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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

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

Members Absent: None

Also Present: City Administrator Brian Hagen
Planning Manager Todd Larson
City Attorney Fritz Knaak
Assistant City Engineer Joe Feriancek
Code Enforcement Officer Craig Swalchick
Recreation Coordinator Abby Proulx

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: Receive Donation from the Ramsey Community Foundation

Bill Earhart, 14526 Bowers Drive, President of the Ramsey Community Foundation, came forward to present their donation of \$2,000 for the 50th anniversary of the City.

2.02: Presentation of 2023 Photo Contest Winners

Recreation Coordinator Proulx reviewed the Staff report and winners for the 2023 Photo Contest.

3. CITIZEN INPUT

Jeff Johnston, a resident of Bowers Drive, came forward and shared that he received a letter concerning the trail connections to Bowers Drive. He stated last year, they received signatures

from 97% of the people in the area that they did not want this trail connection. He noted that this is a quiet area and the trail connection could create issues. He asked why this is being addressed again as they have already been through this discussion. He shared his frustrations that the residents have to keep their eyes on every step of the process otherwise the City will do what it wants to do and not what the residents want. He asked what they have to do to get rid of this idea of the trail connection.

City Administrator Hagen explained that a survey did go out a few years ago on this. He said this survey focused on a road connection, which they did not do due to a lack of interest from the residents. He shared that part of the strategic plan is to connect the City through parks and trails. He stated that since Bowers Drive is having a road project done this year, they will already have a company in the area that can do the asphalt trail.

Mr. Johnston reiterated that no one in the area wants this trail.

Mayor Kuzma shared that he has already received phone calls in support of this trail.

Councilmember Specht shared that they have discussed this connection along with the options available many times. He said they heard from many residents that they do not want this connection due to the uniqueness of Bowers Drive. He added that he was also shocked when he saw this item come back up. He said he does not think it is right to re-discuss something they already voted on.

Councilmember Woestehoff asked if Public Works has any comments as to why this item is being revisited.

Councilmember Musgrove shared this came up because the City presented this as being done in conjunction with the road project as there is an opportunity for a trail connection in this area. She added they wanted to get the public's input on this.

City Administrator Hagen shared that the Council is scheduled to further discuss this at the next Work Session meeting on March 26, 2024.

Councilmember Howell shared that she brought the objections forward to Public Works that the residents have already said they did not want this connection. She also shared concerns with the expense and how many people would actually use this trail. She asked if residents do not respond negatively to the survey if that would count as a 'yes' vote in support of the trail connection.

City Administrator Hagen said no and that the responses that they received will be provided to Council for consideration.

Councilmember Howell said if the residents of Bowers Drive do not want this trail then she will not be supporting it.

Councilmember Olson agreed and said this is about what the residents want. He said he was not willing to make a recommendation for this at Public Works without getting any feedback from the residents.

Brian Nordskog, 14580 Bowers Drive, came forward and challenged the Council to spend some time on this road. He shared he moved onto this road after the last survey was done. He noted they see lots of people always walking on the road and the people who are walking are careful because they live on the road and know the road. He shared concerns with residents from other neighborhoods having access to this road more easily.

Mr. Johnston asked if he needs to go do another survey on his own to show that the residents on Bowers Drive do not want this connection. He said the last way this survey was done was that if someone did not respond to the survey then that vote would count as an in favor vote.

City Administrator Hagen reiterated that the final decision on this will be left up to the Council and Staff is only collecting the information from this survey.

Councilmember Woestehoff said they are just trying to ask the residents questions to get some feedback on this decision. He explained that when they do not ask for feedback from the residents the Council gets yelled at and now they are asking for feedback and still getting yelled at. He noted the Council seems to be on the same page that this may not be a good idea.

Councilmember Howell said she did not feel as though the resident was yelling at the Council but was rather just expressing his frustration with a situation that residents have already provided feedback on.

Councilmember Specht agreed with Councilmember Howell.

4. APPROVE AGENDA

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

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.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff, to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda, with the removal of item 5.04 1), meeting minutes for the City Council Work Session dated February 26, 2024 for further review:

- 5.01: Receive Cash and Investments for Period Ending February 29, 2024
- 5.02: Receive January 2024 Financial Reports - General Fund and Enterprise Funds
- 5.03: Note the following Boards, Commission and Committee Meeting Minutes:
 - Planning Commission Meeting Minutes Dated January 25, 2024
 - Environmental Policy Board Meeting Minutes Dated November 20, 2023
 - Economic Development Authority Meeting Minutes Dated January 11, 2024
 - Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes Dated January 16, 2024
 - Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes January 11, 2024
- 5.04: Approve the following Meeting Minutes:
 - 1) City Council Work Session dated February 26, 2024
 - 2) City Council Regular dated February 26, 2024
- 5.05: Approve Business Licenses
- 5.06: Authorization to Hire a Public Works Parks Maintenance Worker
- 5.07: Authorization to Hire a Rental Housing Inspector
- 5.08: Adopt Resolution #24-078 Approving Cash Disbursements Made and Authorizing Payment of Accounts Payable Invoicing Received During the Period of February 22, 2024 through March 6, 2024.
- 5.09: Adopt Resolution #24-065 Approving Final Plat of COR Five
- 5.10: Adopt Resolution #24-067 Approving Final Plat of Hautgvedt Pines (DeeAnn Deiss)
- 5.11: Adopt Resolution #24-071 Approving the Terms of Up To a \$5,000,000 Interfund Loan in Connection with COR Infrastructure Improvements In Connection With Tax Increment Financing District #14 (TIF #14)
- 5.12: Adopt Resolution #24-072 Approving the Transfer of Excess General Fund Revenues to the Equipment Revolving Fund, Facilities Construction Fund, Capital Maintenance Fund and Public Improvement Revolving (PIR) Fund.
- 5.13: Adopt Resolution #24-073 Approving Construction Contingency Expense No. 3 for Improvement Project #21-09, Centralized Water Treatment Plant
- 5.14: Adopt Resolution #24-075 Approving a Vacation of Road Rights-of-Way in Ramsey Town Center, Replacing Resolution #24-010.
- 5.15: Adopt Resolution #24-077 Authorizing The City of Ramsey to Submit Information to the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority (MPFA) and to Enter into a Grant Agreement with the MPFA
- 5.16: Adopt Resolution #24-079 Accepting Cash Donation for the City of Ramsey's 50th Anniversary Banners.

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.

6. PUBLIC HEARING

6.01: PUBLIC HEARING - Adopt Resolution #24-062 Vacating Various Easements in Ramsey Town Center

Presentation

Planning Manager Larson reviewed the Staff report concerning easement vacation requests in Ramsey Town Center.

Public Hearing

Mayor Kuzma called the public hearing to order at 7:24 p.m.

Citizen Input

There was none.

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

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 public hearing was closed at 7:25 p.m.

Council Business

Motion by Councilmember Woestehoff, seconded by Councilmember Musgrove, to adopt Resolution #24-062 Vacating Various Easements in Ramsey Town Center.

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.

7. COUNCIL BUSINESS

7.01: Adopt Resolution #24-060 Approving the Preliminary Plat of Harmony Farms for 57 Single-Family Lots Northeast of 167th Avenue NW and Nowthen Boulevard NW (US Home LLC/Lennar)

Planning Manager Larson reviewed the Staff report in regard to the preliminary plat of Harmony Farms.

Councilmember Musgrove shared that the County has discussed future roundabouts on Nowthen Boulevard. She asked if 167th is one of those discussed roundabouts.

Planning Manager Larson said yes; however, this is not the highest priority intersection for the County.

Councilmember Musgrove shared her concerns with this right-in-right-out traffic. She asked if the temporary road will be adequate for the weight of all of the traffic that will come out of this development. She asked if they will also have these same issues on 167th with traffic going left.

Planning Manager Larson explained that the temporary road would be constructed to the City's rural standards so it will stand up to normal wear and tear of traffic. He noted they are also concerned with the right-in-right-out being the only way in and out of the neighborhood.

Councilmember Musgrove asked about the changes that have not been taken care of with regard to the preliminary plat and that the developer just wrote that these items had been revised. She asked what this meant.

Planning Manager Larson explained that Staff makes comments to the developer and the developer reviews these comments and makes changes as necessary. He said that some of these items say they are revised but they were not revised correctly which is why they are still on the list of changes.

Councilmember Musgrove said the way that these changes were made in the case are easier to read than others in the past. She asked about the park dedication fees and how they will track the City

funding from the development and which park area it will go into since there will be no park in this area.

Planning Manager Larson explained that they have the ability to collect land first for any subdivision. He added that they have the ability to collect cash in lieu of this land which is put into a dedicated fund that will be used for the acquisition and development of parks.

Motion by Councilmember Woestehoff, seconded by Councilmember Olson, to adopt Resolution #24-060 for the Preliminary Plat of Harmony Farms.

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.

7.02: Introduce Ordinance #24-03 Amending City Code Chapters 10, 30, and 54 Pertaining to Nuisances

Code Enforcement Officer Swalchick reviewed the Staff report concerning the amendments pertaining to the nuisance code.

Councilmember Musgrove asked about Chapter 10 - Animals, and the section that refers to diseased animals. She asked if the word ‘domestic’ would be appropriate to add to this section, as the paragraph before refers directly to domestic animals.

Code Enforcement Officer Swalchick explained that this section was brought over from the nuisance code. He said they could make this change if the Council so chooses.

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Howell, to waive the City Charter provision that an ordinance is read aloud and introduce Ordinance #24-03 amending Chapter 10 (Animals), Chapter 30 (Nuisances), and Chapter 54 (Vehicles and Traffic) pertaining to nuisances, with the addition of the word ‘domestic’ in line B, section 10-60 of Chapter 10 (Animals).

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.

7.03: Introduce Ordinance #24-04 Renaming Town Center Drive NW and East Town Center Drive NW to Center Street NW

Planning Manager Larson reviewed the Staff report in regard to the renaming of Town Center Drive NW and East Town Center Drive NW to Center Street NW.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Olson, to introduce Ordinance #24-04 Renaming Town Center Drive and East Town Center Drive to Center Street.

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.

7.04: Adopt Resolution #24-069 Accepting Bids and Awarding Contract for 2024 Crack Seal Improvements, Improvement Project #24-08

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek reviewed the Staff report concerning the 2024 crack seal improvements. He shared the low bid was from Northwest Asphalt & Maintenance in the amount of \$128,714.88.

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Olson, to adopt Resolution #24-069 accepting bids and awarding contract for 2024 Crack Seal Improvements, Improvement Project #24-08 to Northwest Asphalt & Maintenance in the amount of \$128,714.88.

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.

7.05: Adopt Resolution #24-070 Accepting Bids and Awarding Contract for Juniper Woods 1st – 3rd Street Reconstructions, Improvement Project #24-12

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek reviewed the Staff report in regard to the Juniper Woods 1st-3rd Street reconstructions. He shared the low bid came from North Valley, Inc. in the amount of \$412,370.09

Councilmember Riley shared that it was a great idea to bid the trail at the same time as this project.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Musgrove, to adopt Resolution #24-070 accepting bids and awarding a contract for Juniper Woods 1st – 3rd Street Reconstructions, Improvement Project #24-12, to North Valley, Inc. for the total bid in the amount of \$412,370.09.

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.

8. MAYOR, COUNCIL AND STAFF INPUT

City Administrator Hagen announced upcoming meetings and events.

Councilmember Specht recommended that residents check out the events happening this spring at the Green Valley Garden Center.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

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 regular meeting of the City Council adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian S. Hagen
City Administrator

ATTEST:

Katie M. Schmidt
City Clerk

Drafted by Ava Major
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.

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