

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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a City Council Work Session on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Mayor Mark Kuzma
Councilmember Chelsee Howell
Councilmember Debra Musgrove
Councilmember Michael Olson
Councilmember Chris Riley
Councilmember Dan Specht
Councilmember Matt Woestehoff (attended remotely)

Also Present: City Administrator Brian Hagen
Finance Director Diana Lund
Administrative Services Director Colleen Lasher
City Attorney Fritz Knaak
Police Chief Jeff Katers

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kuzma called the City Council Work Session to order at 5:34 p.m.

2. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

2.01: 2023 Legislative Session Review

Representative Harry Niska reviewed what happened in the 2023 legislative session. He highlighted the legalization of cannabis at the State level. He noted that there have been changes to the employment and labor laws that will affect the City as an employer. He shared that the bills he introduced of extending the TIF funds and having a sales tax exemption for the water treatment plan were included in the tax bill. He added that the extension of the Joint Law Enforcement Council Levy Authority was also included in the tax bill. He noted that they were able to get \$3.1 million of cash funding for the water treatment plant, which is not as much as was requested.

Mayor Kuzma shared that he heard that next year there was about \$10 million available for bonding for the water treatment plant.

Representative Niska stated that he would love to get another \$10 million in the bonding bill for Ramsey but he is not sure. He explained that they do a capital investment tour every year to take a look at potential projects and he stated he will try to get the water treatment plant on the list for this tour.

City Administrator Hagen asked when these tours are conducted.

Representative Niska said he was not sure.

Councilmember Musgrove asked Representative Niska to talk about other cities' funding for water treatment plants and how Ramsey only got a small portion of their requested amount.

Representative Niska explained that this is a political process and not just a formula.

Councilmember Riley stated that at the beginning of the session it seemed as though Ramsey was not getting anywhere and they were not hopeful until the end when things fell into place. He asked if the reason for this is just politics or something different that the City could do to move the needle to show progress early for a better result.

Representative Niska explained that there is typically a budgeting year followed by a bonding year and this year was a budgeting year; however, there was no bonding bill last year. He noted that a lot of the discussion surrounding this year's bonding bill was about taking what was on the bonding bill that did not pass last year and prioritizing that. He said that the reason that Ramsey was not considered earlier was due to the fact that their requests were not in last year's bonding bill. He added that there were a lot of other factors in play to whether there would be a bonding bill that had Ramsey included at all. He shared that the Minnesota Constitution requires that general obligation bonds be passed with a super majority. He explained that this became a negotiating point for a lot of other issues and it was up in the air as to whether there would even be any general obligation bonding in the bill. He shared that the Speaker of the House told them that if there was no deal to pass a general obligation bond there would be a cash capital investment bill but it would not include very many projects that were advocated by republicans. He stated that everything fell into place at the end of the session and they were able to get a small amount of funding for Ramsey.

Councilmember Specht thanked Representative Niska for coming out to share with the Council. He asked what happened with the charitable gambling legislation.

Representative Niska explained that there were some pretty significant changes in the regulation of electronic pull tabs in the tax bill. He noted that he spoke out against these provisions and shared that they will not know what the effects of this are. He stated that the charities who have gotten a lot of financial benefit from these electronic pull tabs are very concerned. He said the changes will prohibit the most attractive features of these pull tabs. He added that there is a tax reduction on the charities. He explained that the thought process is that the tax reduction will help offset these numbers. He noted that it has been pushed off far enough that the games will adapt. He shared that the argument against the electronic pull tabs is that they compete with casinos. He said he was very disappointed in this change and that it will be harmful to the Anoka Ramsey Athletic Association, the Lions Clubs, and every organization that is offering pull tabs.

Councilmember Olson thanked Representative Niska for coming and sharing everything with the Council. He asked about this year's bonding bill and since it was supposed to be last year's bonding bill if there will be another one next year.

Representative Niska said that it was a possibility. He explained that it would require a super majority vote. He stated that a lot of people are expecting there to be another bonding bill next year.

Councilmember Howell thanked Representative Niska for all of his work and shared that it was a joy to watch him navigate the legislature.

City Administrator Hagen shared that he noticed that the Governor, House of Representatives, and Senate have all released their project lists, lots of which were carry over requests for past years. He asked how they advocate, out of session, to make it on to these lists early on.

Representative Niska explained that these lists are the majority party's lists and none of the specific requests from the minority party is normally on the list. He noted these lists are often incomplete. He stated that it is a job for him to advocate to get these requests onto the project list.

Councilmember Woestehoff thanked Representative Niska for his work and shared his appreciation for the communication with the Council.

Councilmember Musgrove thanked Representative Niska for his work. She thanked City Administrator Hagen for mentioning early advocating for the City's projects. She added that she knew that the City's projects were on a list previously. She asked about the LGA formula and funding.

Representative Niska shared that it was his understanding that there were no changes to the LGA formula.

Councilmember Musgrove shared that she knew that they were anticipating getting funding but they never did since no bonding happened last year and this year she did not know what happened.

Representative Niska shared that this was not something that the majority is particularly interested in doing right now.

Finance Director Lund noted that another item that was added was the exclusion from market value up to \$514,000, which should help the property tax payers in the City.

The Council thanked Representative Niska for coming and sharing with the Council.

2.02: Review 2022 Annual Comprehensive Finance Report, Management Report, Special Purpose Report and Single Audit

Finance Director Lund reviewed the Staff report and introduced Aaron Nielsen from the auditing firm of MMKR.

Mr. Nielsen reviewed the 2022 finance report, management report, special purpose report, and single audit.

Councilmember Musgrove asked about the water and recycling utilities. She asked if during their budget discussions they could have more information about the recycling utility. She shared that they have adjusted the water and sewer rates but would like more information on the recycling and why this number is negative.

Mr. Nielsen explained that the recycling utility had a decrease of almost \$10,000 and that there is a recycling grant to help finance operations. He stated that this can be apart of the discussion and how they want to manage rates.

The Council thanked Mr. Nielsen for his presentation.

2.03: Discussion Regarding the Annual Performance Review of the City Administrator, an Individual Who is Subject to the City Council's Authority - May be Closed to the Public

Administrative Services Director Lasher reviewed the Staff report concerning the performance review for the City Administrator. She shared the recommendation to move to closed session.

RECESS AND RECONENE

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Olson, to recess the meeting to Closed Session at 6:10 p.m.

A roll call vote was performed:

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

Motion carried.

The meeting reconvened to Open Session at 6:22 p.m.

Administrative Services Director Lasher shared that during the Closed Session the Council came to a consensus and that the performance evaluation for City Administrator Hagen will be on the Consent Agenda at the July 11, 2023 meeting for approval.

3. TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

3.01: Review Future Topics/ Calendar

Noted.

4. MAYOR / COUNCIL / STAFF INPUT

Councilmember Specht asked if they will have quotes for the roads by the July 11, 2023 regular City Council meeting.

City Administrator Hagen shared that the bids will be back on the deep pothole and spray patching that will be brought to the July 11 meeting.

Councilmember Woestehoff noted that the Planning Commission did not have a quorum and asked if all of the cases from the Planning Commission would make it on the next Council meeting agenda.

City Administrator Hagen explained that because there was not a quorum at the last Planning Commission meeting, they will be bringing the land use applications forward to public hearings at the City Council meeting. He stated that the City does not want to make these applicants wait another month for an answer on their requests.

Councilmember Musgrove shared that she would like to hear the Planning Commission member's input if they attend the Council meeting.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The Work Session of the City Council was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian S. Hagen
City Administrator

ATTEST:

Katie M. Schmidt
City Clerk

Drafted by Ava Rokosz
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.

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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a Closed Session on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Mayor Mark Kuzma
Councilmember Chelsee Howell
Councilmember Debra Musgrove
Councilmember Michael Olson
Councilmember Chris Riley
Councilmember Dan Specht
Councilmember Matt Woestehoff (attended remotely)

Also Present: City Administrator Brian Hagen
Administrative Services Director Colleen Lasher

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kuzma called the Closed Session of the City Council to order at 6:10 p.m.

2. COUNCIL BUSINESS

2.01: Discussion Regarding the Annual Performance Review of the City Administrator, an Individual Who is Subject to the City Council's Authority - May be Closed to the Public

Administrative Services Director Lasher reviewed the Staff report concerning the performance review for the City Administrator.

The Council discussed the performance review for City Administrator Hagen and provided direction to staff.

3. ADJOURNMENT

The Closed Session was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Hagen
City Administrator

ATTEST:

Katie M. Schmidt
City Clerk

Drafted by Ava Rokosz
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.