmember Riley
Councilmember Shryock
Councilmember Williams

and the following voted against the same:

None

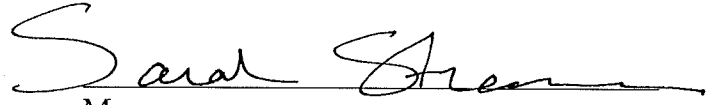
and the following abstained:

None

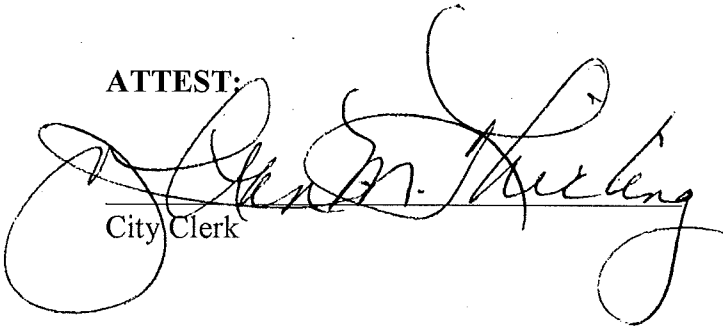
and the following were absent:

None

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted by the Ramsey City Council this the 14th day of February, 2017.


Mayor

ATTEST:


City Clerk