

**CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL WORK SESSION
CITY OF RAMSEY
ANOKA COUNTY
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

The Ramsey City Council conducted a City Council Work Session on Tuesday, May 5, 2020, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota. Meeting by telephone or other electronic means in accordance with Minnesota Statute 13D.021.

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

Also Present: City Administrator Kurtis Ulrich
Administrative Services Director Colleen Lasher
IT Manager Jason Fredrickson

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor LeTourneau called the City Council Work Session to order at 5:30 p.m.

City Administrator Ulrich read a statement related to the COVID-19 pandemic and local state of emergency. In declaring this Local State of Emergency, the City of Ramsey has determined that in person meetings and meetings conducted under Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.02 are not practical or prudent because of the declared health pandemic emergency.

2. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

2.01: City Board and Commission Interviews

Administrative Services Director Lasher stated that there are eight candidates to interview for four vacancies on the various City Boards and Commissions. She advised that there are currently zero vacancies on the Planning Commission and confirmed that she would make a statement to the applicants to that effect.

The Council conducted interviews of the candidates for various vacant positions on different City Boards and Commissions, asking the same questions of each applicant.

Administrative Services Director Lasher advised that there is one vacancy on the Economic Development Authority, one vacancy on the Environmental Policy Board, one full-term vacancy on the Park and Recreation Commission and one partial term on the Park and Recreation Commission.

Councilmember Musgrove proposed that Ryan be seated on the EDA as he was a great candidate for that role.

Councilmember Heinrich stated that Ryan was a strong candidate for EDA with her as well.

Councilmember Specht echoed the comments that Ryan stood out as the strongest candidate for the EDA.

Councilmember Menth also agreed that Ryan is the strongest candidate for the EDA.

Councilmember Riley stated that he had Scott rated higher for the EDA with Ryan as the second candidate.

Councilmember Kuzma agreed that he had Scott as the highest for the EDA with Ryan as the second.

Councilmember Musgrove commented that there was one candidate that preferred the EPB but noted that candidate has only lived in Ramsey for eight months.

Councilmember Heinrich stated that although Michelle indicated EPB as her first choice, she was also hesitant because of the short length of time she has lived in Ramsey. She stated that she liked Matthew for the EPB.

Councilmember Menth suggested that the Park Commission vacancies be filled first and then circle back to EPB. He recommended Jared and Matthew for the vacancies on Parks.

Councilmember Specht stated that he agrees that Matthew would be a great fit for the EPB and for Parks he would recommend Jared and Amy.

Councilmember Riley commented that Matthew was a strong candidate and therefore he would like to see him placed, whether that be on EPB or the Park Commission. He stated that his next candidate for Parks would be Justin.

Councilmember Heinrich commented that she also had Justin listed for Parks, as he seems willing to do the work and is engaged. She stated that her second choice for Parks would be Amy, as she had unique ideas for collaboration in terms of recreation.

Councilmember Kuzma stated that for Parks he would choose Jared and Matthew. He stated that for the EPB he recommended Amy.

Councilmember Musgrove stated that for Parks she likes Justin as he may bring a new level of creativity in terms of community engagement. She stated that she would also select Amy for Parks, as it seems that she has some ideas for program development.

Councilmember Specht stated that he selected Justin and Amy for Parks. He believed that Matthew would be a good fit for the EPB.

Councilmember Musgrove commented that Matthew would be a good alternate for the EPB because of his experience with forestry and believed Michelle would be a good fit.

Councilmember Riley stated that he would not support Michelle for a position. He commented that he believes that Matthew will be successful in any placement, whether that is Parks or EPB.

Councilmember Heinrich stated that Matthew is a strong candidate but wondered if there would be a conflict of interest with the Parks Commission because of his employment with Three Rivers Park District and therefore found him to be better with the EPB.

Mayor LeTourneau stated that he would see that connection as a benefit. He commented that he would select Jared and Matthew for Parks.

Administrative Services Director Lasher summarized the discussion of the Council thus far with Jared, Matthew, Amy, and Justin for the Parks Commission and reviewed the vote tallies.

The consensus of the Council was to select Matthew for the partial term and Justin for the full term for the vacancies on the Park Commission.

The consensus of the Council was to select Jared for the EPB.

The consensus of the Council was to select Ryan for the EDA.

Councilmember Musgrove commented that she believes that Amy is a strong candidate and perhaps could be considered if someone declines their potential appointment to Parks or EPB.

City Administrator Ulrich confirmed that it is helpful to have an alternate and confirmed the consensus of the Council with that direction.

Councilmember Riley stated that there is turnover on the Boards and Commissions and therefore there is additional opportunity for others in the future.

3. ADJOURNMENT

The Work Session of the City Council was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurtis G. Ulrich
City Administrator

ATTEST:

Katie M. Schmidt
Administrative Assistant

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.