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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, October 25, 2022, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Acting Mayor Chris Riley
 Councilmember Ryan Heineman (attended remotely)
 Councilmember Chelsee Howell
 Councilmember Debra Musgrove
 Councilmember Dan Specht
 Councilmember Matt Woestehoff (joined remotely at 7:30 p.m.)

Members Absent: Mayor Kuzma

Also Present: City Administrator Brian Hagen
 City Engineer/Interim Public Works Director Bruce Westby
 Finance Director Diana Lund
 City Attorney Fritz Knaak

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. PRESENTATION

2.01: Proclamation Declaring November 26, 2022, as Small Business Saturday in the City of Ramsey

Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP) and the Small Business Saturday Coalition have asked Mayor Kuzma for his support for Small Business Saturday® in the City of Ramsey. This is an effort to drive consumers to shop at local independently owned businesses on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 26, 2022.

Small Business Saturday falls between Black Friday and Cyber Monday, Small Business Saturday is essential to the preservation of the neighborhoods that compose the landscape of your local economy and enrich its unique culture.

Acting Mayor Riley read the proclamation from Mayor Kuzma declaring November 26, 2022 Small Business Saturday.

3. CITIZEN INPUT

None.

4. APPROVE AGENDA

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

A roll call vote was performed:

Councilmember Musgrove	aye
Councilmember Specht	aye
Councilmember Howell	aye
Councilmember Heineman	aye
Acting Mayor Riley	aye

Motion carried.

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 October 11, 2022
 - 2) City Council Regular dated October 11, 2022
- 5.02: Approve Business Licenses
- 5.03: Approve Rental Licenses
- 5.04: Approve Request to Declare Surplus Property
- 5.05: Approve Dental Insurance Renewal
- 5.06: Adopt Resolution #22-245 Approving Cash Disbursements Made and Authorizing Payment of Accounts Payable Invoicing Received During the Period of October 6, 2022 through October 19, 2022.
- 5.07: Adopt Resolution #22-136 Authorizing Partial Payment No. 1 to GMH Asphalt Corporation for Improvement Project #22-02, Autumn Heights Street Reconstruction
- 5.08: Adopt Resolution #22-137 Authorizing Partial Payment No. 5, to Douglas-Kerr Underground, LLC. for Improvement Project #22-05, Riverdale Drive Trunk Utility: Improvements, Llama Street to Bowers Drive.
- 5.09: Adopt Resolution #22-239 Authorizing Partial Payment No. 2, to Douglas-Kerr Underground, LLC. for Improvement Project #20-05, Riverdale Drive Extension
- 5.10: Adopt Resolution #22-240 Authorizing Partial Payment No. 2 to Novco, Inc. for Improvement Project #22-01, Sunwood Drive and Waco Street Reconstruction.
- 5.11: Adopt Resolution #22-241 Authorizing COR Public Infrastructure and Wetland Analysis
- 5.12: Adopt Resolution #22-242 Approving Cancellation of Purchase Agreement for Parcel 50; Case of Java Companies, L.L.C.
- 5.13: Adopt Resolution #22-244 Accepting Proposals and Authorizing Execution of Proposal

by Dave Perkins Contracting for Improvement Project #22-14, Argon Street Drainage Improvements

- 5:14: Adopt Resolution #22-246 Approving Change Order #1 for Improvement Project #22-10, Public Works Salt Shed
- 5:15: Adopt Resolution #22-247 to Approve AFSCME and LELS Union City Health Insurance Contribution Adjustments

A roll call vote was performed:

Councilmember Musgrove	aye
Councilmember Specht	aye
Councilmember Howell	aye
Councilmember Heineman	aye
Acting Mayor Riley	aye

Motion carried.

6. PUBLIC HEARING

7. COUNCIL BUSINESS

7.01: Review Proposed Water Treatment Plant Project Costs and Bid Schedule

City Engineer/Interim Public Works Director Westby reviewed the water treatment plant project costs and schedule, and introduced the new Project Manager. He mentioned the most recent cost estimate was at \$47.6 million, which would make this the largest capital improvement project ever in Ramsey. In order to get the project done by spring of 2025, which is the recommended timeline, the project needs to go out for bid this fall.

Councilmember Specht asked about the timeframe and if it has always been in the 24 to 25 month frame or if it is due to other circumstances that came up.

City Engineer/Interim Public Works Director Westby said when the discussion started it was hoped to get the plant operational by May or June of 2024, making the construction schedule only about 15 months. The construction schedule was pushed out due to the scope of the project due to lack of materials and supply chain issues.

Councilmember Howell asked if there were any cost savings that were found, such as shrinking room sizes.

City Engineer/Interim Public Works Director Westby asked Mr. Vulmer to come forward to clear up a few things about the project.

Aaron Vulmer from AE2S came forward and said that he and his team feel like the project was responsibly designed and said that any modifications would likely not change the dollar amount

of the facility and the cost is driven by the treatment processed inside the facility as well as the project materials.

Councilmember Howell asked if there would be any cost savings in doing traditional construction with traditional windows versus all of the glass.

Mr. Vulmer said this could be looked at going the more traditional route but this would also impact the interior of the facility and would make the environment a lot different to operate in for the employees.

Councilmember Howell asked if reducing the size of the footprint would reduce the cost of the project while still keeping the facility functional.

Mr. Vulmer said they looked at the non-treatment areas of the facility, such as the education room or control rooms, but due to the shape of the facility, removing these rooms would add additional angles and complications and not remove any cost.

Councilmember Specht asked City Engineer/Interim Public Works Director Westby if residents should be concerned about the water or if it is safe.

City Engineer/Interim Public Works Director Westby explained they are taking 15 samples per month of the water and generally the average value of the readings is below what the maximum amount of manganese in water that the health department says is safe. He stated the results have shown this water is very safe to drink. He added that if the numbers are a concern for bottle fed infants, he would recommend buying water.

Councilmember Specht asked if the treatment plant will assist with the occasional discoloration of water some residents may see.

City Engineer/Interim Public Works Director Westby said the purpose of the plant is to remove iron and manganese which would prevent from having to flush the water main. The facility will also be better for the infrastructure.

Councilmember Specht said he is in favor of this and appreciates the pause to gather more information. He sees the need for this project. He asked if residents have water softeners if that helps with the manganese.

City Engineer/Interim Public Works Director Westby said water softeners absolutely help to reduce manganese.

Acting Mayor Riley shared the concern that the prices have spiked as well as the supply chain issues, he asked Mr. Vulmer if building prices may come down.

Mr. Vulmer stated he has had conversations with contractors in the industry about this. He shared that companies using large amounts of concrete have priority over concrete supply at a more affordable price, and this project would fall into that category. As far as electrical

equipment, it is more lead time related rather than cost. He said the electrical gear is a main factor in the project timeline. He added that during his conversations with other contractors, no one expected to see a significant decrease in costs.

Councilmember Howell said she is very supportive of this project. She shared she is concerned about the big glass contracts and what is being spent instead of making it more utilitarian and cutting the cost for users.

Acting Mayor Riley stated this is being paid for 100% by City water users, not general taxes.

Councilmember Musgrove asked about the generator room and if it would be shared with the Public Works building.

City Engineer/Interim Public Works Director Westby explained that having a generator in the water treatment plant that would also service the Public Works facility, more money would be spent getting the power from the generator to the Public Works facility than just having a generator at the Public Works facility.

Councilmember Musgrove asked about if the size of the generator had been brought down to just accommodate the water treatment plant.

City Engineer/Interim Public Works Director Westby said that was correct.

Councilmember Howell asked if there was an appetite of the Council to pursue more of a utilitarian outer shell of the building to reduce costs.

Acting Mayor Riley stated he is all for finding what makes sense; however, there are experts that the City has hired and it seems like Mr. Vulmer explained that what is being built is most cost effective.

Councilmember Musgrove asked Mr. Vulmer what percentage of the plant is equipment versus the design.

Mr. Vulmer stated a vast majority of the cost is due to the equipment. He said the design accommodates the treatment process, not the other way around. To substantially reduce the cost of the facility would be to substantially change the treatment process.

Acting Mayor Riley asked if a motion was needed on this item or if it was just for the purpose of feedback.

City Administrator Hagen said that based on the last direction Staff was given this was on pause to discuss the new cost estimates. He added there is cash on hand and the rate revenue moving forward would pay off the additional bonding. He stated there is an ask in the 2022 session for \$10,000,000 in State bonding. He said Staff is looking for Council's direction on proceeding forward with the bonding process and proceeding to authorize the bid.

Acting Mayor Riley asked Council if after hearing that building costs will likely not be coming down any time soon if they wanted to give approval to move things forward.

Councilmember Specht asked if there was a percentage increase that has been calculated for the water cost.

Finance Director Lund stated this was part of the rates discussion and it was a 10% increase for the water and sewer rates since those are the funding source. She mentioned this is also based on the 15 year bond rate.

Councilmember Heineman said he appreciates all the information around this project. He feels comfortable with moving forward to bid the project. He mentioned if aesthetics will add to the cost of the project that he would rather see the cost lower and the building with less aesthetics.

Acting Mayor Riley asked if the consensus was to get the ball rolling on this project. He added that Mayor Kuzma is not here tonight but is in favor of moving forward with this project.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if any direction was needed on the ask for bonding from the State or if this is something that would be brought back to Council at a later date.

City Administrator Hagen said the discussion with the State will start early January so these discussions will happen late November early December.

Councilmember Woestehoff asked if some language including tax exemption for the construction project can be added for the State and could save a few million dollars.

Acting Mayor Riley expanded on this and said this would be to ask that the construction project be sales tax exempt. He gave direction to get the ball rolling.

7.02: Adopt Ordinance #22-25 Pertaining to Mobile Food Units

City Administrator Hagen reviewed the staff report and discussion from the last Council meeting when this ordinance was introduced. He said Staff is happy to answer any questions and recommended adoption of the ordinance.

Acting Mayor Riley asked if there was any additional discussion or if Council was comfortable making a motion to adopt the ordinance.

Councilmember Howell shared she noticed a lot of food trucks having flags inserted into the ground and asked if the food truck owners will still be able to do that with this ordinance.

City Administrator Hagen stated he believes this ordinance does limit them just to a sign. He said that being more open and allowing these flags are possible.

Councilmember Howell shared her thoughts on allowing the flags since the speed limits on a lot of Ramsey roads are faster and the flags will help drivers see the business advertising. She

suggested not limiting the signage. She also asked about the food trucks being located on concrete or pavement, but on the turf at the summer draw series, she asked if the turf is damaged after the trucks are on top.

City Administrator Hagen said he did not know.

Councilmember Howell said that if the City is allowing the trucks on the grass, she thinks that a private property owner should be able to do the same.

City Administrator Hagen shared the intent behind this is that damage to the turf is not extreme during the summer draw series as the truck is only there once a week, but if a truck was parked permanently the turf will be damaged.

Councilmember Howell asked if the solution was that the business would have to repair the turf based on the City code.

City Administrator Hagen said there would be provisions to do so via code enforcement, which can be a lengthy process.

Councilmember Howell gave an example of the Anoka Farm and Garden store, asked if they would not be able to put a food truck on their property since they do not have pavement or concrete. She discussed not being able to have a food truck on property when it is closed, and asked if there had been problems having a food truck on a property when it was closed.

City Administrator Hagen stated this recommendation is intended to allow a business that is open to draw in the user more so than a food truck finding a location and capitalizing on a location. This more so references vacant lots or buildings.

Councilmember Howell shared her thought of swapping this with being on a parcel where the business is closed, like a business that closes early or is closed on the weekends, and a food truck wanted to park there, she does not see an issue if it is not causing a safety issue. She asked if the City requires brick and mortar stores to have a recycling and trash receptacle.

City Administrator Hagen said he did not know.

Councilmember Howell said with being so limited on what can be recycled, forcing a food truck to have a recycling bin and not the brick and mortar store puzzles her and seems to micromanage the food trucks. She said the ordinance states that a mobile food unit is one that sells individual portions of food. She asked if someone served family style food if it would still be considered a mobile food unit.

City Attorney Knaak said this is still individual portions so yes.

Councilmember Howell asked if there are any buffer zones between entrances of similar type businesses in Ramsey.

City Administrator Hagen said there are some State provisions on liquor stores in relationship to schools but there are no local ordinances.

Councilmember Howell said it seems like the City is inserting themselves between a property owner renting space to restaurants and them being foolish in business by irritating their renters by bringing in a food truck of a similar restaurant in the brick and mortar. She said she cannot support this as it protects one business over another.

Acting Mayor Riley asked if Councilmember Howell had suggested changes.

Councilmember Howell would like to see the 100 feet removed since it is not done anywhere else. She would also like the signage and flags to be able to stay. Lastly, she would like to revisit allowing these trucks on Class 5.

City Administrator Hagen said the wording could be adjusted to reference the approved designated parking area.

Councilmember Howell also would like to revisit having the trucks on the property when the businesses are closed, as long as it is not a safety hazard, as well as revisiting the recycling container.

City Administrator Hagen shared he found the provision and it says the owner/operator must provide trash/recycling for customers and it could be changed to say trash and/or recycling.

Councilmember Specht said that the property owner would need to be aware that they would have to replant or fix the grass if the trucks cause any damages.

Councilmember Woestehoff shared that the Minnesota Department of Health does regulate food facilities saying that both trashing and recycling are needed. As for signage, he said nothing would be in the way of the food truck owners applying for a temporary sign permit just like a regular business. He added he thinks he would rather see the trucks on paved services but remains indifferent.

Acting Mayor Riley stated he liked City Administrator Hagen's idea of the designated parking areas.

Councilmember Howell thanked Councilmember Woestehoff for the information. She is still in support of allowing signage.

Acting Mayor Riley asked if the Council is allowed to change this ordinance and still be able to adopt it today.

City Attorney Knaak said not if there are modifications. He suggested tabling the second reading and making the modifications so the final approval is back in front of the Council.

Councilmember Woestehoff commented that by letting the food trucks have their temporary signs this gives them the benefit over the brick and mortar as the brick and mortar locations are required to have a temporary sign permit.

Councilmember Howell asked about the flags that are seen in the ground near food trucks and restaurants and if they are getting temporary sign permits or if they are just being placed.

City Administrator Hagen said he will get that answer.

Councilmember Musgrove thanked Councilmember Howell for digging in deeper on this. She added she has had a change of mind with the 100 feet and thinks that they can trust the property owners and food truck vendors on this.

Councilmember Heineman echoed Councilmember Woestehoff's point on the temporary flags and added he supported the change of allowing food trucks on Class 5.

Councilmember Howell asked Councilmembers Heineman and Woestehoff if the signage they are discussing includes a banner attached to the food truck itself or only the flags in the ground.

Councilmember Heineman commented the food trucks themselves are an advertisement and anything added to the truck is part of the truck. He is talking about the larger signs or banners that are not attached to the truck and thinks it makes sense for those to have to have a permit.

Acting Mayor Riley said it seems this should be tabled for the time being.

Councilmember Specht asked if the trash and recycling is monitored by the State if that even needs to be mentioned.

City Administrator Hagen said that by having it in the ordinance the matter can be addressed quicker than the State.

Acting Mayor Riley said it is important to have the trash receptacle and having it in the ordinance gives the City the ability to enforce it quickly.

Councilmember Woestehoff said that food trucks would not be bound to this as it was directed towards restaurants.

Councilmember Howell said the compromise is having the signage attached to the vehicle rather than the flags in the ground.

City Administrator Hagen read the rules on signs and asked if it restricted the flags from being attached to vehicles.

City Attorney Knaak said no.

Acting Mayor Riley asked if anyone felt strongly about getting the 100 feet rule in the ordinance.

Councilmember Howell brought up the issue of allowing trucks on properties that are closed for the day but not vacant properties.

Acting Mayor Riley asked if anyone had a problem with allowing this.

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Howell, to table Ordinance #22-25 to be brought back at the next Council meeting.

A roll call vote was performed:

Councilmember Musgrove	aye
Councilmember Specht	aye
Councilmember Howell	aye
Councilmember Heineman	aye
Councilmember Woestehoff	aye
Acting Mayor Riley	aye

Motion carried.

7.03: Adopt Ordinance #22-17 Amending City Charter Prohibiting Membership on the Charter Commission of City Council Members

City Administrator Hagen reviewed the staff report and recommendation to adopt the ordinance. If adopted, it will be on the Charter Commissions agenda tomorrow for their review.

Motion by Councilmember Howell, seconded by Councilmember Musgrove, to waive the City Charter requirement to read the ordinance allowed and Adopt Ordinance #22-17.

A roll call vote was performed:

Councilmember Musgrove	aye
Councilmember Specht	aye
Councilmember Howell	aye
Councilmember Heineman	aye
Councilmember Woestehoff	aye
Acting Mayor Riley	aye

Motion carried.

7.04: Adopt Ordinance #22-26 Amending the City Charter Prohibiting Membership on City Boards and Commissions of Non-City of Ramsey Residents

City Administrator Hagen reviewed the staff report and recommendation to adopt the ordinance.

Motion by Councilmember Howell, seconded by Councilmember Musgrove, to waive the City Charter requirement to read the ordinance allowed and Adopt Ordinance #22-26

A roll call vote was performed:

Councilmember Musgrove	aye
Councilmember Specht	aye
Councilmember Howell	aye
Councilmember Heineman	aye
Councilmember Woestehoff	aye
Acting Mayor Riley	aye

Motion carried.

8. MAYOR, COUNCIL AND STAFF INPUT

City Administrator Hagen announced upcoming meetings and events.

Councilmember Specht thanked Pearson Farm for all that they have done for the community.

Councilmember Musgrove welcomed Miss Iz Ice Cream Shop to Ward 4 after their grand opening today.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

A roll call vote was performed:

Councilmember Musgrove	aye
Councilmember Specht	aye
Councilmember Howell	aye
Councilmember Heineman	aye
Councilmember Woestehoff	aye
Acting Mayor Riley	aye

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the City Council adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian S. Hagen
City Administrator

ATTEST:

Katie M. Schmidt
City Clerk

Drafted by Ava Rokosz
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.