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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 23, 2024, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Acting Mayor Chris Riley
 Councilmember Chelsee Howell
 Councilmember Debra Musgrove
 Councilmember Michael Olson
 Councilmember Dan Specht

Members Absent: Mayor Mark Kuzma
 Councilmember Matt Woestehoff

Also Present: City Administrator Brian Hagen
 Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Mark Riverblood
 City Attorney Fritz Knaak
 Police Administration Captain Tim Frankfurth

1. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Mayor Riley called the regular meeting of the Ramsey City Council to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Acting Mayor Riley.

2. PRESENTATION

2.01: Proclamation Declaring April 30 as National Therapy Animal Day

Acting Mayor Riley read the proclamation declaring April 30, 2024 as National Therapy Animal Day.

3. CITIZEN INPUT

None.

4. APPROVE AGENDA

Acting Mayor Riley shared he would like to move agenda item 7.03 to a future Work Session meeting. He noted this item was added to the agenda at the last minute and it gave the Council little time to prepare for the item, as well as giving the public little time to react to what the Council may be discussing.

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

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

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 5.01: Receive February 2024 Financial Reports - General Fund, Enterprise Funds, and Economic Development Authority (EDA) Fund
- 5.02: Receive Cash and Investments for Period Ending March 31, 2024
- 5.03: Approve the following Meeting Minutes:
 - 1) City Council Work Session dated March 19, 2024
 - 2) City Council Special City Council dated April 2, 2024
 - 3) City Council Work Session dated April 9, 2024
 - 4) City Council Regular Session dated April 9, 2024
- 5.04: Approve Business Licenses
- 5.05: Approve Promoting a Parks Maintenance Worker to Lead Parks Maintenance Worker
- 5.06: Adopt Resolution #24-117 Approving Cash Disbursements Made and Authorizing Payment of Accounts Payable Invoicing Received During the Period of April 4, 2024 through April 17, 2024.
- 5.07: Adopt Resolution #24-100 Approving final payment to Northern Lines Contracting, Inc. for Improvement Project #23-01, 161st Avenue Reconstruction.
- 5.08: Adopt Resolution #24-106 Approving a Development Agreement for Complete Auto Service at 5195 142nd Avenue NW (Project No. 24-102); Case of Complete Auto Service
- 5.09: Adopt Resolution #24-107 Proclaiming April 26, 2024, as Arbor Day and the Month of May as Arbor Month
- 5.10: Adopt Resolution #24-109 Approving Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids for 2024 NE Ramsey Street Reconstructions, Improvement Project #24-03
- 5.11: Adopt Resolution #24-110 Approving Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids for 2024 Neighborhood Pavement Overlay Improvements, Improvement Project #24-07
- 5.12: Adopt Resolution #24-111 Approving Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids for 2024 Pavement Rejuvenation Improvements, Improvement Project #24-09
- 5.13: Adopt Resolution #24-112 Approving Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids for 2024 MSA Pavement Marking Improvements, Improvement Project #24-10
- 5.14: Adopt Resolution #24-113 Accepting Proposals and Awarding Televising Contract for Improvement Project #24-05, MSA Xkimo Street Reconstruction and Improvement Project #24-07, 2024 Neighborhood Pavement Overlay Improvements

- 5:15: Adopt Resolution #24-118 Authorizing Partial Payment #10 to Magney Construction, Inc. for Improvement Project #21-09, Centralized Water Treatment Plant.
- 5:16: Adopt Resolution #24-119 Approving Change Order No. 8 for Ramsey Gateway Highway 10 Improvements, Improvement Project #20-11

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

6. PUBLIC HEARING

None.

7. COUNCIL BUSINESS

7.01: The Waterfront - Consider Schematic Design Process for Determining the Community Building Cost

Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood reviewed the Staff report in regard to The Waterfront community building, discussing the schematic design process and the overall cost of the project.

Acting Mayor Riley shared that the Council had discussed putting a question on the ballot concerning this project, but they wanted more accurate project costs before they could make that decision.

Councilmember Howell asked where the \$18,000,000 to \$20,000,000 has come from that they have put towards other capital improvements throughout other parks in the City.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood explained that these investments were from the Park Trust Fund, which is made up of development fees paid by developers for new residential and commercial developments. He added that they have also supplemented this funding with grants.

Councilmember Howell asked if the City has taken out any bonds for any of these park projects.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood said no.

Councilmember Musgrove reiterated that the Council discussed this during a Work Session and added that she did not support this project moving forward. She noted that it is in the CIP for 2033. She said there is development on Highway 10 that has paused due to construction and there are current economic vacancies in the City. She added that there is also already a venue area in the City that this project would be competing with. She said she is not sure if the taxpayers are ready to fund a project like this. She noted they just bonded for the roads as they did not want to increase the tax levy. She added that City Hall is not yet paid off and they are still only paying interest on the Public Works building. She stated the funding for this could come from the Parks Trust Fund;

however, there is likely not enough in this fund to pay for the entire project plus others that will come up. She reiterated that she does not support this project moving forward at this time.

Councilmember Specht said he loves the idea of the splash pad and a Community Center. He noted that Andover received a lot of backlash for their Community Center as the residents did not feel like they were able to give enough feedback. He said if they were to move forward with this project then he would like it to be on the ballot for the residents to be able to vote on and share their opinions on. He added that he is not in favor of bonding for this project. He shared he would be in support of spending some funds to get a more accurate cost estimate for this project so they can put it on a ballot to get it in front of the residents.

Councilmember Howell shared her concerns with comparing this project to the \$18,000,000 to \$20,000,000 that has been spent on the parks as this project will require bonding. She said it is frustrating to even compare the two as the other parks projects were paid for with existing funds and this project would be paid for with money the City does not already have. She noted that in the current economic climate, she finds this project to be irresponsible. She added that she also finds it irresponsible to spend \$270,000 on a schematic design for this project. She said she does not support putting a question on the ballot for this.

Councilmember Olson shared that this project is very exciting; however, he does not believe that the City is at a point in time where they are ready to move forward with this and it does not make sense to spend the \$270,000 just to get a more accurate project cost to put on the ballot. He added that he does not like the idea of bonding for this. He said he assumes the residents would not like to see what this would cost them after the last tax increase.

Acting Mayor Riley said if they want to ask a ballot question on this project then they would need to get the more accurate cost estimates.

Councilmember Olson asked if they would still be looking at putting a question on the ballot if they do not approve Staff to move forward with spending the \$270,000 to get the schematic design.

Acting Mayor Riley said the Council could discuss this more at a future Work Session to see if they still wanted to put a question on the ballot.

City Administrator Hagen said they can discuss the next steps of this project without the schematic design to see the best way to move forward.

The Council reached a consensus to not move forward with authorizing the schematic design of The Waterfront community building.

7.02: Adopt Resolution #24-121 Establishing a \$370,140 Budget and Approving the Playground Installation for The Hollow

Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood reviewed the Staff report concerning the playground installation at The Hollow.

Councilmember Musgrove shared that the Park and Recreation Commission met out at this site and it was very cool to see all of the children very excited with the initial parts of the playground that have already been installed. She said this playground is being built with funds from this development. She added that there will be a lot of surrounding neighborhoods that will benefit from this park.

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Howell, to adopt Resolution #24-121 authorizing \$370,140 from the Park Trust Fund for the one-acre neighborhood park known as The Hollow, including \$177,200 for the playground specific components with installation.

Further discussion:

Councilmember Specht noted that the Pearson Park playground has a similar design to this one. He asked if these designs and concepts are continuing to be used a lot versus a traditional playground design.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood explained that these designs and concepts are very popular. He noted that the Pearson Park playground is a very popular place during the summer.

Councilmember Specht asked where they came up with the name of The Hollow.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood shared that this name came about as a hollow is a safe place to live or play, specifically in the woods.

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

7.03: Introduce Ordinance #24-09 Amending Chapter 2 Regarding the Protection of Data on Residents

City Administrator Hagen reviewed the Staff report in regard to the protection of data on residents.

Councilmember Howell shared that she and Councilmember Musgrove requested that the Council discuss this item after discussions of the citizen survey at a past Work Session meeting. She shared that the draft survey had questions on political beliefs, race, and gender which seem invasive. She stated they would like to have some better practices as a City around not invading resident's privacy.

Councilmember Musgrove added that the Federal and State governments do enough data collection and the City's role has more to do with how they can meet the needs of the residents. She noted that data is valuable, and people should not be forced to give up anything more than what is required by law. She shared that some surveys allow people to opt out of answering certain questions; however, there was not an opt out option on this survey.

Acting Mayor Riley asked Police Administration Captain Frankfurth if these questions cover the information that the Police Department gathers for police work.

Police Administration Captain Frankfurth explained that the Police Department needs to have more data because some of their background checks require more information to do a legitimate background check. He said this would fall until a law requirement so this change would not affect their ability to collect necessary data.

City Attorney Knaak confirmed that this change would not affect the Police Department's ability to gather the necessary information for background checks.

Acting Mayor Riley said he is not opposed to this ordinance; however, he does not like the fact that it was added last minute to the agenda.

Motion by Councilmember Howell, seconded by Councilmember Musgrove, to introduce Ordinance #24-09 regarding the protection of data on residents.

Further discussion:

Councilmember Olson agreed with Acting Mayor Riley that this item seemed rushed onto the agenda when it was not necessary. He said he is in agreement with this change.

A roll call vote was performed:

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

Motion carried.

8. MAYOR, COUNCIL AND STAFF INPUT

8.01: Legislative Update

City Administrator Hagen shared the legislative updates can be found in the Staff packet. He announced upcoming meetings and events. He shared that road construction has started and residents can find more information on the City Engineering website where weekly updates are posted.

Councilmember Specht shared that Green Valley will be having a Flowers and Food Trucks event on Saturday, May 4.

Councilmember Musgrove shared that the Parks and Recreation Commission is starting their outdoor season, and the May 9 meeting will be held at Solstice Park. She added that they will be visiting many of the City parks this summer. She gave a kudos to Staff as she had a resident reach out to her with a concern that was addressed and resolved by Staff and yielded a great outcome. She said this resident was so appreciative of how well Staff worked with him to resolve his issue.

Councilmember Specht shared he also had a very similar situation where a resident came to him with an issue and Staff was able to handle it very quickly for this resident.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The regular meeting of the City Council adjourned at 7:41 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.