

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

RESOLUTION #22-027

**RESOLUTION TO MODIFY THE WATER EFFICIENCY GRANT PROGRAM
MAKING ENERGY STAR RATED CLOTHES WASHING MACHINES ELIGIBLE FOR
A REBATE**

WHEREAS, the City of Ramsey owns and maintains a municipal water supply system which is essential to the quality of life, health and welfare of City residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ramsey currently relies on groundwater as the sole source of its municipal water supply system; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ramsey is planning to construct two new municipal water supply system groundwater wells to accommodate planned growth in the next ten years; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 473.1565 directs the Metropolitan Council to undertake planning activities that emphasize conservation, inter-jurisdictional cooperation, and long-term sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council received an allocation of \$787,600 from the Clean Water Funds to assist local units of government by helping property owners pay for water saving audits and/or more water efficient appliances to conserve water; and

WHEREAS, the primary objective of the Water Efficiency Grant Program is to assist local units of government to conserve water to ensure long-term groundwater sustainability; and

WHEREAS, this grant program is consistent with the goals and objectives of the City's Strategic Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City has the capability to adequately fund its local cost share for this grant program through the water enterprise fund; and

WHEREAS, on September 24, 2019, the Ramsey City Council authorized staff to apply for grant funding up to \$50,000; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ramsey submitted an application for grant funds to offer rebates for WaterSense labeled smart irrigation controllers, irrigation audits, and WaterSense labeled toilets for water supply customers; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council received grant applications totaling \$1,393,527; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ramsey was one of forty (40) communities accepted into the grant program with a grant allocation of \$28,000; and

WHEREAS, to accept the grant funds, the City of Ramsey had to enter into a Clean Water Fund Grant Agreement with the Metropolitan Council; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ramsey received an inquiry from a Home Owners Association (HOA) about the potential for a separate rebate category for commercial/HOA properties due to the greater device costs and greater water demands (both due typically to the larger areas covered by the system); and

WHEREAS, the City of Ramsey's Environmental Policy Board (EPB) supported creating a separate rebate category for commercial/HOA properties, which would incentivize these property owners to upgrade their irrigation systems and thereby contribute toward the program goal of reducing demand on the City's water system; and

WHEREAS, on April 27, 2021, the Ramsey City Council approved modifying the rebate program to create a separate category for commercial/HOA properties; and

WHEREAS, there is still \$13,712.98 grant dollars available and the program will expire on June 30, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Staff is recommending expanding the rebate program to also include Energy Star rated clothes washing machines, to maximize Ramsey's ability to exhaust the grant funds before the deadline.

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

1. That the Ramsey City Council hereby authorizes modifying the Water Efficiency Grant Program making Energy Star rated clothes washing machines eligible for up to a \$200 rebate, or the cost of the device, whichever is less.

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

and the following voted against the same:

and the following abstained:

and the following were absent:

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted by the Ramsey City Council this the 25th day of January, 2022.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk