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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 26, 2024, 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

Members Absent: Councilmember Matt Woestehoff

Also Present: City Administrator Brian Hagen
Planning Manager Todd Larson
Community Development Director Stephanie Hanson
Assistant City Engineer Joe Feriancek
City Engineer/Public Works Director Bruce Westby
City Attorney Fritz Knaak

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

Tim O'Shaughnessy, 17201 St. Francis Boulevard, came forward with Mille, his therapy dog. He shared that April 30 is National Therapy Animal Day and he was hoping for a proclamation from the Mayor for this day. He shared his experience with Mille and the impact she has had on others.

Councilmember Howell asked if there is a local therapy dog organization.

Mr. O'Shaughnessy said people can visit PetPartners.org for more information.

3. CITIZEN INPUT

Jim Benson, 14131 Junkite Street NW, came forward and asked if the Council or City Attorney was aware of the legislature working its way through the legislature that would 'gut' the zoning in any city over 10,000 residents. He stated there are files that are likely to be combined into an amendment that contain provisions that broadly preempt city zoning and land use authority and

mandate various levels of density on residential and commercial lots regardless of infrastructure capacity. He added this would also create an administrative review process that would eliminate public input. He noted that this would also allow anyone to subdivide their property into 4000 square foot lots. He shared this would also have effects on street parking. He noted this would prohibit design standards. He reviewed the other changes that could take place if this passes the legislature.

Councilmember Musgrove asked where this legislature is currently in the committee.

Mr. Benson said he is not sure; however, he does know it is under discussion.

Councilmember Riley asked City Administrator Hagen if he had any insight to this matter.

City Administration Hagen shared that there are a number of organizations and advocacy groups that are already on top of this issue, including the League of Minnesota Cities and the North Metro Mayors Association. He stated that housing bills are a major focus of these organizations. He noted there has been a lot of advocacies against these housing bills at the capitol this year. He shared that the North Metro Mayors Association held their Board Meeting at the capitol last week after a day at the capitol spent speaking with legislators. He shared that they heard at that time that these housing bills are largely going to be going away; however, it is not a sure thing at this time. He added that the League of Minnesota Cities already released a statement containing an update on these bills as well. He noted Staff is watching this very closely as they know the City better than the State does.

Councilmember Howell thanked Mr. Benson for reaching out to the Council on his concerns with this bill. She shared that she was told by a legislator that this is currently in the State Government Committee and someone on the Committee shared that they have not heard the bill as of yet. She reiterated that the organizations are working against this. She added that she believes that cities need to make a grassroots effort to unite together and make a statement on this to the State.

Craig Howze, a member of a local homeschool group, came forward and shared that their group was in attendance this evening to see government in action. He thanked Councilmember Howell for the invitation to attend tonight's meeting, as she and her daughter are a part of this group.

4. APPROVE AGENDA

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

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

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Olson, to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- 5.01: Approve the Following Meeting Minutes:
 - 1) City Council Work Session dated March 12, 2024
 - 2) City Council Regular Session dated March 12, 2024
- 5.02: Approve Business Licenses
- 5.03: Approve Refurbishment of the 25-year-old Okapi Street Boardwalk Connection
- 5.04: Adopt Resolution #24-094 Approving Cash Disbursements Made and Authorizing Payment of Accounts Payable Invoicing Received During the Period of March 7, 2024 through March 20, 2024.
- 5.05: Adopt Resolution #24-079A Authorizing Partial Payment #9 to Magney Construction, Inc. for Improvement Project #21-09; Centralized Water Treatment Plant.
- 5.06: Adopt Resolution #24-080 Approving Grant from Sign and Awning Program for Bossman Inc. (Chanticlear Grill)
- 5.07: Adopt Resolution #24-082 Authorizing Purchase of Replacement Rescue Truck
- 5.08: Adopt Resolution #24-083 Supporting Ramsey Fire Department's Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Funding Request for AED Replacements
- 5.09: Adopt Resolution #24-084 Approving First Amendment to Purchase Agreement with Norhart Architecture LLC
- 5.10: Adopt Resolution #24-085 Approving Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids for MSA Xkimo Street Reconstruction, Improvement Project #24-05
- 5.11: Adopt Resolution #24-090 Re-appointing Board and Commission Members
- 5.12: Adopt Resolution #24-091 Adopting 2024 Strategic Plan
- 5.13: Adopt Resolution #24-092 Authorizing Staff to Apply for Water Efficiency Grant Funding through the Metropolitan Council

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

6. PUBLIC HEARING

- 6.01: Public Hearing - Introduce Ordinance #24-05, An Ordinance Amending Ordinance #23-09, An interim Ordinance Prohibiting the Establishment of New Uses or the Operation of an Adult-Use Cannabis Business Related to the Sales, Testing, Manufacturing, and Distribution of Real THC Products**

Presentation

Community Development Director Hanson reviewed the Staff report in regard to the amending of an interim ordinance which prohibited the establishment of adult-use cannabis businesses to allow for additional time for the development of necessary regulations. She noted that this interim ordinance is set to expire on May 24, 2024.

Public Hearing

Mayor Kuzma called the public hearing to order at 7:19 p.m.

Citizen Input

There was none.

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

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

The public hearing was closed at 7:19 p.m.

Council Business

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Olson, to introduce Ordinance #24-05, An Ordinance Amending Ordinance #23-09, An Interim Ordinance Prohibiting the Establishment of New Uses or the Operation of an Adult-Use Cannabis Business Related to the Sales, Testing, Manufacturing and Distribution of Real THC Products.

A roll call vote was performed:

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

Motion carried.

7. COUNCIL BUSINESS

7.01: Adopt Resolution #24-076 Accepting Bids and Awarding Contract for MSA Alpine Drive Reconstruction, Improvement Project #24-11

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek reviewed the Staff report concerning the MSA Alpine Drive reconstruction project. He shared the low bid for the project was from Northwest Asphalt in the amount of \$1,009,971.93.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if this would result in any road closures.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek stated they are hoping to just keep the road closed to through traffic. He noted that the stabilized reclamation is a moving operation so there will be some periods where they do have to close the road; however, it will stay open for the most part.

Councilmember Riley said he will appreciate this project as he receives questions and complaints about this area often.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Olson, to adopt Resolution #24-076 accepting bids and awarding a contract for MSA Alpine Drive Reconstruction, Improvement Project #24-11, to Northwest for the total bid in the amount of \$1,009,971.93.

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

7.02: Adopt Resolution #24-086 Accepting Bids and Awarding Contract for Improvement Project #23-19, COR Infrastructure Improvements

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby reviewed the Staff report in regard to the COR infrastructure improvements. He shared the low bid for the project was from Douglas-Kerr Underground, L.L.C. in the amount of \$2,973,047.22.

Councilmember Riley asked if they are building parking designed for backing in or if there is still an opportunity to discuss this.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby explained that the plans were designed with back-in angled parking and that is what they would be moving forward with.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if the back-in parking design is something that is seen in other cities.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby stated that this is a design that is becoming more widely used as this makes people more aware of their surroundings where they are driving and parking. He noted this is also safer for people who are needing to load and unload things from their trunks as they would not have to do so in the street.

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Olson, to adopt Resolution #24-086 accepting bids and awarding a contract for Improvement Project #23-19, COR Infrastructure Improvements, to Douglas-Kerr Underground, L.L.C. in the amount of \$2,973,047.22.

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

7.03: Adopt Ordinance #24-03 Amending City Code Chapters 10, 30, and 54 Pertaining to Nuisances.

Planning Manager Larson reviewed the staff report concerning the amendments to City Code for Chapters 10, 30, and 54 pertaining to nuisances.

Councilmember Musgrove asked about Section 10-60 under the Animal code. She shared she made a comment on line 45, suggesting that they add the word ‘domestic’ to this section. She asked if Staff had any feedback on this as this had not been updated.

Mayor Kuzma said he did not believe that there was consensus at the work session to change this.

Councilmember Musgrove stated she made this point during the introduction of this item at a past Council meeting. She noted she did not hear any opposition to this.

Planning Manager Larson said they can add this suggestion if it is made as a part of the motion.

Councilmember Musgrove asked about Section 30-8 on page 14 of the resolution document. She said that on lines 17 and 18 which discuss violations and how each day a violation continues it is considered a new violation. She asked how this process works paperwork wise for Staff.

Planning Manager Larson said it is a lot of work if each day is considered a new violation; however, generally speaking, when a ticket is issued and the problem is not resolved, another ticket will be issued.

City Attorney Knaak stated this is a very effective enforcement tool that they are allowed to use. He explained that there is case law that supports this. He said the law is that every day that an ordinance is violated, it is a separate violation. He noted this is a tool that can help take care of a nuisance. He explained that some people may consider a ticket as a nuisance in itself and just pay the fine and not fix the problem as paying the fine is more convenient to them.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if this comes into play at the end of the initial violation process.

Planning Manager Larson said this does not happen often.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if the Council ever had a discussion on trees as a part of these code amendments.

Planning Manager Larson explained that the tree section used to be in old Chapter 117 in the Zoning Code and it made more sense to be in the Nuisance Code. He stated that this language carried over from the Zoning Code with the addition of Emerald Ash Borer language.

Councilmember Howell also asked about Section 30-3 and noted that on page 4, item 14 it states ‘all dangerous, unguarded machinery in any public place, or so situated or operated on private property as to attract the public’ is considered a nuisance. She said she believes that if they have the opportunity to have a continued violation be considered a daily violation, they should exercise caution when they are considering things to be nuisances. She shared her concern with item 14 is that they are talking about machinery on private property. She noted that when it comes to people’s private property, they should not be considered the person who is committing a crime by virtue of attracting people to their machinery. She stated that she would like to see the private property aspect of this struck from the code.

Councilmember Musgrove agreed.

Councilmember Specht agreed.

Councilmember Olson agreed.

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Howell, to waive the City Charter provision that an ordinance is read aloud and adopt Ordinance #24-03 amending Chapter 10 (Animals), Chapter 30 (Nuisances), and Chapter 54 (Vehicles and Traffic) pertaining to nuisances, including adding language for domestic animals in Chapter 10 and striking the portion related to private property in item 14 under Section 30-3 from Chapter 30.

A roll call vote was performed:

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

Motion carried.

7.04: Adopt 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 concerning the renaming of Town Center Drive NW and East Town Center Drive NW to Center Street NW.

Motion by Councilmember Howell, seconded by Councilmember Olson, to waive the Charter requirement that the ordinance be read aloud and adopt 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
Mayor Kuzma	aye

Motion carried.

8. MAYOR, COUNCIL AND STAFF INPUT

City Administrator Hagen announced upcoming meetings and events.

Councilmember Specht encouraged people to check out the fun events at Green Valley Garden Center. He shared that they have their Spring Coffee and Crafts event on April 6.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The regular meeting of the City Council adjourned at 7:50 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.