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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

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

Members Absent: None

Also Present: City Administrator Brian Hagen
City Engineer/Interim Public Works Director Bruce Westby
Finance Director Diana Lund
Police Chief Jeff Katers
Interim Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Mark Riverblood
Administrative Services Director Colleen Lasher
Planning Manager Todd Larson
Economic Development Manager Sean Sullivan
City Attorney Fritz Knaak
Assistant City Engineer Joe Feriancek

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: Oath of Office - Patrol Officer / Sergeant Promotions

Police Chief Katers introduced and gave a brief background on Patrol Officer Nolan Goebel.

Mayor Kuzma issued the Oath of Office to Patrol Officer Goebel.

There was applause by all those in attendance.

Police Chief Katers recognized Nick Dahlberg and James Bagne for being promoted to Sergeants.

There was applause by all those in attendance.

Police Chief Katers thanked the rest of the Police Department family for being in attendance this evening.

2.02: Recognize Councilmember Ryan Heineman for his Service to the City of Ramsey

Mayor Kuzma recognized Councilmember Heineman as his term on the City Council ends.

City Administrator Hagen gave a brief background of Councilmember Heineman highlighting the roles and offices that he held through the years.

Mayor Kuzma expressed his appreciation for Councilmember Heineman's service and all he has done for the City of Ramsey.

There was applause by all those in attendance.

3. CITIZEN INPUT

Jim Gutzwiller, 16651 Quicksilver Street NW, came forward looking for updates on the north entrance to Elmcrest Park.

City Administrator Hagen gave an update on the project and stated it did not move as quickly as hoped. He shared that they are drafting some final documents for review. He added that the survey work has been received and reviewed. He said the next steps are to finalize the documents and schedule the closing, he hoped this would be done by the end of the year.

Mr. Gutzwiller asked if there was a reason that nothing had been moved.

City Administrator Hagen stated that the transaction has not happened.

Mr. Gutzwiller shared that a Councilmember was at their property one day and a load of wood to be burned was delivered. He said there are fires going nonstop, up to 90-foot flames. He added that a pick-up dropped a propane tank and eight sheets of plywood whipping through the cul-de-sac. He noted that his taxes have gone up but he could not sell his property even if he wanted to. He hoped the taxes could be lowered. He mentioned that when the City plows his road, they only plow the road going to the park and not the cul-de-sac and he has been plowing the cul-de-sac since he moved in.

Mayor Kuzma asked City Administrator Hagen to talk to City Engineer/Interim Public Works Director Westby about this road getting plowed.

Councilmember Musgrove stated that they are under the understanding that these materials will be moved off the property before the documents are signed but there will be an appointment to go to closing. She asked what this process was and if the City will be there to make sure this is cleared.

City Administrator Hagen explained that the expectation is that the land that the City will be purchasing plus the 30 feet of the property that the City is retaining will be free and clear of all materials before closing on the property. If this does not happen, he stated there would be abatement action.

Councilmember Howell stated that these property owners pay taxes like everyone else and have gotten the short end of the stick. She thinks the easement needs to be enforced. She sees that the system is being abused and she is very sorry to the property owners in this area.

Kristen Fluegel, 14740 Bowers Drive, came forward with concerns of the increase in property taxes.

Mayor Kuzma asked Mrs. Fluegel to come back up during the public hearing to share her concerns.

4. APPROVE AGENDA

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

A roll call vote was performed:

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

Motion carried.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 5.01: Receive Cash & Investments for Period Ending October 31, 2022
- 5.02: Receive Cash & Investments for Period Ending November 30, 2022
- 5.03: Receive October Financial Reports - General Fund and Enterprise Funds
- 5.04: Receive Grant from St. Paul and Minneapolis Foundation
- 5.05: Note the Following Boards, Commissions, and Committee Meeting Minutes
- 5.06: Approve the Following Meeting Minutes:
 - 1) City Council Canvassing Board dated 11/15/2022
 - 2) City Council Special Session dated 11/15/2022
 - 3) City Council Work Session dated 11/22/2022
 - 4) City Council Regular Session dated 11/22/2022

- 5.07: Approve Memorandum of Understanding (MOA) between City of Ramsey & United States Department of Veterans Affairs
- 5.08: Approve Police Axon Squad Car Video System Upgrade
- 5.09: Approve extending criminal prosecution services with Eckberg Lammers
- 5.10: Approve Business Licenses (includes 2023 Business License Renewals)
- 5.11: Approve 2023 Rental Fees for Park Facilities
- 5.12: Approve Abatement Agreement for 5431 164th Ln NW (PID13-32-25-22-0004)
- 5.13: Approve Abatement Agreement for property located at 14501 Sunfish Lake Blvd NW (PID 26-32-25-23-0029)
- 5.14: Authorization to Approve Position Reclassifications
- 5.15: Authorization to Approve Community Service Officer Staffing Changes
- 5.16: Authorization to Hire a Part-time Building Inspections Administrative Assistant
- 5.17: Authorization to Hire Utilities Maintenance Workers
- 5.18: Adopt Resolution #22-290 Approving Cash Disbursements Made and Authorizing Payment of Accounts Payable Invoicing Received During the Period of November 17, 2022 through December 7, 2022.
- 5.19: Adopt Resolution #22-229 Establishing Precinct and Polling Locations for the 2023 Election Year
- 5.20: Adopt Resolutions #22-248 and #22-249 Approving the Final Plat and Development Agreement for Riverstone South Second Addition
- 5.21: Adopt Resolution #22-281 Decertifying Tax Increment Financing District #15.
- 5.22: Adopt Resolution #22-282 Approving Lease Agreement for 6701 Hwy 10 NW: Case of God's Kingdom Ministry
- 5.23: Adopt Resolution #22-283 Authorizing the City's 2023 Non-Union Health and Dental Insurance Contributions and Cost of Living Adjustment
- 5.24: Adopt Resolution #22-284 Authorizing Partial Payment No.3 to GMH Asphalt Corporation for Improvement Project #22-02, Autumn Heights Street Reconstructions
- 5.25: Adopt Resolution #22-291 Authorizing Partial Payment No. 4 to Douglas-Kerr Underground, LLC for Improvement Project #20-05, Riverdale Drive Extension Improvements
- 5.26: Adopt Resolution #22-292 Authorizing Partial Payment No. 7 to Douglas Kerr-Underground, LLC for Improvement Project #22-05, Riverdale Drive Trunk Utilities Improvements

A roll call vote was performed:

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

Motion carried.

6. PUBLIC HEARING

6.01: Public Hearing on 2023 Tax Levies and General Fund Budget

- **Adopt Resolution #22-278 Adopting the 2022, Payable 2023 Municipal Tax Levy**
- **Adopt Resolution #22-279 Adopting the 2023 General Fund Budget**
- **Adopt Resolution #22-280 Adopting the 2023 Economic Development Authority (EDA) Budget**

Presentation

Finance Director Lund reviewed the 2023 tax levy and general fund budget. She explained that questions concerning the taxable market values that are on the property tax statements should not be asked at this meeting as the values were set in January of 2022 and the meeting addressing these values was in April of 2022. She stated that once the budget is adopted it will be available on the website. She shared that the final levy is due to Anoka County by December 28, 2022. She explained that if there is not an agreement tonight in regard to what the levy will be, a special meeting will be held before December 28, 2022 and if there is not a consensus of the final amount it will revert back to the 2022 levy amount.

Councilmember Musgrove asked how the bonding will be affected, since it has already been approved, if the levy is not approved.

Finance Director Lund stated the City would have to find funding for this to come up with the debt service. She shared the reason the road improvements were bonded was because it was funding that was needed.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if the bonding would go away.

Finance Director Lund stated the bonding would not go away and is essentially a lean on the City. If the payments are not made on the debt service it will affect the bond rating. She stated the City is already responsible for this debt.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if each resolution will be voted on individually or all as one.

Mayor Kuzma said he would think to vote on them all as one.

Councilmember Howell supported voting on them individually.

City Administrator Hagen stated the resolutions can be voted on individually.

Councilmember Heineman shared that the residents have been talking about fixing the roads and Finance Director Lund discussed the ‘bubble’ in the road maintenance. He asked if someone could elaborate on the ‘bubble’ and playing catch up with the road maintenance.

City Engineer/Interim Public Works Director Westby explained the ‘bubble’ that started in the mid-1970s to the mid-1980s, when the roads were constructed. He stated these roads have reached the end of their lifespan and need maintenance and to be designed to today’s standards.

Public Hearing

Mayor Kuzma called the public hearing to order at 7:49 p.m.

Citizen Input

Kristen Fluegel, 14740 Bowers Drive, came forward with concerns of the increase in property taxes. She shared she spoke with Anoka County when the tax statements came out and the value of their house increased \$125,000 this year. She shared that their property taxes went up over \$1,000 this year as well. She shared her appreciation for all that is done to run the City but it is a difficult time for the City to be making such large tax increases.

Bill Wright, 7884 142nd Avenue Northwest, came forward and shared that he and his wife have lived in Ramsey for 22 years. He stated that they are both retired and their income has not changed in those 22 years. He shared that his property taxes are projected to increase \$1,076 or 22.1% and the City’s portion is more than half of the increase. He discussed that over a five year period, this year takes up 55% of the projected 76% increase. He reiterated what Ms. Fluegel said about how much she appreciates how the City is run. He thinks this tax increase could run people out of Ramsey because they cannot afford to keep up with the tax increase. He said this increase is too much in such a short period of time.

Rick Farrell, 15795 Juniper Ridge Drive, came forward and shared that his valuation went up 29% this year. He stated that when the appraiser came by a few months ago he assumed that his valuation for next year would be based on what the appraiser came up with. He shared that he expects his valuation to go down next year as this year’s valuation was done at the peak of the real estate market. He shared that the City portion of his taxes went up 30.6% and last year they went up 15.4%. He said he is here to ask about the thoughts for what next year will look like. He wants to be able to plan for the future.

Marie Tsague, 8700 152nd Avenue Northwest, came forward and shared that she had previously lived in Minneapolis for 23 years and the way that her house was assessed is quite different than what she sees in Ramsey. She shared that she moved into this home in March of 2022 and the market value has severely increased since then. She wanted to understand how her house was assessed.

Mayor Kuzma asked Finance Director Lund to explain how the valuations and assessments work.

Finance Director Lund explained how Anoka County assesses the value, which is determined by the County assessor not the City. She recommended talking to the County assessor and asking for what they used for the valuation for more information.

A Ramsey resident came forward and reiterated Mr. Farrell's question of what the future will look like. He agreed that a lot of the City roads are in bad shape.

Councilmember Musgrove shared that she appreciated the residents coming forward and asking about the future. She shared her ideas for the strategic plan from the Council and thinks that hearing these things directly from the residents is very valuable and will help the Council move forward with their strategic plan.

Councilmember Riley stated that he is looking at the budget increase as a two part increase, the first part being the bonding for the roads, which is 7.1% of the total 19% increase, and the second part is due to the cost increase of City business, which is up for debate. He suggested that this be more of an inflationary rate.

Ms. Fluegel came back up and asked how the growth of the City is factored in when taxes are being calculated. She stated that with the growth of the City and all of the new homes coming in if this will affect the taxes.

Councilmember Woestehoff stated that the growth of the City will help everyone individually when it comes to property taxes. He discussed the tax capacity number and how this affects individual taxpayers. He stated that the roads and inflation is what makes the increase so high. He stated the roads need to be fixed and the City had to go for bonding because the roads could not have waited to get worse. He stated that this is a complex budget and understands that this is a frustration but these are the investments that the City needs to make. He stated that the complaints are challenging as this current budget is set to build an investment plan for the future. He stated it will take time for the new developments to help the tax capacity of the City.

Rick Farrell, 15795 Juniper Ridge Drive, came forward to make a comment concerning lobbying. He shared that he heard about the \$17,000,000,000 surplus that the State of Minnesota has and that part of the surplus goes to reduce property taxes. He asked if all of this State and federal money is available, is there a lobbying effort from the City and County to the State.

Councilmember Specht thanked the resident for bringing this forward. He shared that Ramsey is unique in that they do not qualify for local government aid that a lot of the neighboring cities qualify for. He shared that the Council has put together a legislative agenda with things they will be lobbying for with the State. He said they are working with the State to get some of the surplus to help with the water treatment plant.

Councilmember Heineman added that part of the legislative agenda is lobbying the State for funds from the surplus. He explained the tax capacity change and how that will be changing in the future with the growth of the City. He stated that the Council also feels the pain of the increased taxes and property values. He shared that the Council had lots of hard decisions to make when it came to the budget. He thanked all of the residents who came out to voice their concerns. He said the Council will have to look into the future on how to deal with this, as house values decrease and property taxes go back down, so does the City revenue.

Councilmember Howell thanked everyone for coming out to speak tonight. She shared that she did support the increase in funding for the roads as the roads need to be fixed. She stated she does not support the other 12% increase in the budget. She shared she will be bringing some of her own proposals forward in 2023 on how to keep the budget tighter. She stated she will not be supporting the budget tonight as she does not feel it is the right time to raise the general budget 12%.

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

A roll call vote was performed:

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

Motion carried.

The public hearing was closed at 8:15 p.m.

Council Business

Motion by Councilmember Woestehoff, seconded by Councilmember Specht, to adopt Resolution #22-278 adopting the 2022, payable 2023 municipal tax levies, general, pavement management, EDA, and debt services in the amount of \$18,235,180.

Further discussion:

Councilmember Musgrove shared that she had spoken with Finance Director Lund and was able to ask questions and gain the understanding that there is not much room for any cuts in the taxes this year. She asked if the roads could still be done if they did not do the 5% increase.

City Engineer/Interim Public Works Director Westby stated that the same amount of roads would not be able to be done if they did not do the 5% increase, which would cut back on the roads that could be completed.

Councilmember Specht thanked Staff for their hard work on this. He shared he is not happy with the budget but the ideas are all things that need to be done. He will be supporting the budget tonight.

Councilmember Woestehoff shared that the Council started conversations surrounding the budget in July and there have been several long conversations concerning the budget. He appreciated the Staff for starting these conversations so early.

Mayor Kuzma stated he is not happy with the large tax increase. He said he was for the franchise fee and when it was taken off and moved to the levy he did not think that property values would go up as much as they did. He does not plan on supporting the levy. He is in support of the bonding to fix the roads as it is the biggest complaint in the City.

Councilmember Heineman shared that a lot of due diligence has been done with the budget and the Council has worked very hard to shrink the budget. He said when the City went from a franchise fee to a fair tax, the fund was dedicated to roads and the City still needs to bond more funding for roads.

Councilmember Musgrove thanked Finance Director Lund on her work with the budget and being strategic with planning.

A roll call vote was performed:

Councilmember Musgrove	aye
Councilmember Specht	aye
Councilmember Riley	nay
Councilmember Howell	nay
Councilmember Woestehoff	aye
Councilmember Heineman	aye
Mayor Kuzma	nay

Motion carried.

Motion by Councilmember Woestehoff, seconded by Councilmember Specht, to adopt Resolution #22-279 adopting the 2023 general fund budget in the amount of \$7,550,153.

A roll call vote was performed:

Councilmember Musgrove	aye
Councilmember Specht	aye
Councilmember Riley	nay
Councilmember Howell	nay
Councilmember Woestehoff	aye
Councilmember Heineman	aye
Mayor Kuzma	nay

Motion carried.

Motion by Councilmember Woestehoff, seconded by Councilmember Riley, to adopt Resolution #22-280 adopting the 2023 EDA budget in the amount of \$87,610.

Further discussion:

Councilmember Musgrove stated that the EDA budget was not discussed as much as the others and asked for more information concerning the increase in professional services.

Finance Director Lund explained that items such as studies, appraisals, or anything that is contracted out fall under the professional services. She stated the EDA budget is made up of two items, the professional services and miscellaneous services.

Councilmember Riley stated that marketing went down by \$5,000 and the professional services went up by \$5,000, evening out the budget.

Finance Director Lund noted that the increase was in regard to interest earnings.

A roll call vote was performed:

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

Motion carried.

7. COUNCIL BUSINESS

7.01: Consider Preliminary Plat of Gile Addition - 15710 St. Francis Blvd. NW

Planning Manager Larson reviewed the Staff report and recommendation to approve the preliminary plat. He shared a representative for Mrs. Giles is present to answer any questions.

Mark Berglund, the representative of Mrs. Giles, came forward to introduce himself and give more information on the goal to subdivide the lot and have conditions in place should there be further development in the future. He added that there would be two outlots that would square up the two properties to the west which would be included in the final plat.

Councilmember Musgrove asked about the agreement for Krypton Street and if it goes with the property.

Planning Manager Larson said that was correct, it goes with the land.

Motion by Councilmember Howell, seconded by Councilmember Musgrove, to adopt Resolution #22-275 approving the preliminary plat of Gile Addition.

A roll call vote was performed:

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

Motion carried.

7.02: Introduce Ordinance #23-01 Amending City Code Section 26 Article XIX - Mobile Food Units

City Administrator Hagen reviewed the staff report concerning the removal of background checks, requested by Councilmembers Howell and Musgrove.

Councilmember Howell explained that the trajectory of previous conversations was that food truck owners should not be required to have a background check as restaurant owners are not required to do so, unless liquor is being served. She noted that when reading through Section 26-875, in Section A, she was curious about the necessity of keeping this in the code.

City Administrator Hagen stated that the original code says that if anything expresses concern it would grant the City reason for denial, and the new code says that the background check would not be performed but if the City became aware of any concerns it would have grounds to revoke a license.

Councilmember Howell asked if this section is included for restaurant owners who do not serve alcohol.

City Administrator Hagen stated that they are not just looking at a restaurant serving food in any kind of background.

Councilmember Musgrove how this information would be found out if a background check is not performed and if there are questions concerning a criminal history on the application.

City Administrator Hagen is not sure if there are any questions concerning that on the application. He stated that he understands this section to say that if the City becomes aware of concerning history they would have to look into it further, but not before issuing a license.

Councilmember Howell stated that if this is not being done with other business owners in the City she does not understand why this would be in there for food truck owners. She noted that the City does not require permits for private event catering, food truck drivers should not need a permit to serve at private events.

Councilmember Woestehoff stated that since there is not a tool to check for these concerning matters then there cannot be a section in the code to reference a non-issue or a denial. He asked if Section 26-875 is redundant to existing code. He is in favor of tabling this for more discussion.

City Attorney Knaak explained that he reads this section as to where if something comes up during the application process there would be a reason for denial based on misrepresentation. He said the language does not seem unreasonable. He likes the idea of having a reason to deny an applicant if they are obviously being untruthful.

Councilmember Howell stated that Section 26-875, A, points 1, 2, and 3 cover a broad range of these concerns and point 3 could be removed

Councilmember Woestehoff agreed that point 3 could be removed. He appreciated City Attorney Knaak's thoughts that these points could be used as a tool and would be valuable to have.

Councilmember Howell asked if there is an appetite to not require a license on private property.

Mayor Kuzma stated that if they are bringing in businesses from other cities and are not requiring licenses he supports removing them. He asked if there needs to be a license for this from the Health Department.

City Administrator Hagen stated that the food truck would have to show the City that they have been inspected by the Anoka County Health Department. He said that some language can be drafted on not requiring a license for private events whether it be at a private business or a residence.

Councilmember Heineman stated he is in support of removing this.

Councilmember Woestehoff stated that it is hard to treat food trucks like restaurants in this scenario since food trucks are mobile, explaining that if restaurants want to open a second location they would need a second license to do so. He asked that if a food truck gets licensed for the entire year, the license would cover public and private spaces.

City Administrator Hagen stated that this ordinance does not allow them to operate out of the public right of way, and they have to be on private property. He stated the businesses can choose either a 90-day or an annual license and it is covered.

Councilmember Howell added that she does not view this as a courtesy to the food truck vendors, this is the City not regulating private property.

Councilmember Woestehoff stated that helped clarify his concerns but he thinks it should stay as is. He does not see it as a disservice to the business who hires the food truck if the food truck is required to get a license.

Councilmember Musgrove stated that if there is a food vendor licensed in the County and they have to pay a fee in every city that they want to sell in within the County, they are limited. She

would hate to disparage businesses coming to Ramsey because they require a license and other cities may not.

Councilmember Woestehoff does not want to dissuade them from coming; he does not want the restaurant owners to see that it is too easy to have a food truck in town and that it diminishes the value of having a brick and mortar restaurant. He added that the licensing fee is very minimal compared to the leasing of a restaurant.

Motion by Councilmember Howell, seconded by Councilmember Specht, to introduce Ordinance #23-01 amending City Code Section 26 Article XIX - Mobile Food Units, striking #3 from section 26-875 and removing the requirement for licensure for private events on private property.

A roll call vote was performed:

Councilmember Musgrove	aye
Councilmember Specht	aye
Councilmember Riley	aye
Councilmember Howell	aye
Councilmember Woestehoff	nay
Councilmember Heineman	aye
Mayor Kuzma	aye

Motion carried.

7.03: Adopt Resolutions #22-286, #22-287, #22-288 and #22-289 Ordering Plans and Specifications for 2023 Pavement Management Program Projects

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek reviewed the staff report and recommendation to order plans and specifications for the remaining 2023 pavement management program projects, including the Barthel's Rum River Acres 2nd Street reconstructions, MSA pavement overlay improvements, neighborhood pavement overlay improvements, and the Whispering Pines Estates Plat 3 Street reconstructions. He stated that all plans and specs are to be done in house and construction would begin in late May or early June 2023.

Councilmember Specht asked if this affects the shrinking of Riverdale Drive.

City Attorney Knaak said that is east of Sunfish which is part of the Highway 10 Gateway project.

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Specht, to adopt Resolution #22-286, #22-287, #22-288, and #22-289 ordering plans and specifications for 2023 pavement management program projects.

Further discussion:

Mayor Kuzma shared that after 10 years on the Council this is the biggest swing at managing the roads that he has seen.

A roll call vote was performed:

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

Motion carried.

7.04: Adopt Resolution #22-285 Ordering Plans and Specifications for Improvement Project #23-02, Central Park Main Parking Lot Reconstruction

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek reviewed the staff report and recommendation to order plans and specifications for the Central Park main parking lot reconstruction. He stated that this project would be timed around the facility demands and are targeting July 2023 for construction. He stated that all plans and specs are to be done in house.

Mayor Kuzma asked if the City is staffed efficiently enough to handle these projects in house.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek stated that with Bolton & Menk working on the 167th Avenue project, the workload can be handled by the Staff.

Councilmember Woestehoff thanked Assistant City Engineer Feriancek for his work. He shared that if the south lot is forgotten about he will hear about it as it is in his ward. He views this as prioritizing parking over the playing and park activities. He would like to see this added as an alternate to the 161st project for the south lot. He would like to see this done this year, but at the latest in 2024.

City Engineer/Interim Public Works Director Westby stated that if Council would like, he can explore this option and have these discussions on how this could be worked into the project and what funding is available.

Councilmember Woestehoff appreciates the effort to do the work outside of the schedule of groups that use the fields.

Councilmember Specht does not want to support a solution that would reduce the number of parking spots and is more in favor of the option with a two way flow.

Motion by Councilmember Specht, seconded by Councilmember Howell, to adopt Resolution #22-285 ordering plans and specifications for improvement Project #23-02 Central Park main parking lot reconstruction, with two way flow and the understanding that a solution will be pursued for fixing the south lot.

A roll call vote was performed:

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

Motion carried.

8. MAYOR, COUNCIL AND STAFF INPUT

Mayor Kuzma shared that the tree lighting event is scheduled for this Thursday with Santa at 5:30 p.m.

Councilmember Musgrove commented that the Elk River High School football team won the 5A championship.

Councilmember Heineman thanked the residents of Ward 1 who voted for him and thanked the residents for being engaged in the community. He stated he is excited to see Michael Olson move into the Ward 1 position.

The Council thanked Councilmember Heineman.

City Administrator Hagen announced upcoming meetings and events. He introduced Stephanie Hanson, the new Community Development Director.

Councilmember Specht wished the Ramsey residents a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion carried.

A roll call vote was performed:

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

