

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. CALL TO ORDER ..... 2

2. PRESENTATION ..... 2

3. CITIZEN INPUT ..... 2

4. APPROVE AGENDA ..... 2

5. CONSENT AGENDA ..... 3

6. PUBLIC HEARING ..... 3

    6.01 Adopt Resolution #21-309 and Introduce Ordinance #21-23 Approving Preliminary Plat for Trott Brook Crossing; Case of Sotarra ..... 3

7. COUNCIL BUSINESS ..... 16

    7.01: Consider Density Transitioning Options for North Brook Meadows (Project No. 21-131); Case of Platinum Land LLC ..... 16

    7.02: Adopt Resolution #21-219 Granting a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) and Declaring Terms Agreement at 7127 Highway 10 NW; Case of Ron Touchette ..... 17

    7.03: Adopt Resolution #21-314 to Approve a Private Kennel License for the Property Located at 6620 153<sup>rd</sup> Ct NW (Project 21-143); Case of Roger Vargas ..... 18

    7.04: Introduce Ordinance #21-24: 2022 Schedule of Rates, Fees and Charges ..... 19

    7.05: Elmcrest Park Entry Road ..... 20

    7.06: Update on Proposed Amendments to Chapter 10: Animals ..... 23

8. MAYOR, COUNCIL AND STAFF INPUT ..... 24

9. ADJOURNMENT ..... 25

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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, November 9, 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  
Senior Planner Chloe McGuire Brigl  
Zoning Code Enforcement Officer Bria Raines  
Planning Technician Brian McCann  
City Engineer Bruce Westby  
City Attorney Fritz Knaak

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Mark Kuzma called the regular meeting of the Ramsey City Council to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Kuzma

**2. PRESENTATION**

None.

**3. CITIZEN INPUT**

None.

**4. APPROVE AGENDA**

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff, to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Mayor Kuzma, Councilmembers Riley, Woestehoff, Heineman, Howell, Musgrove, and Specht. Voting No: None.

## 5. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff, to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- 5.01: Receive Cash and Investments for Period Ending October 31, 2021
- 5.02: Consider Hiring Temporary On-Call Snow Plow Drivers
- 5.03: Approve the Following Meeting Minutes:
  - 1) City Council Work Session dated 10/26/2021
  - 2) City Council Regular Session dated 10/26/2021
- 5.04: Approve Business Licenses
- 5.05: Approve Rental Licenses
- 5.06: Adopt Resolution #21-318 Approving Cash Disbursements Made and Authorizing Payment of Accounts Payable Invoicing Received During the Period of October 21, 2021 through November 3, 2021
- 5.07: Adopt Resolution #21-187 Approving Minimum Design Standards for Public Utilities in City Right-of-Ways and Easements
- 5.08: Adopt Resolution #21-287 Granting a Conditional Use Permit for Auto Sales at 6957 Highway 10 NW; Case of Laws Auto Connection
- 5.09: Adopt Resolution #21-288 Granting a Conditional Use Permit for Auto Sales at 6740 Highway 10 NW and Declaring Terms of Agreement
- 5.10: Adopt Resolution #21-308 Approving a Beekeeping License on a Residential Property at 7590 149<sup>th</sup> Lane NW; Case of Jared Little
- 5.11: Adopt Resolution # 21-315 Approving Development Agreement for G Will Liquors
- 5.12: Adopt Resolution #21-316 Rescheduling Public Hearing for Petitioned Cartway Access to Thorn Lake Property (PID #04-32-25-31-0001); Case of Thomas and Pattiann Kurak
- 5.13: Adopt Resolution #21-317 Approving Grading Agreement for Lynwood; Case of US Home Corporation dba Lennar (Project 21-122)

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Mayor Kuzma, Councilmembers Howell, Woestehoff, Heineman, Musgrove, Riley, and Specht. Voting No: None.

## 6. PUBLIC HEARING

### 6.01 Adopt Resolution #21-309 and Introduce Ordinance #21-23 Approving Preliminary Plat for Trott Brook Crossing; Case of Sotarra

Senior Planner McGuire Brigl reviewed the staff report. She explained they are on step two for the subdivision which addresses engineering documents, gives the land “entitlement” and includes a formal public hearing as required by State Statute. She stated the next step would be the Final Plat which includes construction documents and legal subdivision of the land. She stated the land has been legally rezoned and guided.

Senior Planner McGuire Brigl explained that the site is 200 acres with a proposal of 270 lots containing single family homes. These will not be considered affordable housing. The applicant

is proposing to deed all of the historic homesteads on the site and the barn buildings to the City for a future large regional public park.

Senior Planner McGuire Brigl highlighted Parcel D for a rezoning and amended comprehensive plan request. This parcel includes 7 subject lots on the South West parcel of the property. Senior Planner McGuire Brigl reviewed Staff comments on the project regarding specifics. She also reviewed a summary of the comments from residents from the Public Hearing at the Planning Commission meeting, Open House, and written communication. Residents expressed concerns about the notification process and the project itself.

Councilmember Woestehoff referenced Resolution #21-239, the additional traffic study included in the case, and asked for clarification on the purpose and outline.

City Administrator Ulrich replied it was added to the case in the event the Council wanted to go forward with an additional traffic study. A quote was obtained from another traffic contractor if the Council felt it was necessary to conduct an independent traffic study to fill a gap in the review process.

Councilmember Howell referenced an email she'd sent to City Administrator Ulrich requesting a moratorium on the development until they had completed their own traffic study which may influence plans they would put in place for the road. She asked if that would be an option for the Council.

City Administrator Ulrich replied that in regard to the traffic study, the City still has a timeframe for review. It can extend 60 days during which time they can request a traffic study and more information on the project.

City Attorney Knaak replied that a moratorium would be allowed if there is a pending proposal. There is a question if the Council would be buying any time by doing that because the moratorium can be by project. The one provision that the statute does indicate is that no time would be saved under 1599. If there is a 60-day deadline, that doesn't get delayed even though they are undertaking a study and a moratorium. It could be done, but the moratorium would only be allowed to last 60 days. He advised the statute would supersede the Charter so the City wouldn't have to hold two kinds of hearings that would normally be done through ordinance. He explained the bottom line is that nothing would be gained through a moratorium even if the Council were to adopt one.

Councilmember Woestehoff asked where they are in the timeframe.

Senior Planner McGuire Brigl replied they are nearing the end of the first 60 days and the City would likely need to extend if it goes past the second meeting in November.

Mayor Kuzma asked if they had already completed two traffic studies and if there was a problem with what has been done.

Senior Planner McGuire Brigl replied there was as a traffic study completed by Swing Line as a part of the EAW required under State statute because of the size of the project. The study was reviewed by WSB, Bolton and Menk, Inc., and City Staff. They didn't find any issues with the traffic study, although they are open to doing another one if it is deemed appropriate. Staff would recommend that is at the cost of the City because the applicant has already had the study reviewed by two firms. Landform, the planning and engineering firm on Northbrook, also reviewed the study as a part of their project. They could look at doing another study at a different time of year which may reveal something if the Council wanted different items looked at that were included in the traffic study. In terms of multiple studies, one was completed as a part of the EAW, and there was a traffic component with the infrastructure study as well that solidified the EAW findings but was not a stand-alone traffic study.

Councilmember Howell asked Senior Planner McGuire Brigl if they were to conduct their own, more thorough, traffic study, could it require that the findings and recommendations be implemented in moving forward with the development rather than the findings from the developer's traffic study.

Senior Planner McGuire Brigl replied that could be a contingency but deferred to the City Attorney. She explained the City typically adds contingencies to Preliminary Plat approvals and a contingency could be added that a traffic study be completed at City cost to be reviewed by City Staff as well and the findings to be implemented as a part of the Preliminary Plat. The findings would also be reviewed by the Council.

City Attorney Knaak replied that their comfort level was the bottom line. If the Council felt they were not provided with enough information, the Council could request more before making a final decision. The Council would need to do that within the 60 plus day period of time. The Council could rely on the new study if they find it is more accurate and the Council is not required to rely on the information from the developer.

Councilmember Howell referenced the concerns of residents and would like to come up with creative solutions to the situation. She will be voting against the project because she has concerns about it as well. If there is a majority vote from the Council to move the project forward, she wants to know that the City is doing due diligence to keep the roads safe. This is a primary concern for her. With the traffic study, she would like to see if they could study 173<sup>rd</sup> and Variolite Street, Alpine and Variolite, 173<sup>rd</sup> and County Road 5, 167<sup>th</sup> and County Road 5 and Ramsey Boulevard so they could get a good picture for the residents and how this is going to improve safety with so many homes coming in.

Mayor Kuzma expressed concern there has already been two traffic studies done and two of the top engineering firms have reviewed the results. He doesn't know that they are going to get a different take on it so he is concerned about spending the additional money on it and doesn't feel it is necessary.

Councilmember Howell pointed out that at the last Council meeting, they approved a traffic study for a flashing yellow light at the request of the Planning Commission member and the cost to the City was \$1,800. Based on what the City Engineer said, it's possible that the County may come

back and say it needs to be removed in four years. She stated the Council was willing to spend that for a flashing yellow light, but they have all these residents coming forward who need to be heard. She felt they need to be made comfortable and spending money to try to help them is important.

Councilmember Woestehoff agreed that an additional traffic study is a good option. Since it is a County road, he would like to get feedback from the County because they will have to participate in the process as well. He added from a process standpoint, this project has requirements that are currently in place for this zoning and other restrictions. He asked if the City fails to meet the 60-day deadline, is it automatically approved.

City Attorney Knaak replied ordinarily, the answer is yes; that is the risk they run. So, if the Council needs additional time, they want to make sure they get it in writing because anything beyond that requires a court order.

Councilmember Specht commented that Councilmembers Howell and Woestehoff have made some good points and want to achieve community buy-in. He felt they should do another traffic study, extend the 60 days, to open it up for the public comment.

Councilmember Musgrove pointed out that Public Works approved a study on the beginning part of County Road 5 based on the rationale that of the development and issues along that stretch. The company didn't feel they could go farther up because it would be too big of a project. She felt this was a great opportunity to do that traffic study, include those additional intersections, involve the County, and see what that road is going to look like. She noted the road is going to have a lot more traffic on it with this project being added. She referenced the current Preliminary Plat and asked what the traffic changes would be to County Road 5 at the intersection of 173<sup>rd</sup> Avenue.

Senior Planner McGuire Brigl replied as a part of the proposal right now, they don't have full plans for the 173<sup>rd</sup> road upgrade. As a part of the resolution, they have a dedicated left turn lane heading North on Nowthen Boulevard into the project site onto 173<sup>rd</sup> and a thru lane north onto Nowthen Boulevard onto 173<sup>rd</sup>.

Councilmember Musgrove clarified that it is just two upgrades

Senior Planner McGuire Brigl confirmed this, stating that right now there is a right lane and a thru lane. There is room to restripe those lanes so there would be a dedicated left turn into the property and the other improvements are already made in the area. She explained it is more a restriping than overhauling the road.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if that would coincide with the Hunt property development.

Senior Planner McGuire Brigl confirmed this, stating that was also a contingency in the preliminary plat resolution for the Hunt property. The developer needed come back with full plans for 173<sup>rd</sup>. If this is approved, they would need to work together on those improvements.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if there are any changes or upgrades to Variolite Road. She commented that she assumes some of the traffic will be diverted that way making that an important intersection to study.

Senior Planner McGuire Brigl replied no improvements were discussed at this time on Variolite Street. She agreed the focus had been on the Nowthen portion because there are two projects up there but both sides of the project need to be discussed. Both were included in the study and she didn't believe there were any recommendations made.

City Engineer Westby replied Bolton and Menk reviewed the study and recommended a turn lane for Variolite and a bypass for traffic heading south on Variolite.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if that is included in the conditions for approval of the preliminary plat.

Senior Planner McGuire Brigl replied the draft resolution has traffic improvements outlined as recommended in the traffic study as well as approval by the City Engineer and Staff review comments. The Council can add an additional specific requirement about the Nowthen lanes if they don't move with the traffic study. She believed they were covered under the contingencies that were listed but if they did the traffic study, the Council would want to amend the conditions as well.

Councilmember Musgrove commented she would like to see it as descriptive and specific as possible so everyone that reads the document has the same understanding.

Mayor Kuzma asked where the funding is going to come from.

City Administrator Ulrich suggested the Revolving Fund that is typically reserved for road improvement plans.

Councilmember Riley asked if the Council went ahead with the traffic study, could it be done within the required 60-day time limit.

City Administrator Ulrich replied the quote received indicated the traffic study could begin immediately and the company would work on a timeframe that would be mutually acceptable. He assumed that would fall within the 60-day timetable.

City Engineer Westby replied that 60 days would be a tight schedule to complete a traffic schedule because a lot of it is weather dependent when they can collect traffic counts. It is his understanding that if the company knows the goal, they could make a schedule to make the goal.

Councilmember Riley expressed discomfort with the words "hoping" and "assuming" the work would be done given the requirements the City must meet. He asked if the City could know for sure. He also asked what kinds of things they would find from an additional study that would be helpful.

City Engineer Westby replied there are a couple of things they could potentially glean from an independent study. He noted the study was done in July, raising questions if the pandemic made an adjustment in traffic volumes. In addition, school is also in session now, which wasn't the case when the study was completed.

Councilmember Howell asked for clarification and consensus on which roads would be covered in a new study.

Councilmember Woestehoff commented that his procedural point would be similar to what Councilmember Specht referred to that hearing from the public first may be advantageous before making any motions otherwise.

Councilmember Musgrove asked for clarification on the timeline, noting the City has 60 days but can file for an extension for another 60 days. The Council is currently in the first 60 days but could file for a second extension and still be in line for the structure of the project, they wouldn't be at risk of having the project move forward without Council input.

City Administrator Ulrich replied the dates need to be verified. He believed the next 60 days would be January 11, 2022 at which time action would need to take place.

Mayor Kuzma asked if there is a second extension of 60 additional days.

City Attorney Knaak replied there is a possibility to extend it if there is an agreement or waiver on the part of the applicant. The Council can require the 60 days by providing written notice but to be extended beyond that, there needs to be agreement from the applicant.

Mayor Kuzma asked if they only have one more 60-day extension and nothing beyond that.

City Attorney Knaak confirmed this, adding that is one thing they can be sure of.

Mayor Kuzma asked for public comment.

Jackie Latour, 6951 168<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW, commented on the traffic study having been done in July. She stated that large corporations, like the one she works for, will not go back to work until January at the earliest because of COVID. Her entire company is home right now. She felt it was the same for many other large corporations and commented they will see a large difference when it comes to everyone returning to their normal business locations. She would like to see another traffic study done.

Jeff Uker, 17121 Variolite Street, stated he has lived there since 1995. He felt some mistakes had been made, one of them being City Council not listening to citizens. He noted that early on, they had a Charter amendment because of the City sewer and water and had the Town Center issue as well. He acknowledged the current Council was not present for those but he has found the process frustrating. His property will be one that sees the biggest impact and he didn't receive notice. He questioned the change from 10 acres to one-quarter acre lots with a small buffer. He wanted consideration to leave bigger lots on the outside instead of putting 55-foot lots on the inside. He

understands that the land needs to be developed but didn't feel there was a meaningful buffer. He recognized that the notice issue was in the past but asked for reconsideration as they go forward.

Brian Walker, 17289 Variolite Street, thanked Councilmember Howell for standing up for the residents. He questioned the rezoning process and expressed frustration with the project and the process stating there has been a lack of communication between the developer and the residents. He would like to see the City Council do a full investigation of the 2011 rezoning process regarding the notification process. He stated that the proposed development does not fit with others in rural Ramsey, this project will affect the residents who live there and bought in that location for the space. He stated the City has control over landowner rights, which he finds frustrating. He disagreed with the rezoning and commented on the traffic study, which he felt was inadequate. He supported the additional traffic study and requested that if the development does go through, something be installed, maybe a gated community, to act as a buffer.

Doug Pries, 17511 Gibbon Street NW, stated he has lived there for 35 years. He understood that Ramsey was zoned into three different properties and asked, if this is allowed to go through, why it is allowed for the developers and not for him. He asked if he can subdivide his four-acre lot and expressed frustration over the traffic study and condition of Variolite Street. He questioned the infrastructure and the availability of fire hydrants to the number of new homes proposed and the proximity. He also expressed concern about wildlife in the rural setting and asked to be able to sell his lots just as the developer is being allowed to.

Mickey Adams, 15313 Tungsten Street NW, stated he lived in the rural area where they had their own well and septic until they downsized. She stated besides the traffic, consideration should be made for the aquifers because the City is forcing people who have had their own wells and sewer to go on City water. She asked what that will cost for people living on 2.5 to 4 acres. She feels people who moved into rural areas did so for the space and beauty and they are being forced to be a part of the City. She also commented that the online audio was really poor.

Councilmember Howell asked if there was a possibility, in the next 60 days, for the developer to work with residents to extend the buffer and shrink the middle while not losing any homes.

City Administrator Ulrich replied it would be up to the developer if they are willing to go back to the concept drawings. He noted there has been a lot of work done on it and previously. The City told the developer they wanted a minimum of 80-foot lots, that is what the developer came back with, so it would be going back on the initial concept. With the comments, the City could go back to the developer but they may not be under any obligation to do that.

Councilmember Heineman asked about individual's selling parcels, if that is allowed and what the limitations are. He believes it is a landowner's rights.

Senior Planner McGuire Brigl replied that in general, property owners can sell their property to another individual without the City interfering. If the property owner wants to split the property for a new buildable property, the City would look at the new zoning for the area. In this district, it would currently be 80-foot-wide lots on City utilities. This is 7 separate parcels which have different ownership groups. The owner could sell one piece individually without talking to the

City. The City has processes for splitting up larger parcels of land depending on the proposed use. The private property owner has the right to sell property and pieces of property. She said Staff is happy to walk people through the process but did not get a request before this to sell off smaller pieces of this property.

Councilmember Heineman stated he grew up in Ramsey on 2.5 acres. He understands rural Ramsey, what it means to residents, and it means a lot to him also. He currently lives on 3 acres in order to have a yard for his children as he did growing up. He addressed the resident stating he wished for information from the City Attorney or previous City Attorney that this was done incorrectly so he would have a standing to say no. The issue is that from the documentation and the City Attorneys, this was rezoned properly. He agreed with comments about land ownership that individuals are allowed to sell land as they wish even if it disagrees with the change in the environment. He stands up for individual property owners as is the case here, which is why he is supporting this.

Councilmember Woestehoff asked for clarity and confirmation on the comment regarding fire hydrants, that this new development would have fire hydrants because it is part of MUSA. He stated it might actually benefit adjacent properties because they won't have to roll tankers farther. He noted that included in the case is a statement that no adjacent property will ever be forced onto City water or sewer per the Charter. If the property owner wanted to voluntarily do it, they could pay to do it.

Senior Planner McGuire Brigl confirmed this.

Councilmember Woestehoff commented what this and the Planning Commission proves, is that as a City they can do better through the notification process, not specific to rezoning but in developments that may impact some aspect of the community. One of the aspects he hopes can be brought forward in the future is a new mechanism to create larger notifications to the whole City for developments of a given size or number, to be determined. He feels there is value in a City-wide notification for a big project like this because it has a big impact to a lot of people. He noted there are historical and legal requirements for notifications so there were a couple hundred notifications that went out but as they learn and grow, there are opportunities to do better. As a resident, he likes knowing about projects that are coming up that are close to him, even if they are miles away. He felt there was an opportunity in the near future to improve the communication.

Councilmember Specht thanked the residents who spoke. He stated he is in favor of another traffic study being done, he is not in favor of the project or the rezoning. He agreed with concerns about how notifications were done and the characteristics of rural Ramsey.

Councilmember Musgrove asked about addressing the rezoning separately.

City Administrator Ulrich replied it is set up to be a separate action.

Ben Schmidt, 3 Eastview Lane, applicant, stated he has heard the public input and understands that change is hard. He wanted to respond to some questions. He stated that the process began with the City Staff two years ago. He responded to the question about having bigger lots on the outside

and smaller lots on the inside, which was the original concept. At that time, it was not something the Planning Commission or Council wanted so they were told it needed to meet the zoning requirements, which is what they did. He stated they are not against creativity to address constituent concerns but had done what they were told. He noted if another traffic study is deemed necessary, they understand that, but a traffic study was done and paid for as a part of the EAW process. The scope of that study was approved by the City and the City Engineer. That study was done to satisfy the environmental worksheet and once done, became part of the EAW, and went out to a variety of constituents including the County Engineer so they have a chance to review and comment. Mr. Schmidt didn't know of any comments from the County Engineer. He wanted to set the record straight that a satisfactory study was done with proper scope and review and he would cooperate if another study was deemed necessary.

Councilmember Howell asked the developer, Mr. Schmidt, if there was flexibility in changing the outer and inner ring of the project.

Mr. Schmidt replied that based on comments, they are not going to put a plan together that is going to be satisfactory. He stated what he means, is that if he is asked for 80-foot lots, he is going to have to put in 50-foot lots, which may not be agreeable. He would need to have clear direction that 50-foot lots are okay because he was told that isn't the case.

City Attorney Knaak asked Mr. Schmidt about the discussion of the 60-day rule. He asked, if it were part of the plan to do an additional study, would he be agreeable to some extension of time.

Mr. Schmidt replied they would certainly be agreeable although he has concerns about extensions with more and more time being requested, which he has had experience with. If it is deemed that the traffic engineer comes back and says there is no way to get it done in the timeframe but they can get it done 10 days later, they are reasonable people and have a good reputation with cities for being reasonable. He won't say absolutely yes and go along with the extension but he can be reasonable.

City Attorney Knaak asked if there were a time period perhaps less than 30 days the developer would be willing to extend it.

Mr. Schmidt replied they would certainly be willing to consider that, yes.

Councilmember Musgrove asked for the Council's opinion on fencing in some of areas, potentially along Variolite Street and the properties in the northwestern areas where they closely abut some of the other properties as far as a condition for the preliminary plat.

Councilmember Heineman asked for clarification on the areas.

Councilmember Musgrove referenced the map and stated it's the houses that line Variolite Street and then east on the northern portion of the properties. She noted the wetlands give a barrier and then the street as well. She wasn't sure where the Hunt project ends along the houses that are 50 to 61.

Councilmember Woestehoff asked about density transitions and where those would take effect because that would potentially address the concerns about the north side of the property and against the Variolite side since those are backyards.

Senior Planner McGuire Brigl replied Mr. Uker was correct that the density transition was required along the shared property line and he is in the rural density zoning district so there are certain items under the City code that the applicant can choose. They have chosen a landscape corridor similar to the Hunt property and 24 trees will be planted per hundred feet. That is the only place where they require a more densely landscaped buffer under the density transition codes. They could look into requesting a fence in that area. The density transition doesn't have a way that they could require that but potentially there is a trade off with a fence to reduce some of the plantings.

Councilmember Heineman noted procedurally, they have a resolution to adopt and a motion for rezoning. He asked if the first action was contingent on the second action and is the Preliminary Plat going to be affected by rezoning the southwest portion.

Senior Planner McGuire Brigl replied that the way it is written, Resolution #21-309 is contingent upon the passing of Ordinance 21-23. If that did not happen, the lots would not be able to be done.

Councilmember Heineman asked whether Staff has established from the City's legal side and City documentation that the majority of this lot had been zoned correctly but tonight it will be decided if the southwest portion will be rezoned.

Senior Planner McGuire Brigl confirmed this.

Councilmember Heineman commented that his statement tonight was that what is done is passed but he wants to support rural Ramsey so he will not be supporting the rezoning of the southwest corner. If he can impact this area and have influence on it, he is not going to vote to rezone the southwest corner. He wanted that to be known.

Councilmember Musgrove asked for an explanation why they would vote for the preliminary plat before they vote for the rezoning because the preliminary plat shows the area rezoned.

Senior Planner McGuire Brigl replied that makes sense.

Councilmember Woestehoff commented one of the reasons for it would be if the rezoning passed but the plat failed, that property is rezoned as MUSA so it has its rezoning even if the preliminary plat isn't approved. That way, the Council doesn't unnecessarily rezone it before passing the plat. He referenced the seven properties that are proposed to be rezoned and noted that one of the challenges with not rezoning the area is that if it is no longer zoned as MUSA, doesn't the Council then force a property on well and septic to be on MUSA.

Senior Planner McGuire Brigl replied if the property isn't rezoned, the area outside of the wetland would be buildable so the property would be allowed one house with a well and septic system as it currently sits.

Councilmember Woestehoff commented the Charter doesn't force anyone to be on MUSA. He asked if there will be a lone lot on well and septic or are there reasons legally to make that MUSA. He also asked if the developer can choose to build it as such regardless.

City Attorney Knaak replied the Charter doesn't allow the City to force anyone to be on MUSA but if a developer comes in and, as a part of the application, is choosing to allow the property to be on MUSA that would be allowed. No one would be forced to do that.

Jeff Uker 17121 Variolite Street, referenced when the developer stated the City had said no to smaller lots so they changed the concept from where the smaller lots were going to be in the center; he didn't think that was accurate.

Brian Walker, 17289 Variolite Street, questioned whether residents were able to give comment on the original plan concept. He referenced the traffic study that was done by Swing Traffic Solutions, LLC. He stated according to the website for the Secretary of State, they are not an active corporation in the State of Minnesota as of October 24, 2021. He questioned their reliability. He is in support of doing an independent traffic study.

John and Jake Packer, 2952 161<sup>st</sup> Avenue NW, are the property owners and brokers for this transaction. He challenged the comment made about not being listed on the Secretary of State website stating they are on the website. He also stated Mr. Walker has been making false or misleading comments on social media and to the Council, which he feels serve to inflame the residents. He commented there has been a lot of talk about property owner rights and expressed concern about the rights of the landowners. The two of them have been discussing this project for over 2 years and trying to work with residents and the City to come up with a plan that works for everyone. They are concerned they are being asked to start from square one. He noted there had been discussion about putting larger lots around the exterior with smaller lots in the middle but they were told all of the lots needed to be 80 feet or larger. To have it make sense from a developer's perspective an 80-foot lot density does make sense. He stated a lot of the residents live on land that was owned by his family and sold to developers. Now, they have wrestled with the zoning for a while and are ready to sell the land.

Councilmember Howell replied they believe in property owners' rights but have to take into consideration that the project would bring lot of traffic into the community. She comes back to the point that they owe the property owners and people in the community a very well-vetted traffic study and need to voice concerns for safety. She hoped the landowners would want that.

Denice Gray, 17530 Nowthen Boulevard NW, stated they are very effected by traffic. She loves the rural setting and expressed concern about the impact on wildlife with the additional development.

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

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Mayor Kuzma, Councilmembers Howell, Musgrove, Heineman, Riley, Specht and Woestehoff. Voting No: None.

Mayor Kuzma closed the public hearing at 8:30 pm.

Councilmember Heineman asked about procedure if the resolution to approve the preliminary plat passed and then the ordinance failed.

Senior Planner McGuire Brigl replied the applicant would have to revise their plans to not show the seven lots on the property and would not be able to do the one-quarter acre lots on that property. It would be zoned for 2.5 acre lots. The Council would still be approving the plan, but the applicant would have to edit the plan. She noted that Resolution #21-309 has the Comprehensive Plan amendment as well as the EAW so Staff's recommendation would be a contingent approval based on the traffic study so the EAW could still move forward. Senior Planner McGuire Brigl outlined the procedural action steps for the Council to vote on.

Councilmember Howell asked for clarification on which roads would be included in the traffic study.

City Engineer Westby replied that it would be his recommendation that the study follow the scope of the traffic study provided by the EAW.

City Administrator Ulrich displayed a slide from the staff report listing the scope of services with the tasks included in the study. He asked if the Council wanted to add anything to the list.

Councilmember Specht asked Councilmember Howell if the list included the streets she had referenced.

Councilmember Howell confirmed that it did and more.

Mayor Kuzma referenced the price quote received and asked if that encompasses all of the streets listed.

City Administrator Ulrich confirmed this.

Councilmember Specht asked if the Council was going to add a contingency to the resolution instead of tabling it.

City Administrator Ulrich replied that postponing action on the preliminary plat contingent on the traffic study was still a possibility if the Council so chose. It would be a separate motion.

Councilmember Woestehoff suggested, from a procedural perspective, to put the traffic study first, rezoning next, and then the plat contingent on the result of the traffic study, assuming the Council will see it in January with any changes. He expressed concerns that if the Council didn't add it as a contingency, tabled action, and the traffic study doesn't get done in time, that they would run into a time barrier and it would just be approved.

Councilmember Howell asked if the developer is responsible for any improvements other than to 173<sup>rd</sup> Avenue.

Senior Planner McGuire Brigl replied, yes. As a part of the resolution, the developer would be responsible for improvements on Nowthen Boulevard and Variolite Street as recommended in the traffic study.

Councilmember Howell referenced page two and number three (iii) in the case where it says “improvements on 173<sup>rd</sup> Avenue as recommended in the traffic study” and suggested adding an addendum “as conducted by the City of Ramsey.” And wherever it says “in the traffic study” add “in the City of Ramsey” and make that change in the preliminary plat.

Motion by Councilmember Specht, seconded by Councilmember Howell, to adopt Resolution #21-319 to complete a traffic study with a not-to-exceed amount of \$15,000 and to table consideration of Resolution #21-309 until the January 11, 2022 meeting.

Further Discussion:

Councilmember Riley commented that the traffic study would indicate how the roads need to be reconfigured but questioned if the layout of the plat would need to change based on the traffic study. Councilmember Riley asked if different aspects need to be changed, how would they incorporate paying for them, noting that maybe they will find adjustments have to be made to have traffic go in a different way, which would impact the road. He wanted to ensure they have accurate information before making a full decision. Mayor Kuzma expressed concern that two traffic studies have already been done, they have been reviewed by WSB and also Bolton and Menk. He felt it would be a waste of money to redo the study because it would likely have the same results that are reviewed by the same people. Mayor Kunza indicated he would not be giving his support. Councilmember Heineman commented that the Council has an obligation to public safety and if there are alterations that need to be made, it makes sense that they do it this way. He will be giving his support. Councilmember Riley commented that there are two items in the motion so he won't be giving his support. City Administrator Ulrich recommended having two separate motions for the sake of clarity.

Substitute motion by Councilmember Specht, seconded by Councilmember Heineman, to adopt Resolution #21-319 to complete a traffic study with a not-to-exceed amount of \$15,000.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Councilmembers Specht, Heineman, Musgrove, Woestehoff, Howell, and Riley. Voting No: Mayor Kuzma.

Motion by Councilmember Specht, seconded by Councilmember Howell, to table Resolution #21-309 until the January 11, 2022 meeting.

Further Discussion:

Councilmember Woestehoff commented he understood the intent of the motion but asked that the motion be withdrawn so they can vote on Resolution #21-23 first. City Administrator Ulrich

replied that Resolution #21-23 was regarding rezoning and if the rezoning is not going to be approved, that will impact the plat. He supported the proposed order of the vote. Councilmember Specht commented the benefit of tabling the action would be to give time to discuss the next ordinance because they are not voting for or against it, they are just saying they will discuss it later. Councilmember Riley commented there is a need to give the developer direction on whether the Council is going to give approval for rezoning or not. Councilmember Specht replied that would be the next item to discuss. Councilmember Musgrove asked if it mattered if they tabled the discussion. City Administrator Ulrich replied, they are not acting on the plat, they are just postponing it to January 11, 2022. Senior Planner McGuire Brigl replied that would work and noted that Resolution #21-309 has a Comprehensive Plan amendment to re-guide the southwest portion of the site to MUSA, which is parallel to the rezoning but in a different item so if the motions change it should include that as well. Councilmember Specht asked about making a motion to table the preliminary plat and the next motion in regard to rezoning. Councilmember Woestehoff asked if they could remove the Comprehensive Plan amendment from the motion made by Councilmember Specht because it may be a moot point based on the result of Ordinance #21-23.

Substitute motion by Councilmember Specht, seconded by Councilmember Heineman, to table Resolution #21-309 removing the Comprehensive plan amendment of the Resolution (60 day)

Further Discussion:

Senior Planner McGuire Brigl noted that the 120-day clock stops on January 18, 2022 which would allow a meeting one week before that time so they would have to make a decision of approval on that date.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Councilmembers Specht, Heineman, Musgrove, Woestehoff, and Howell. Voting No: Mayor Kuzma and Councilmember Riley.

Motion by Councilmember Woestehoff, seconded by Councilmember Musgrove to introduce Ordinance #21-23 rezoning the properties.

Motion failed. Voting Yes: None. Voting No: Mayor Kuzma, Councilmembers Woestehoff, Musgrove, Heineman, Howell, Riley, and Specht.

City Administrator Ulrich clarified that the motion to introduce Ordinance #21-23 to rezone the properties was denied by the Council's action this evening.

Councilmember Woestehoff clarified for the audience, that the traffic study was approved, the rezoning was denied, and the preliminary plat was extended another 60 days based on the results of the traffic study and the rezoning.

## **7. COUNCIL BUSINESS**

### **7.01: Consider Density Transitioning Options for North Brook Meadows (Project No. 21-131); Case of Platinum Land LLC**

Senior Planner McGuire Brigl reviewed the staff report. The Council can make decisions related to density transitioning, which is required when developing lots abut lots with City utilities in this area. Previously, this project came forward requesting an easement for the density transitioning buffer area so they are proposing plantings along the western boundary of the site. The proposal is an easement and City code requires a separate outlot that would be managed by an HOA. There is no HOA here so the applicant is requesting an easement, which the Council will be discussing. She noted the applicant is on the call tonight to answer questions.

Councilmember Musgrove commented that for the residents, Staff, and Council to be able to track developments as they change names, it would be good to put in the alternate name. She then asked about the number of trees on the lots.

Senior Planner McGuire Brigl replied two trees per lot are required.

Councilmember Musgrove referenced a diagram of Lot 3, Block 1, noting they have the old diagram of where the house is sitting versus the new diagram where the driveway would be more on the curve and the house would be set more off to the side. She asked if the Council has the updated drawing that would coincide with house placement. She also asked about the natural gas easement where she thought there was an understanding there would be trees. She noted Block 1, Lot 9, on the side where they are discussing the tree barrier. She questioned if the Council is looking at an updated diagram to be able to approve it.

Senior Planner McGuire Brigl replied the plan has not been fully updated with all the comments because a decision about an outlot versus an easement hasn't been made and it could potentially change lot sizes and the HOA on site.

Councilmember Riley referenced previous discussion and stated the Council had talked before that an HOA would only exist for the outlot. There were concerns about the success of that so he didn't feel that was the best idea. He noted each individual lot would own it itself and the City would put an easement on it. He asked if he had that correct.

Staff confirmed that was correct.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff, to direct Staff and applicant to proceed with the second part including density transitioning as a part of the lots and to cover it with a restrictive easement in favor of the City.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Mayor Kuzma, Councilmembers Riley, Woestehoff, Heineman, Howell, Musgrove, and Specht. Voting No: None.

**7.02: Adopt Resolution #21-219 Granting a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) and Declaring Terms Agreement at 7127 Highway 10 NW; Case of Ron Touchette**

Zoning Code Enforcement Officer Raines reviewed the staff report. The applicant is asking to expand from one row of parking on the property to two rows of parking and to install a fence along the property for vehicles awaiting repair. The applicant is also requesting to increase tenants from

six to ten. She noted the Interim Use Permit would be for five storage containers on the property. She explained that the property currently has several uses including retail, residential, commercial operations, and storage containers. A site plan is procedural for an expansion of a commercial property, which would be a contingency on the CUP which would be an administrative site plan review.

Zoning Code Enforcement Officer Raines presented two alternatives. Alternative 1 was to approve the CUP and Interim Use Permit with conditions. Alternative 2 was to deny the CUP and IUP. This would decrease the current expanded operation to its original footprint and allow five auto sale tenants and one auto sales and repair tenant.

Councilmember Specht commented that Highway 10 is nearby and asked if the site would be impacted by the Highway 10 plans.

City Administrator Ulrich replied no, the site wouldn't be impacted.

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Specht, to adopt Resolution #21-219 granting a Conditional Use Permit and declaring terms of agreement at 7127 Highway 10 NW; Case of Ron Touchette.

Further Discussion:

Ron Touchette, 7127 Highway 10 NW, stated he has owned and operated the property for over 30 years. He started the body shop and has continued to operate it. He referenced discussion on property rights and owners' property rights and stated he feels his property rights have been stolen. He explained that ten years ago, the City told his tenants and businesses to leave because of the incoming highway so his income was affected. Today, he is asking to be able to operate the body shop and a motion today would limit him to double parking of the damaged cars so he can't operate the body shop. Mr. Touchette stated that the damaged cars don't move but may stay parked for a time awaiting parts and for many years there wasn't an issue with the additional parking. He requested that the resolution be passed as presented. Councilmember Musgrove asked Mr. Touchette if he agreed with the plans or if there was anything he would like to see changed. Mr. Touchette replied the plan that was created was a good one that would work. Councilmember Musgrove asked about the lawful nonconforming status on this area with regard to the parking on non-pervious surfaces. Senior Planner McGuire Brigl stated the applicant is proposing two rows of parking in the back, which the safety team is comfortable with but they don't like to see cars triple or quadruple stacked. Councilmember Howell asked the applicant if he agreed with the motion as presented and if it would make his business viable. Mr. Touchette confirmed this.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Mayor Kuzma, Councilmembers Musgrove, Specht, Heineman, Howell, Riley, and Woestehoff. Voting No: None.

**7.03: Adopt Resolution #21-314 to Approve a Private Kennel License for the Property Located at 6620 153<sup>rd</sup> Ct NW (Project 21-143); Case of Roger Vargas**

Planning Technician McCann introduced the resolution to approve a private kennel license and reviewed the staff report. He stated the applicant is requesting to keep and maintain the five small breed dogs that are currently on the property after a complaint.

Motion by Councilmember Specht, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff to adopt Resolution #21-314 to approve a private kennel license to maintain five dogs on the subject property located at 6620 153<sup>rd</sup> Court NW (Project 21-143); Case of Roger Vargas.

Further Discussion:

Roger Vargas, 6620 153<sup>rd</sup> Court NW, stated he moved to the property a year before and would like to be able to keep the dogs.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Mayor Kuzma, Councilmembers Specht, Woestehoff, Heineman, Howell, Musgrove, and Riley. Voting No: None.

#### **7.04: Introduce Ordinance #21-24: 2022 Schedule of Rates, Fees and Charges**

City Administrator Ulrich introduced the ordinance. He noted the City Council reviewed the ordinance during the work session on October 26, 2021 and several changes have been made following that meeting. He explained the intention was to have a second reading and approval of the ordinance prior to implementation of the rates, new rates, and charges by January 1, 2022. He reviewed the staff report.

Councilmember Musgrove referenced an email she sent to City Administrator Ulrich with a two-part inquiry. She asked about keeping the 2021 rates for the minimum water rate at \$42.15 and for the odd/even violation days, if they cover staff time with the \$50 first violation fee and the second time with a \$100 violation. She wondered about increasing each one by \$25 to encourage people to use the minimum amount of water. She asked City Administrator Ulrich if the water rates increase every year.

City Administrator Ulrich replied the water rates generally go up according to inflation. The minimum water rate is proposed to go from \$42.15 to \$43.15 per quarter and Councilmember Musgrove is proposing that remain flat.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if that goes up if it effects all the other water charges.

City Administrator Ulrich replied no, it would be a stand-alone change and the other water rates would go up 2.5%.

Councilmember Riley commented that the water rates are based on a study that was done a while ago with a certain amount of increase every year. The projection of funding is based on that which has been a small increase. He recommended leaving the minimum increase as proposed.

Councilmember Specht concurred with the increase and would like to see the fees for the odd/even water usage violation to also remain as proposed. He felt it was enough to provide discouragement but doesn't overburden someone who makes a mistake. He felt it was fair.

Motion by Councilmember Specht, seconded by Councilmember Riley, to introduce Ordinance #21-24 2022 schedule of rates, fees and charges.

Further Discussion:

Councilmember Howell commented she will be opposing this as she would like to see the rates remain the same throughout, especially for building for homeowners who are working on their homes. Councilmember Musgrove referenced the park fees and asked if they are included or if they are in a different area of discussion. City Administrator Ulrich replied they have the rates for rental of city facilities including parks. Councilmember Musgrove corrected that she was referring to the park dedication fees on developers. City Administrator Ulrich replied they are included and there is no proposed increase.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Mayor Kuzma, Councilmembers Specht, Riley, Heineman, and Woestehoff. Voting No: Councilmembers Howell and Musgrove.

#### **7.05: Elmcrest Park Entry Road**

City Administrator Ulrich stated at the last City Council meeting, residents voiced concerns about storage that is occurring on this property. He reviewed the staff report and presented several issues with the property and alternatives for Council consideration that have been discussed with the City Attorney. The alternatives include stronger code enforcement, installing a new access road on City-owned land, or purchasing land from the landowner. The recommendation from Staff is to pursue negotiations to purchase land.

Jessie Gutswhiler, 1661 Quicksilver Street, stated she gets a lot of park traffic and spends time beautifying their property for that traffic. The new owner of the adjacent property has filled his land with garbage and blocked the roadway. She expressed concern about her property value decreasing because of the neighbor's actions.

Councilmember Musgrove asked about the property across from the land outlined in the case and the resident in the audience.

City Administrator Ulrich replied there is a house to the south.

Councilmember Howell referenced the storage materials, asked about the City's easement, what the City could do to expedite the process. She also asked if the Council could they make that a condition of discussing purchasing the property.

City Administrator replied it brings into question if the City wants to clear the whole 60 feet and where the equipment would be moved to.

City Attorney Knaak replied the public and Council have an unimpeded right to use the right-of-way for access purposes. That means they can't allow anyone to put anything on it that would cause an obstruction. The City has control over the 60 feet and what is on either side of the 60 feet is the right of the property owner. He advised the Council could consider enforcing the nuisance code but the City does not have any right as an easement holder to any more than that.

Councilmember Woestehoff referenced the map and commented that the property owner to the left is the same for the subject property they are talking about acquiring. He is in favor of trying to acquire the land and getting more from the wetland area to enhance the buffer because it looks like the road comes very close to the lot line. He feels the concern is that the equipment is just going to move a few feet farther away.

A resident stated the equipment owner knows what the rules are and everything is moved back off the road and right-of-way. The resident noted the only place that it is close to the road is by the water tower road where there are stacks of metal shelving. On the road that goes to the park, things were moved after the last meeting and are now more than 60 feet off.

Councilmember Riley commented that it makes sense to entertain buying the land and agreed with Councilmember Woestehoff about getting more of the wetland to create more of a buffer. Also, it is important to know that the City can put in a road. He was surprised the cost of doing that was so low. It is his preference to purchase the land but the City could also put in a road for unimpeded access.

Councilmember Woestehoff agreed with Councilmember Riley but wanted to ensure if they put in a new road, that the City retain the 60-foot road easement so more things don't end up on that parcel even though it may not be a road in use. It is a concern of the neighbors and the more they can protect the access to the park, the better.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if anyone has discussed with the landowner why this is happening.

A resident replied the landowner wants the City to buy the land and will continue to add unsightly items until the City pays the taxes or purchases the property.

Councilmember Musgrove asked why the City is allowing someone to force them to buy land because someone doesn't want to clean up.

A resident stated if the City bought the land, he would be interested in buying the parcel that abuts his property if that would help with the decision.

Councilmember Musgrove clarified the City would buy it and the resident would then buy it from the City.

The resident confirmed this, stating he would buy it at a fair market value because it would enhance the value of his existing property.

Councilmember Riley commented he understood the resident's sentiment but stated that the City needs this property for access and he felt the City should have owned it from the beginning. He feels the best course of action is buy the rest of the land. He stressed that the City has an out with putting in their own road but he supports the City buying the land because they want it instead of feeling forced.

Councilmember Woestehoff asked the City Attorney if eminent domain could be considered in this case.

City Attorney Knaak replied it depended on what the City is trying to get. If the City is trying to get the whole parcel, they would have to show a public purpose. He felt it could be justified as enhancing the value and breath of the park and the City is doing it for park purposes. That being said, it could be an option and if deemed necessary, the City can take it.

City Administrator Ulrich requested consensus direction that Staff can proceed with negotiations of the sale of the property with the owner, the parcel outlined as well as the additional piece with shoreline on the wetland area, to ensure there is a broad area of land that would serve the park.

Councilmember Musgrove felt the position of buying the land is the best course to achieve a resolution. She asked if the City could use park funds to show the land will be used for park purposes and suggested the Council get creative and be conservative with money during negotiations.

Councilmember Woestehoff commented that Elmcrest Park is currently one of the most renovated parks and it is a wonderful park. He supports enhancing the entryway into the park at the end of the cul-da-sac. If it means the City has to take some land to do it, he felt they should. He also supported increasing the monument sign as an extension.

Councilmember Heineman agreed and indicated he didn't want to contradict the things he has said about property owner rights. He would be in favor of paying fair market value for the land.

Councilmember Howell asked if there was interest in adding a condition on the sale for a good faith clean up effort of the easement by the property owner.

Councilmember Woestehoff stated he felt they should be going through the code enforcement process regardless of the sale negotiations.

Councilmember Heineman asked about the location of the 60-foot buffer.

City Administrator Ulrich replied there is an easement on either side of the road which could be enforced.

Consensus of the Council was to direct the City Attorney and Code Enforcement Officers to maintain the right-of-way so it is unimpeded and to pursue to negotiations for the purchase of the land.

## **7.06: Update on Proposed Amendments to Chapter 10: Animals**

Planning Technician McCann gave an update on the animal ordinance and reviewed the Staff report. He presented an updated ordinance for the Council's review along with alternatives.

Councilmember Howell referenced language that states the animals allowed by the ordinance must be listed in the ordinance or the animal is not allowed. She gave the example of a goldfish.

City Attorney Knaak replied yes, there are two different kinds of ordinances. One ordinance enumerates items and anything not enumerated is prohibited. The other type is more general and this ordinance is one that enumerates items.

Councilmember Howell questioned the regulation of rabbits, finding it is an odd requirement and noting that bison, which are dangerous, are treated like a cow, roosters have more requirements than either. She suggested a few Councilmembers review the language with Staff and simplify it, similar to the City of Oak Grove ordinance, which she felt was more readable. She felt the Council didn't need more public input but, rather, Staff who will put the time in to work through it. She expressed concern about the public's reaction as stated.

Councilmember Heineman commented that initially he was against the idea of having a small committee on the City Council but this is a complex issue that is taking up a lot of time so he is in support of a committee.

Councilmember Musgrove also expressed support. She questioned if other changes to City code had surveys and questionnaires sent to residents, which she felt was odd. She would like to see some simplification and liked the examples used by the cities of Oak Grove and Nowthen. She would like to see fewer items enumerated and a committee would be a better option. She questioned the lack of a limiting requirement on cats in the code.

Senior Planner McGuire Brigl confirmed this.

Councilmember Musgrove questioned if there is a Department of Public Health statutes regarding cats.

Mayor Kuzma agreed with Councilmember Howell that this is a complex issue that could warrant a committee.

Councilmember Woestehoff commented there is some work to be done on this. The issue needed is a defining factor of what is allowed on the property versus in the house. He supported putting together a committee, and referenced the resident that requested ducks and is waiting for the Council's decision.

Mayor Kuzma asked Councilmember Howell if she would like to take the lead on the committee.

Councilmember Howell confirmed this.

Councilmembers Musgrove and Specht also agreed to be a part of the committee.

Senior Planner McGuire Brigl explained there is a way to allow ducks for the young resident that requested them under the non-traditional animal license and asked if the Council would be interested in getting the license.

City Administrator stated there is consensus that the committee will be comprised of Councilmembers Howell, Musgrove and Specht who will report back in 30 days.

## **8. MAYOR, COUNCIL AND STAFF INPUT**

City Administrator Ulrich introduced the new City Attorney Fritz Knaak and the new Deputy City Administrator/Community Development Director Brian Hagen who both started on November 1, 2021. He stated they are great additions to the City of Ramsey and welcomed them.

City Administrator Ulrich stated the joint work session scheduled for November 16, 201 was canceled and will be rescheduled during the first quarter of 2022. The next regular City Council meeting will be Tuesday, November 23, 2021. He noted City Hall is closed Thursday November 11, 2021 in honor of Veterans Day.

Councilmember Musgrove asked about information sharing between the Staff and Councilmembers. She questioned if there were email exchanges of information between certain Councilmembers and Staff that weren't being shared with the whole Council. She wondered if this information might aid in the Council's understanding and make for better decision making during meetings.

Councilmember Woestehoff replied that he has asked questions of the Staff but often it is in response to a resident request. He couldn't remember a time when he asked a question related to a case that didn't get shared with the whole Council.

Councilmember Howell agreed with Councilmember Musgrove that some information from Councilmembers gets shared selectively.

Councilmember Musgrove asked for input on the information sharing.

Mayor Kuzma replied that he felt information is being shared.

City Administrator Ulrich replied that is the case if it is of broader interest, if it is related to a case, budget questions, or CIP questions that are of interest of everyone. He stated some Councilmembers ask more questions via email overall, but the goal is to be consistent.

Councilmember Riley commented if a question is raised maybe the Council would all enjoy the information. He wasn't aware of an issue with information sharing.

Councilmember Howell asked about the phone bill that was shared with everyone.

City Administrator Ulrich replied he thought the email pertained to the budget process.

Councilmember Woestehoff commented that one of his recent questions of Staff over email that wasn't shared was a rough idea that he wasn't ready for full Council input but he wanted to gain Staff support on it.

Councilmember Howell stated she feels like the questions she asks over email are always shared, which is a frustration for her. She stated Councilmember Heineman was allowed to work on a project with Staff before presenting it to the Council.

Councilmember Heineman replied that his questions are pretty short which he typically does during the meetings. The questions he had about the roads was complex.

Councilmember Musgrove stated she would like to see everyone treated equally and if there is information that could be valuable to the discussion during the Council meetings that it be shared. She also questioned if everyone is reading the case or if she is missing out on information because she feels like she asks a lot of questions during the meeting.

Councilmember Specht shared that the Anoka-Ramsey Athletic Association is having a fundraising dinner this Friday.

Councilmember Musgrove stated in June of this year, her nephew was killed. Today he would have been 18 years old. She stated that she is glad that Minneapolis voted to keep their police department because keeping the police will help with safety and give their family a sense of peace that they will one day have some justice for her nephew.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff, to adjourn the meeting.

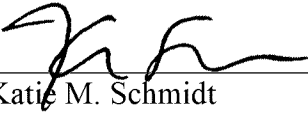
Motion carried. Voting Yes: Mayor Kuzma, Councilmembers Riley, Woestehoff, Heineman, Howell, Musgrove and Specht. Voting No: None.

The regular meeting of the City Council adjourned at 10:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Kurtis G. Ulrich  
City Administrator

ATTEST:



---

Katie M. Schmidt  
Deputy City Clerk

Drafted by Joni Helmeke  
*TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*