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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 27, 2022, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

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

Members Absent: Councilmember Ryan Heineman

Also Present: City Administrator Brian Hagen
Finance Director Diana Lund
Human Resources Specialist Nicole Laubach
Recreation Specialist Marla Martinez-Flynn
Police Captain Tim Frankfurth
City Attorney Fritz Knaak

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor 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

2.01: Proclamation Declaring October 2022 *Domestic Violence Awareness Month*

Mayor Kuzma read the proclamation declaring October 2022 Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Tina Bronson, Director of Mission Advancement at the Alexander House, came forward and thanked the City for declaring October Domestic Violence Awareness Month and expressed her appreciation to the City of Ramsey for partnering by recognizing Domestic Violence Awareness Month by illuminating public spaces in purple and visibly showing domestic violence is not tolerated in the community. She shared there is a long standing partnership with Ramsey and it means a great deal to the survivors, staff and volunteers. She acknowledged that this work is very important and it has come a long way; however, there is still work to be done. She added the pandemic has only exacerbated the relationship violence and Minnesota domestic violence and sexual violence programs have seen an overwhelming amount of service requests in the last few years. She noted the Alexander House has not been immune to this increase. She shared that the

legal advocacy program has seen a 75% increase in requests for services and the call has seen a 26% increase since the beginning of the pandemic. She shared that the Alexander House has served over 514 people in the shelter in 2021, which was a 61% increase from prior years. She asked everyone watching to join the Alexander House in making a stand this month against domestic violence. She directed everyone to the Alexander House website if they need supplies or have any questions.

Councilmember Riley reiterated that the City will illuminate City Hall in purple. He shared he has a survivor close to him so this issue is near and dear to his heart.

2.02: Happy Days Recap Presentation

Human Resources Specialist Laubach and Recreation Specialist Martinez-Flynn gave a presentation on this year's Happy Days Festival, including the 5K, chili cook-off, dog show, and the parade. They shared the 25th Annual Happy Days Festival is scheduled for September 9, 2023 and Staff is already working hard on this event.

Councilmember Specht thanked Staff for their hard work on this event.

Councilmember Musgrove also thanked Staff and shared she heard a lot of positive feedback from vendors and residents on the overall enjoyment of the event.

Mayor Kuzma apologized for missing this year's Happy Days event for being under the weather but is looking forward to next year's celebration.

3. CITIZEN INPUT

None.

4. APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Howell, to approve the agenda as presented.

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

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 5.01: Approve the Following Meeting Minutes:
 - 1) City Council Work Session dated September 13, 2022
 - 2) City Council Regular Session dated September 13, 2022
- 5.02: Approve Rental Licenses

- 5.03: Approve Business Licenses
- 5.04: Accept Donation of Exercise Equipment from Life Fitness
- 5.05: Authorization to Hire an Accounting Clerk
- 5.06: Adopt Resolution #22-230 Approving Cash Disbursements Made and Authorizing Payment of Accounts Payable Invoicing Received During the Period of September 8, 2022 through September 21, 2022
- 5.07: Adopt Resolution #22-207 Appointing Election Judges for the General Election on November 8, 2022
- 5.08: Adopt Resolution #22-213 Approving Lease Cancellation for 6701 Hwy 10 NW: Case of Potters Church
- 5.09: Adopt Resolution #22-216 Authorizing Partial Payment to Douglas-Kerr Underground, LLC., for Improvement Project #22-05, Riverdale Drive Utility Improvements, Llama Street to Bowers Drive.
- 5.10: Adopt Resolution #22-218 Proclaiming October 2022 Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- 5.11: Adopt Resolution #22-219 Authorizing Partial Payment to North Valley Inc. for Improvement Project #22-04, 2021 Neighborhood Pavement Overlay Improvements.
- 5.12: Adopt Resolution #22-220 Authorizing Partial Payment to North Valley Inc. for Improvement Project #22-06, Wood Pond Hills 2nd - 5th Street Reconstructions.
- 5.13: Adopt Resolution #22-221 Authorizing Partial Payment # to Novco Inc. for Improvement Project #22-01, Sunwood Drive and Waco Street Reconstruction
- 5.14: Adopt Resolution #22-222 Authorizing Partial Payment No. 1 to Douglas-Kerr Underground, Inc., for Improvement Project #20-05, Riverdale Drive Extension, Llama Street to Bowers Drive.
- 5.15: Adopt Resolution #22-228 Calling for a Public Hearing on the Intention to Issue General Obligation Street Reconstruction Plan Bonds and the Proposal to Adopt a Street Reconstruction Plan.

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

6. PUBLIC HEARING

6.01: Public Hearing: Adopt Resolution #22-224 Adopting Assessments for Past-Due Charges on Municipal Utility Bills and Current Services Rendered

Presentation

Finance Director Lund reviewed the staff report and discussed the delinquent utility accounts in the City. She stated the City sent out 1,080 delinquent letters at the beginning of September, with a total delinquency of \$410,000. She shared there are still 846 delinquent accounts totaling \$350,769. She noted there was a large increase in the number of delinquencies from 2021, with a total of 747. She explained the account must be current by November 15 to avoid certification to the property taxes. She stated utility bills stay with the residence, it does not follow the property owner when they move.

Public Hearing

Mayor Kuzma called the public hearing to order at 7:15 p.m.

Citizen Input

There was none.

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

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

The public hearing was closed at 7:16 p.m.

Council Business

Motion by Councilmember Woestehoff, seconded by Councilmember Riley, to Adopt Resolution #22-224 Adopting Assessments for Past-Due Charges on Municipal Utility Bills

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

7. COUNCIL BUSINESS

7.01: Adopt Resolution #22-225 Adopting Proposed 2023 Payable Tax Levies (General, Pavement Management, EDA and Debt Service) & Schedule Public Hearing for December 13, 2022; Adopt Resolution #22-226 Adopting Proposed 2023 General Fund Budget and Resolution #22-227 Adopting Proposed 2023 EDA Budget.

Finance Director Lund reviewed the proposed resolution and gave a presentation of the 2023 proposed levies and general fund budget. She shared the five key goals of the City, which are, financial stability, a balance of rural character and urban growth, an active and connected community, a smart citizen-focused government, and an effective organization. She stated the budget and levy document attempts to follow each of these items and goals. She explained the City's tax capacity rate is made up of two numbers, the annual levy divided by the total taxable market value. She noted this year's tax capacity has increased by over 26% and the City's levy has increased over 19%. Her presentation included discussion of street maintenance, which is a major cause for the high levy increases. She also noted the number of calls for the police department this year. She stated the 2023 total levy is proposed at \$18,292,245, the 2023 general fund budget is proposed at \$17,027,353, and the 2023 estimated tax capacity rate is 40.562%. She went on to share the four components that make up the levy for the City, which are the general fund levy, the EDA levy, the pavement management levy, and the debt service levy. She reiterated that the street reconstruction debt is the largest proponent of the levy increase. She shared the components that lead to the levy increase for 2023, which were as follows: the 2022 street reconstruction debt,

personnel funding, the debt service levy, budgeting line items, the pavement management levy, and the EDA levy. She explained the components of the debt which were the pavement management, the debt service and the EDA. She also gave a comparison of the tax capacities of other cities in Anoka County and the market value exclusion. She concluded her presentation by discussing where the funding comes from. She shared that the budget will be up for adoption on December 13 and the tax statements should be sent after November 7. She was happy to answer any questions the Council may have.

Mayor Kuzma told Finance Director Lund she did a great job explaining where the budget is at this year. He recognized the health increase; however, through all of the work session discussions that have been had, the roads are a big bubble that need to be fixed. He shared it had been discussed to fix them over a 10-year period which he sees as too slow of a timeline. He thanked Finance Director Lund for her detailed explanations of her presentation.

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff, to Adopt Resolution #22-225 Approving the Proposed 2023 Payable Tax Levy in the amount of \$18,292,245 and to schedule the City of Ramsey's Public Hearing on Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 7 p.m. and Adopt Resolution #22-226 Adopting the Proposed 2023 General Fund Budget and Adopting Resolution #22-227 Adopting Proposed 2023 EDA Budget.

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

8. MAYOR, COUNCIL AND STAFF INPUT

City Administrator Hagen announced upcoming meetings and events. He added the Happy Days movie that was rescheduled due to rain will be held on Friday. He shared the Fire Department has two open houses coming up, Fire Station #1 on October 11 and Fire Station #2 on October 13.

Councilmember Woestehoff noted that Youth First has an event called the For the Future Happy Hour on Monday at Alloy Brewing. He also wanted to give kudos to the Public Works Staff for a smooth experience at the Recycling Day.

Councilmember Specht congratulated Rivers Bend Bar & Grill for their 5th anniversary and they will be holding their 5th Anniversary Bash on Saturday.

Councilmember Musgrove asked City Administrator Hagen to clarify the location of the Planning Commission meeting.

City Administrator Hagen shared that with upgrades happening to the Council Chambers, the Planning Commission meeting will be held in the Lake Itasca Room with the opportunity for live attendance online.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the City Council adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian S. Hagen
City Administrator

ATTEST:

Katie M. Schmidt
Deputy City Clerk

Drafted by Ava Rokosz
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.