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**CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF RAMSEY
ANOKA COUNTY
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

The Ramsey City Council conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, November 26, 2019, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Mayor John LeTourneau
Councilmember Nadine Heinrich
Councilmember Mark Kuzma
Councilmember Jeff Menth
Councilmember Debra Musgrove
Councilmember Chris Riley
Councilmember Dan Specht

Members Absent: None

Also Present: City Administrator Kurtis Ulrich
Finance Director Diana Lund
Fire Chief Matt Kohner
Police Captain Brad Bluml
Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Mark Riverblood
Administrative Services Director Colleen Lasher
Community Development Director Timothy Gladhill
City Engineer Bruce Westby
Economic Development Manager Sean Sullivan
City Attorney Joe Langel

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor LeTourneau called the regular meeting of the Ramsey City Council to order at 7:05 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor LeTourneau.

2. PRESENTATION

2.01: Swearing In Ceremony for Councilmember Dan Specht

Mayor LeTourneau administered the Oath of Office to Councilmember Specht.

Mayor LeTourneau welcomed Councilmember Specht, noting that the City is excited to have a full Council.

2.02: Charitable Donation to the Fire Department Food Drive Event

Fire Chief Kohner Director introduced Tommy Cherup, the Executive Director of Emergency Services for 1-800-BoardUp.

Tommy Cherup, 1-800-BoardUp, noted that the company is based in Ramsey and participates in a program to serve others, which allows those people to pay it forward. He stated that each year the company completes a food drive, where they purchase food and donate it to a local food shelf. He stated that each year the company chooses a fire department that does a lot for its community outside of fire protection service. He stated that Ramsey Fire does an excellent job of going above providing fire service. He presented Ramsey Fire with a check for \$5,000 that can be donated. He presented the donation to Mayor LeTourneau.

Mayor LeTourneau stated that he did attend the food purchase event at Coburn's, which was a fun event with great energy. He stated that it was exciting to see food being purchased to be donated to such a great cause. He thanked 1-800-BoardUp for being such a great partner to the community.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Menth, seconded by Councilmember Heinrich, to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Mayor LeTourneau, Councilmembers Menth, Heinrich, Kuzma, Musgrove, Riley, and Specht. Voting No: None.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Kuzma, seconded by Councilmember Riley, to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- 4.01: Receive October 2019 Financial Reports – General Fund and Enterprise Funds
- 4.02: Receive Cash and Investments for Period Ending October 31, 2019
- 4.03: Note the Following Boards and Commissions Meeting Minutes:
 - Environmental Policy Board Meeting Minutes dated September 16, 2019
 - Planning Commission Meeting Minutes dated October 3, 2019
 - Economic Development Authority Meeting Minutes dated October 10, 2019
 - Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes dated October 10, 2019
- 4.04: Schedule Public Hearing to Consider Adoption of 2020-2029 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
- 4.05: Approve the following Meeting Minutes:
 - 1) City Council Special Meeting Canvassing Board dated November 12, 2019
 - 2) City Council Work Session dated November 12, 2019
 - 3) City Council Regular dated November 12, 2019
- 4.06: Approve Rental Licenses
- 4.07: Adopt Resolution #19-280 Approving Cash Disbursements Made and Authorizing Payment of Accounts Payable Invoicing Received During the Period of November 7, 2019 through November 20, 2019

- 4.08: Adopt Resolution #19-261 Establishing Precinct and Polling Locations for 2020 Election Year
- 4.09: Adopt Resolution #19-278 Not Waiving Statutory Tort Limits
- 4.10: Adopt Resolution #19-283 Accepting Cash Donations of \$5,000 from 1-800-Boardup to be Applied Toward the Ramsey Fire Department

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Mayor LeTourneau, Councilmembers Kuzma, Riley, Heinrich, Menth, Musgrove, and Specht. Voting No: None.

5. CITIZEN INPUT

None.

6. PUBLIC HEARING

6.01: Public Hearing to Consider Amending Chapter 4 of the City's Charter (Nominations and Elections) and Introduce Ordinance #19-15: An Ordinance Amending the City Charter by Repealing and Replacing Chapter 4 – Nominations and Elections

Presentation

City Attorney Langel reviewed the staff report, highlighting the proposed changes, and the recommendation to adopt the ordinance as drafted by the Charter Commission and himself.

Public Hearing

Mayor LeTourneau called the public hearing to order at 7:24 p.m.

Citizen Input

There was none.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Musgrove, to close the public hearing.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Mayor LeTourneau, Councilmembers Riley, Musgrove, Heinrich, Kuzma, Menth, and Specht. Voting No: None.

The public hearing was closed at 7:25 p.m.

Council Business

Councilmember Specht commented that there was good discussion from the Charter Commission. He stated that he appreciates the cost savings of not holding primaries. He asked

what would happen in the case that there are ten candidates and whether there would be enough votes to elect one person.

Councilmember Heinrich thanked the Charter Commission and City Attorney Langel for their work to cleanup this chapter of the Charter to become more consistent with State law.

Councilmember Riley thanked the Charter Commission, noting that it appears that the Commission made good decisions that will benefit the City. He noted that the Council has not been full for multiple years because of the requirements for special elections. He commented that as someone that has been a part of primaries in the past, he appreciates the cost savings and elimination of that requirement.

Councilmember Menth asked for details on appointments to the Council and the procedure that would be followed.

City Attorney Langel stated that the Charter does not identify the nomination, noting that the appointment process is not controlled by State law and is instead controlled by the Council. He noted that as someone that represents multiple City Councils, there is not just one way that is completed. He stated that it will be up to the City Council to determine how to complete that process.

Councilmember Musgrove stated that she attended Charter Commission meetings and thanked the Commission for their thorough discussion and work on this topic. She commended City Attorney Langel for his work in drafting the new language and asked for input on how the City Clerk will interpret some of this language, specifically 4.5.1.

City Attorney Langel stated that the City Clerk is the Election Official for the City and the City Clerk was present at all the meetings of the Charter Commission. He confirmed that it would be the job of the City Clerk to interpret the language. He explained that there is not much interpretation of City staff but more the decision of the City Council as to which option they would proceed with when a vacancy occurs.

Councilmember Kuzma stated that while he appreciates the work of the Charter Commission and City Attorney Langel, he feels that this decision is rushed and would like to see this item come back to the City Council in worksession, which would allow additional time to digest the information.

Motion by Councilmember Kuzma to table Ordinance #19-15 amending the City Charter by repealing and replacing Chapter 4 – Nominations and Elections. The motion failed for lack of second.

City Attorney Langel reminded the Council of the statutory timing, noting that the City does not have much choice in the timing. He stated that within one month of the public hearing, the Council must vote on the ordinance. He noted that if that timeline is not met, the ordinance would die.

Councilmember Kuzma asked if this could return to the December 10th meeting.

City Attorney Langel confirmed that would fall within the required timeline.

City Administrator Ulrich stated that December 10th is the final meeting of the City Council for the year and therefore an introduction would need to be completed along with the final adoption within the 30 days following the public hearing.

City Attorney Langel stated that if unanimous vote of the Council is not secured, the Charter Commission would need to recommend this action to the City Council again in order for the Council to consider this again.

Mayor LeTourneau stated that he is appreciative of the comments from Councilmember Kuzma and is also appreciative of the work of the Charter Commission. He noted that after reading the information presented, he also had questions. He stated that amending the Charter is a big decision and should warrant additional time for review and discussion. He stated that he also shared the concern with a situation in which 10 candidates run and there is no primary. He stated that he would like to hear more information before making a decision.

City Administrator Ulrich explained that a State law change would be needed in order to allow an exemption to the timelines identified for elections, specifically to fill vacant Council seats.

Councilmember Specht stated that he does support the changes and would vote in support tonight. He noted that his comments were simply meant for discussion.

City Administrator Ulrich noted that the introduction and adoption are separate actions. He explained that if the introduction is approved tonight, that would still allow additional time for review and discussion prior to the adoption being brought forward at the December 10th meeting.

Councilmember Kuzma stated that he would not be willing to support the action tonight.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if Councilmember Kuzma would support the introduction of the ordinance tonight.

Councilmember Kuzma stated that he feels additional time is needed for review and consideration.

City Administrator Ulrich clarified that if the introduction is passed tonight, the final adoption would be scheduled for December 10th. He confirmed that would allow additional time for review prior to the next meeting and additional discussions to occur on December 10th.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if this item could then appear on the December 10th worksession agenda.

City Administrator Ulrich noted that legislators have been invited to the December 10th meeting along with appointments to Boards and Commissions, which will take the majority of the time.

He stated that the length of the worksession could be amended to allocate additional time if desired.

Councilmember Kuzma stated that he believes that this could be delayed and reintroduced in February when the Charter Commission meets again and can recommend this again to the Council.

Councilmember Heinrich stated that the Charter Commission has been meeting on this topic and the Council is able to attend those meetings and provide feedback. She stated that this information was emailed to the Council the previous week and felt that there was sufficient time to review the materials and make an educated decision.

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Heinrich, to introduce Ordinance #19-15 amending the City Charter by repealing and replacing Chapter 4 – Nominations and Elections.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Mayor LeTourneau, Councilmembers Musgrove, Heinrich, Riley, and Specht. Voting No: Councilmember Kuzma and Menth.

City Attorney Langel provided additional details on the Statute requirements. He noted that the introduction vote is not required to be unanimous and therefore the introduction was passed. He clarified that a unanimous vote will be required to enact the ordinance at the next reading.

Councilmember Riley suggested that this topic be made a priority during the December 10th worksession as it is important that the Council is able to reach a unanimous vote at the next meeting.

City Administrator Ulrich confirmed that could be done. He encouraged the Council to reach out with specific questions prior to the worksession so that staff can be prepared. He stated that members of the Charter Commission could also be invited to attend if that would be helpful.

6.02: Public Hearing: Adopt Ordinance #19-14 Adopting the 2020 Schedule of Rates, Fees and Charges

Presentation

Finance Director Lund reviewed the staff report and recommendation to accept the rates as proposed, hold all rates constant with 2019 rates and recommend any changes that may arise from input during the public hearing. She recommended adoption of the ordinance.

Public Hearing

Mayor LeTourneau called the public hearing to order at 7:51 p.m.

Citizen Input

There was none.

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Menth, to close the public hearing.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Mayor LeTourneau, Councilmembers Musgrove, Menth, Heinrich, Kuzma, Riley, and Specht. Voting No: None.

The public hearing was closed at 7:52 p.m.

Council Business

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Musgrove, to waive the City Charter requirement to read the Ordinance aloud and Adopt Ordinance #19-14 Establishing Permit Fees, Service Charges, and Various Other Fees to be Collected by the City of Ramsey.

A roll call vote was performed by the Recording Secretary:

Councilmember Musgrove	aye
Councilmember Specht	aye
Councilmember Riley	aye
Councilmember Menth	aye
Councilmember Kuzma	aye
Councilmember Heinrich	aye
Mayor LeTourneau	aye

Motion carried.

7. COUNCIL BUSINESS

7.01: Adopt Resolution #19-277 Approving Purchase Agreement for Part of Outlot A, COR Stone Brook Academy; Case of GiGi's Salon and Spa, Inc. (Portions may be closed to the public)

Economic Development Manager Sullivan reviewed the staff report and recommendation from the EDA to approve the resolution and purchase agreement as proposed.

Councilmember Specht asked if this is the same area there was preliminary discussion regarding a hotel.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan confirmed this is the same area and noted that there would still be sufficient area between this development and Stone Brook for the hotel should that move forward.

Councilmember Riley stated that the EDA discussed this proposal and recommended approval. He stated that this is a current Ramsey business that is proposing to buy land within The COR for expansion.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Kuzma, to Adopt Resolution #19-277 Approving Purchase Agreement for Outlot A, COR Stone Brook Academy, subject to City Attorney review and approval.

Further discussion: Mayor LeTourneau appreciated the work and recommendation of the EDA. He noted that the asking price falls within the City's approved deal range, which is also important. He stated that he is thrilled to see the expansion of a Ramsey business and a standalone business development in The COR, which can help to spur additional development.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Mayor LeTourneau, Councilmembers Riley, Kuzma, Heinrich, Menth, Musgrove, and Specht. Voting No: None.

7.02: Adopt Resolution #19-272 Approving New/Extended Purchase Agreement for Lot 1, Block 1, Anderson Dahlen South Addition; Case of Knoll Properties LLC

Economic Development Manager Sullivan reviewed the staff report and recommendation from the EDA to approve the resolution and purchase agreement as proposed.

Councilmember Musgrove asked for background information on other cases that may have requested an extension in the past and whether a new purchase agreement was required.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan stated that the previous purchase agreement was defunct and therefore a new purchase agreement was needed. He noted that this is a very short period of time for an extension. He stated that because the extension period is short it was deemed to keep the purchase price and earnest money at the same amounts.

Motion by Councilmember Kuzma, seconded by Councilmember Riley, to Adopt Resolution #19-272 Approving Purchase Agreement for Lot 1, Block 1, Anderson Dahlen South Addition, subject to City Attorney review and approval.

Further discussion: Mayor LeTourneau commented that Anderson Dahlen has been a great partner to the community and their long-term vision for the future is exciting. He stated that he is excited that this process will continue to move forward and hopes that the business is able to overcome its obstacles. Councilmember Menth thanked City staff for working hard to keep this moving forward.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Mayor LeTourneau, Councilmembers Kuzma, Riley, Heinrich, Menth, Musgrove, and Specht. Voting No: None.

8. MAYOR, COUNCIL AND STAFF INPUT

City Administrator Ulrich announced upcoming meetings and events.

Councilmember Specht invited members of the public to visit PACT Charter School on December 14th for its annual robotics tournament.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Menth, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the City Council adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurtis G. Ulrich
City Administrator

ATTEST:

Katie M. Schmidt
Administrative Assistant

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.

A recording of this meeting is available for viewing online at www.qctv.org
<<http://www.qctv.org>>. Recordings are available for 36 months after the date of the meeting.