

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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a City Council Special Work Session on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Mayor Mark Kuzma
Councilmember Ryan Heineman
Councilmember Chelsee Howell
Councilmember Debra Musgrove
Councilmember Chris Riley
Councilmember Dan Specht
Councilmember Matt Woestehoff

Also Present: City Administrator Kurtis Ulrich
Administrative Services Director Colleen Lasher
Deputy City Administrator Timothy Gladhill

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kuzma called the City Council Work Session to order at 6:11 p.m.

2. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

2.01: City Board and Commission Interviews

Administrative Services Director Lasher provided background information on the interview process the Council completes annually to fill vacant Board and Commission positions. She stated that the seats will officially be filled at the first regular meeting in April. She stated that there are currently nine applicants for the seven vacant positions. She provided background information on the process the City follows for reappointments of existing members. She noted that it has been the practice of the City to ask members if they are interested in continuing to serve and then a recommendation is made from that Board/Commission Chair as to whether that person should continue to serve.

The Council will ask the same set of questions to each of the nine applicants.

Administrative Services Director Lasher noted that a term is expiring on the EPB and advised the Council to add a place. She asked the Council to first consider the incumbents.

Councilmember Woestehoff asked if Ms. Fetterley and Ms. Moore are active members of a Board at this time.

Administrative Services Director Lasher confirmed that they are both active members of a Board at this time, but City policy does allow for someone to serve on more than one Board or Commission. She read an excerpt from resolution #89-11-302 stating it is the policy of the Ramsey City Council to avoid appointing individuals to more than one Board or Commission unless adequate representation cannot be accomplished or it is clearly in the best interest of the City of Ramsey to make such appointments to multiple Boards or Commissions. See addendum A.

Councilmember Riley stated that he would not want to appoint someone to more than one Board unless there is a reason to do so.

Councilmember Musgrove agreed that she would not want to appoint someone to more than one Board or Commission.

Councilmember Riley noted that there are three people that have the experience of serving and have indicated that they would like to continue to serve and therefore recommended that those three members be reappointed.

Councilmember Howell commented that she could support the reappointments to the Planning Commission and EPB but would like to see a different candidate for the Park & Recreation Commission.

Commissioner Woestehoff disagreed and commented that the experience that someone gains from serving on a Commission is beneficial. He agreed that there is a qualified pool of candidates but believed the candidate suggested by Councilmember Howell for the Park & Recreation Commission could be a better fit on the Planning Commission.

Councilmember Musgrove commented that there is a talented pool of candidates to choose from.

Councilmember Heineman asked for input from the Council related to the EPB and EDA appointments.

Councilmember Woestehoff noted a potential conflict of interest for one of the EDA candidates.

Councilmember Howell commented that she did not see that as a conflict and would be fine appointing the three candidates that listed EDA as their first choice.

Councilmember Musgrove commented that people have shown that they can be parts of different Boards and show leadership. She stated that the candidate is willing to step up and even though he lost a recent election, she did not see that as a conflict of interest and believed there would be a benefit to having the candidate serve on the EDA.

Councilmember Specht commented that he supports the reappointment of the EPB member. He commented that the three people interested in the EDA would each bring their own perspective and did not see a conflict for the one candidate being discussed.

Councilmember Musgrove commented on the length of the different terms and suggested Michael for the two-year term, Rachal for the three-year term and Will for the six-year term on the EDA.

Councilmember Woestehoff stated that he would support that but suggested placing Will in the three-year term and Rachal in the six-year term.

Councilmember Musgrove commented that she would stand with her recommendation on terms.

Councilmember Heineman agreed with the reappointment to the EPB. He stated that he agrees that Will should have the six-year term, Rachal for the three-year term and Michael for the two-year term on the EDA.

Councilmember Riley commented that there is a history of people not fulfilling the full EDA terms, therefore there is turnover on that group.

Mayor Kuzma confirmed the consensus of the Council to support the reappointment of the EPB member and for the EDA to appoint Michael to the two-year term, Rachal to the three-year term and Will to the six-year term.

Councilmember Riley asked if the Council supports the reappointment suggested for the Planning Commission and confirmed the consensus of the Council to reappoint Ms. Gengler to a four-year term.

Councilmember Riley suggested reappointing Ms. Leistico to the Park & Recreation Commission and liked Ms. Moore for the Parks & Recreation Commission. He recognized his earlier comment that he would prefer not to have someone serving on multiple Boards.

Councilmember Heineman noted that Ms. Moore also serves on the Charter Commission, so if appointed to the Park & Recreation Commission she would serve on three different Commissions. He stated that he did like Ms. Moore for the position but would not want to deny someone the opportunity to serve to support someone to serve on multiple Commissions.

Councilmember Riley stated that he would suggest moving Ms. Moore from the EPB to serve on the Park & Recreation Commission.

Councilmember Musgrove noted that Ms. Moore stated that she did not want to be taken off the EPB. She stated that she would then prefer to choose a different candidate and provide them the opportunity to serve.

Councilmember Howell stated that perhaps the EPB and Park & Recreation Commission could work more closely together on some issues rather than appointing Ms. Moore to the Park & Recreation Commission.

Administrative Services Director Lasher commented that Ms. Moore's term on the EPB expires in one year.

Councilmember Specht commented that he was impressed with the candidates for the Park & Recreation Commission. He stated that he tended to favor Jeffrey and Brian.

Councilmember Heineman commented that he was also impressed with Dean and his experience related to parks.

Councilmember Howell agreed that she liked Dean for the Park & Recreation Commission.

Mayor Kuzma asked if there is consensus to reappoint Ms. Leistico to the Park & Recreation Commission.

Councilmember Musgrove stated that there are three qualified candidates and therefore she would be open to appointing new members. She stated that she would like Dean, Brian, and Jeff for the positions.

Mayor Kuzma commented that the Chair of the Park Commission has recommended reappointed therefore he tends to support that.

Councilmember Woestehoff agreed that there are qualified candidates for the positions. He stated that he would find Jeff's skills to fall more under public works than the Park & Recreation Commission. He stated that he would find Brian to be a better fit for the Planning Commission. He suggested that Ms. Gengler, Brian, and Andrew would be a good fit for the Planning Commission with Dean, Jeff, and Ms. Moore for the Park & Recreation Commission.

Commissioner Heineman asked if Ms. Leistico currently serves on any other Boards.

Administrative Services Director Lasher replied that Ms. Leistico serves on the Park & Recreation Commission and the Charter Commission.

Councilmember Musgrove commented that there has never been a member up for reappointment that has not been recommended for reappointment by the Chair, therefore she takes that recommendation with a grain of salt.

Mayor Kuzma commented that there has been an instance where the Chair has not recommended reappointment of a member.

Councilmember Riley commented that Ms. Leistico has been an active member of the Park & Recreation Commission and wants to continue to serve and therefore does not see a reason the Council would consider removing her.

Mayor Kuzma stated that he would also recommend reappointment of Ms. Leistico.

Councilmember Woestehoff agreed with Mayor Kuzma and Councilmember Riley.

Councilmember Musgrove stated that she would prefer Dean, Brian, and Jeff.

Councilmember Howell agreed with Dean, Brian, and Jeff.

Councilmember Specht agreed with Dean, Brian, and Jeff.

Councilmember Heineman asked if there was a reason Ms. Leistico was not interviewed.

Administrative Services Director Lasher stated that it is against City policy to have an incumbent appear for an interview.

Councilmember Musgrove stated that she was not aware of that and suggested that perhaps the Council discuss that policy in the future.

Mayor Kuzma recognized the time Ms. Leistico has spent volunteering and her continued interest and suggested keeping her on the Commission and appointing two candidates to the other positions. He noted that people fall off of Boards and Commissions and someone could be appointed in the future.

Councilmember Heineman stated that he does not want applicants to feel that they are a shoe in simply because they have served in the past. He stated that he could support reappointing Ms. Leistico and appointing Brian and Dean. He stated that in the future it would be wise to interview incumbents to create an equal playing field.

Councilmember Riley commented that he believes that Brian would be a better fit for the Planning Commission.

Councilmember Woestehoff agreed that Brian would be a better fit for the Planning Commission. He stated that he did appreciate the passion Ms. Moore had for parks. He stated that he could support Dean and Jeff or Dean and Ms. Moore for the Park & Recreation Commission. He noted that perhaps Ms. Moore is moved to the Park & Recreation Commission and Jeff is placed on EPB.

Councilmember Musgrove commented that Ms. Moore is a great fit for the Charter Commission and while she likes her enthusiasm there are other qualified candidates. She stated that she would feel better about moving the appointment if Ms. Moore stated that she would support that.

Mayor Kuzma confirmed the consensus of the Council to support the reappointment of Ms. Leistico to a four-year term and then appoint Dean to the four-year term and Brian to the two-year term.

Councilmember Riley commented that he listed Andrew and Melissa for the Planning Commission.

Councilmember Howell stated that she would put Brian and Andrew on the Planning Commission. She noted that Brian would receive the two-year terms on each Commission.

Councilmember Woestehoff stated that if the desire is to have more people involved, he would put Jeff on the Park Commission and Brian on the Planning Commission.

Mayor Kuzma commented that there are more people that want to be involved.

Councilmember Heineman commented that if either Brian or Melissa are chosen it would place someone on two Boards.

Councilmember Woestehoff stated that is why he would suggest placing Jeff on the Park & Recreation Commission and Brian on the Planning Commission.

Councilmember Heineman commented that if someone is going to be placed on two Boards, he would support Brian.

Councilmember Riley commented that he does not want to put someone on two Boards and forgot that Melissa already serves on the EPB, therefore he would not appoint her to the Planning Commission.

Mayor Kuzma commented that he liked the suggestion of placing Jeff on the Park & Recreation Commission and Brian on the Planning Commission.

Councilmember Specht commented that Brian has unique skills for the parks which would make that a good fit, but also believed he would be a good fit for planning as well. He stated that while he agrees he does not want to see people on multiple groups, Brian may be the exception that he could support.

Councilmember Musgrove commented that the policy states that qualified residents can serve on multiple Boards. She stated that could support having Brian on the Planning Commission as well because of the unique perspective that he brings. She also recommended Jeff as the alternate to the Park & Recreation Commission should someone decline their appointment.

Councilmember Heineman stated that for Planning Commission he would recommend Ms. Gengler, Andrew, and Brian.

Mayor Kuzma confirmed the consensus of the Council to support Ms. Gengler, Andrew, and Brian for the Planning Commission.

Councilmember Woestehoff stated that he supports Brian on planning but would prefer to have Jeff on parks and avoid placing Brian on two commissions.

Councilmember Howell commented that Brian has a skillset for both commissions.

Mayor Kuzma noted that while there is not full support, there is consensus to place Brian on both the Planning Commission and Park & Recreation Commission. He stated that if Brian were to decline the Park & Recreation Commission position, Jeff could be appointed.

Administrative Services Director Lasher reviewed the recommended appointments of the Council for the EPB, Park & Recreation Commission, Planning Commission and EDA.

Councilmember Musgrove commented on the great pool of candidates.

Councilmember Riley commented that it seemed there were more candidates this year and asked if the City did anything different to recruit potential candidates.

Administrative Services Director Lasher commented that the process began earlier because of the vacant positions on the EDA.

Councilmember Riley commented that going forward he would support including current members up for reappointment in the interviews. He stated that he would not want to appoint someone to multiple Boards or Commissions in the future. He noted that if someone that is currently serving on a Board would like to apply for another Board, he would like to see that person say that they would resign from their current position to change appointments.

Councilmember Musgrove stated that she would also support changing that policy.

Mayor Kuzma agreed that would make sense.

Administrative Services Director Lasher commented that this year there was a great pool of candidates but that is not always the case. She stated that the policy provides the Council flexibility, but it does not mean the Council must consider someone for multiple positions. She provided background on the feedback that has been received from existing Board and Commission members related to interviews.

Councilmember Musgrove commented that it helps the Council to make decisions if they are able to hear from the existing members seeking reappointment.

Councilmember Heineman commented that the Council should weigh whether it wants to have candidates on multiple Boards but agreed he would not want to change the policy. He stated that he would prefer to have existing members seeking reappointment involved in the interviews going forward.

City Administrator Ulrich asked if staff could extend the Planning Commission opportunity to Jeff if Brian were to decline the position.

Councilmember Musgrove commented that the consensus of the Council was to extend that position to Melissa if Brian declines.

3. ADJOURNMENT

The Work Session of the City Council was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurtis G. Ulrich
City Administrator

ATTEST:

Katie M. Schmidt
Deputy City Clerk

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.

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

RESOLUTION #89-11-302

RESOLUTION APPROVING POLICY GOVERNING APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS IN THE CITY OF RAMSEY

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the City Council to encourage the involvement of the largest number of people in the local government process; and

WHEREAS, individuals serving on multiple Boards or Commissions may have greater influence over the policies of the City; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the City Council to appoint members to Boards and Commissions which adequately represent the residents of the City of Ramsey.

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

1) That it is the policy of the City Council to avoid appointing individuals to more than one Board or Commission unless adequate representation cannot be accomplished or it is clearly in the best interest of the City of Ramsey to make such appointments to multiple Boards or Commissions.

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

- Councilmember Peterson
- Councilmember Cich
- Councilmember DeLuca
- Councilmember Pearson

and the following voted against the same:

None

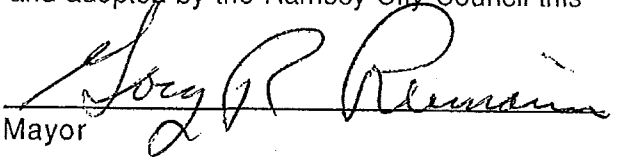
and the following abstained:

None

and the following were absent:

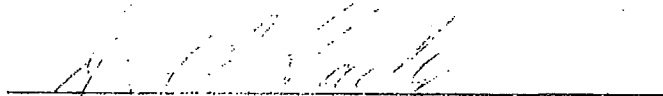
Mayor Reinmann

whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted by the Ramsey City Council this the 14th day of November, 1989.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Administrator