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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Mayor Mark Kuzma  
Councilmember Debra Musgrove  
Councilmember Michael Olson  
Councilmember Chris Riley  
Councilmember Dan Specht  
Councilmember Matt Woestehoff

Members Absent: Councilmember Chelsee Howell

Also Present: City Administrator Brian Hagen  
City Engineer/Public Works Director Bruce Westby  
Police Captain Tim Frankfurth  
Administrative Services Director Colleen Lasher  
City Attorney Fritz Knaak  
City Clerk Katie Schmidt

**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: New Board and Commission Member Ceremonial Oath of Office**

Administrative Services Director Lasher welcomed Ms. Jessica Vikander, Mr. Hassan Salami and Mr. Thomas Hagerty to the Environmental Policy Board. She also welcomed the new members who were not present, Ms. Brittany Lindahl to the Economic Development Authority, Mr. Todd Arts to the Park and Recreation Commission and Mr. Ryan Heineman to the Planning Commission.

Ms. Vikander, Mr. Salami, and Mr. Hagerty recited the Oath of Office.

Mayor Kuzma thanked the new members for stepping up and serving the City.

**3. CITIZEN INPUT**

Gerald Bentler, 6061 144th Lane Northwest, came forward and shared concerns with the home at 6070 144th Lane Northwest, which appears to be in the process of being turned into a group home. He stated that he has talked to the Department of Health and Department of Human Services on the matter and they had no information and when he talked to the Planning Commission they said that they know when the license is in place. He added that he was told by the owner that they moved a few blocks away and the house is empty and will be rented out. He asked if this can be used as a group home. He reiterated his concerns with how this will affect other neighbors and traffic.

City Administrator Hagen stated that Mr. Bentler has spoken with Police Chief Katers and the City is looking into this, although group homes are typically regulated by the State. He asked Mr. Bentler to give him his contact information so he or Police Chief Katers can follow up with him.

Robert Teigen, 7833 159th Lane, came forward and shared his concerns with the project on 161st Lane. Mr. Teigen stated that his property is the property that is to have the drainage easement dug deeper. He asked what legal language is in place for this easement. He shared his concerns with the trees he has put on his property in the area of the easement. He also shared concerns with the water that runs over 161st Lane being a hazard and the ditch the water runs into has never been maintained. He noted that if there is a pipe running from 161st Lane and all the water from the parking lot of Central Park, there is nothing to keep contaminants out and the water would run right to his yard. He noted his well is only 20-30 feet from the easement. He added that he was told that the City will be taking out 4,000 cubic yards and sand and he will get no compensation for this.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby stated that he has not spoken with this property owner and a meeting is lined up for this Friday to go out to the property and walk through the project.

Jeff Lubarski, 7860 161st Avenue, came forward and stated that his property backs up to Mr. Teigen's and he reiterated all of Mr. Teigen's concerns and mentioned that he was not notified of a meeting on Friday.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby stated that letters were sent to property owners. He stated that Mr. Lubarski can be part of the meeting on Friday.

Councilmember Riley asked that the results of this meeting be added to the next Public Works Committee meeting.

Councilmember Woestehoff asked City Attorney Knaak to share information regarding the easements.

City Attorney Knaak explained that the property owner owns the land subject to the easement but the City has full right to use the easement.

Councilmember Woestehoff asked if this references the State Statute.

City Attorney Knaak said yes.

Mr. Teigen stated that the easement has been used since 1979 and has been maintaining both roads and asked if the easement can be redesigned.

City Attorney Knaak said yes but that is not to stop them from trying to mitigate and lessen the impact on the property.

#### **4. APPROVE AGENDA**

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

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

#### **5. CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilmember Musgrove noted an edit to the City Council Work Session Minutes dated March 28, 2023. She stated that she was not present when the meeting reconvened and that was not noted in the minutes.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff, to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda with the edit to item 5.04:

- 5.01: Receive February 2023 Financial Reports - General Fund and Enterprise Funds
- 5.02: Receive Cash and Investments for Period Ending March 31, 2023
- 5.03: Note the Following Boards, Commissions, and Committee Meeting Minutes:
  - Planning Commission Special Meeting Minutes Dated February 16, 2023
  - Planning Commission Meeting Minutes Dated February 23, 2023
  - Planning Commission Special Meeting Minutes Dated March 2, 2023
  - Environmental Policy Board Minutes Dated January 23, 2023
  - Public Works Committee Dated February 21, 2023
  - Economic Development Authority Minutes Dated February 9, 2023
- 5.04: Approve the Following Meeting Minutes:
  - 1) City Council Special Work Session dated 3/21/2023
  - 2) City Council Work Session dated 3/28/2023
  - 3) City Council Regular Session dated 3/28/2023
- 5.05: Approve Business Licenses
- 5.06: Adopt Resolution #23-075 Approving Cash Disbursements Made and Authorizing Payment of Accounts Payable Invoicing Received During the Period of March 23, 2023 through April 5, 2023.
- 5.07: Adopt Resolution #23-067 Proclaiming April 28, 2023, as Arbor Day and the Month of May as Arbor Month
- 5.08: Adopt Resolution #23-071 Accepting Bids and Awarding Contract for 2023 Crack Seal Improvements, Improvement Project #23-08

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

## **6. PUBLIC HEARING**

### **6.01: PUBLIC HEARING - Introduce Ordinance #23-05 to Amend Chapter 4 of the Charter - Nominations and Elections**

#### **Presentation**

City Clerk Schmidt reviewed the staff report concerning Charter amendments.

#### **Public Hearing**

Mayor Kuzma called the public hearing to order at 7:20 p.m.

#### **Citizen Input**

There was none.

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

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

The public hearing was closed at 7:20 p.m.

#### **Council Business**

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff, to introduce Ordinance #23-05 amending Chapter 4 of the City Charter - Nominations and Elections.

Further discussion:

Councilmember Specht noted that this is just to clean up language and no changes have been made.

City Clerk Schmidt reiterated that this ordinance does not involve the appointment changes that the Council discussed at an earlier meeting.

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

**6.02: PUBLIC HEARING - Introduce Ordinance #23-07 to Amend Chapter 4 of the Charter - Nominations and Elections**

**Presentation**

City Clerk Schmidt reviewed the staff report concerning Charter amendments, including changes to the appointment process in the event of a vacancy.

**Public Hearing**

Mayor Kuzma called the public hearing to order at 7:22 p.m.

**Citizen Input**

There was none.

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

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

The public hearing was closed at 7:23 p.m.

**Council Business**

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff, to introduce Ordinance #23-07 amending Chapter 4 of the City Charter - Nominations and Elections.

Further discussion:

Councilmember Musgrove asked if this is just an introduction and it will come back for an official vote to be passed.

City Clerk Schmidt said yes.

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

**7. COUNCIL BUSINESS**

**7.01: Adopt Resolution #23-074 Approving Joint Powers Agreement for Improvement Project #20-11, Ramsey Gateway Highway 10 Improvements**

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby reviewed the Staff report concerning the Highway 10 project and the Joint Powers Agreement with Anoka County. He added that Jason Orcutt with Anoka County is present to answer any questions.

Councilmember Riley asked about the \$4,000,000 that will be Ramsey's portion of the cost and asked if that could go down.

Mr. Orcutt explained that the payments are set up incrementally so when the last payment is due, hopefully there will have been some savings that can go along with the last payment to be lowered. He shared that he hopes the bids will come in lower and there will be some savings. He reviewed the Declaration of Restrictive Covenants.

Councilmember Riley asked City Attorney Knaak if the Restrictive Covenant protects the City and keeps the City's best interest in mind.

City Attorney Knaak said yes.

Councilmember Specht asked if there was an initial payment from the City at the beginning of this project discussion.

Mr. Orcutt stated that this was likely money that was used for the study that was done.

Councilmember Woestehoff thanked Mr. Orcutt and Staff for their work on this project as it is a huge project to undertake.

Motion by Councilmember Woestehoff, seconded by Councilmember Musgrove, to adopt Resolution #23-074 Approving the Joint Powers Agreement for Improvement Project #20-11, Ramsey Gateway Highway 10 Improvements, Anoka County Contract #C0009284.

Further discussion:

Councilmember Musgrove thanked both Ramsey and Anoka County for the work they have put into this project.

Mr. Orcutt stated that this project would not have happened without the hard work and support of both the City Staff and the Council. He stated that there will be open houses tomorrow that anyone can attend that will discuss the project.

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

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

City Administrator Hagen announced upcoming meetings and events. He stated that there will be an all-Staff meeting on April 19th. He noted that the Parks and Recreation Department is coordinating Earth Day community clean-up efforts which will be held April 21st-23rd. He added

that Anoka County Parks and Recreation is coordinating a Mighty Mississippi River clean-up and the first event will be held April 22nd in Ramsey at Mississippi West Regional Park.

Councilmember Woestehoff shared that there is a City-wide garage sale scheduled for Friday May 5th-6th and registration is through the Parks and Recreation Department.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

The regular meeting of the City Council adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Brian S. Hagen  
City Administrator

ATTEST:

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Katie M. Schmidt  
City Clerk

Drafted by Ava Rokosz  
*TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*

A recording of this meeting is available for viewing online at [www.qctv.org](http://www.qctv.org) <<http://www.qctv.org>>. Recordings are available for 36 months after the date of the meeting.