

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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a City Council Work Session on Tuesday, May 28, 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
Councilmember Matt Woestehoff

Also Present: City Administrator Brian Hagen
Administrative Services Director Colleen Lasher
Street Supervisor Shane Turner
City Clerk Katie Schmidt

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kuzma called the City Council Work Session to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

2.01: Continue Discussion regarding a resolution requesting additional precincts for the 2024 Post-Election Review

City Clerk Schmidt reviewed the Staff report in regard to the request for additional precincts to be included in the 2024 Post-Election Reviews. She reviewed the cost estimates for Staff time for the additional reviews.

City Administrator Hagen stated that they are looking for direction on how the Council would like to set up this resolution.

Councilmember Specht said if they are going to do this, he would like it to be done this way until a future Council changes it.

Councilmember Riley asked about the difference between counting 12 races or 36 races.

City Clerk Schmidt explained that the difference is from the number of judicial races.

Councilmember Riley said counting 12 races seems to make sense based on the number of judges.

Councilmember Howell agreed that they should not put an end date on this and just allow future Councils to change this if they so choose. She suggested switching to two-thirds of the precincts having a post-election review with only 12 races and leaving out the uncontested races as well as the judicial races.

Councilmember Woestehoff asked if there is an audit time difference if they were to just audit the City only races versus the Federal races.

City Clerk Schmidt stated that it would likely not change very much as they will be looking at every ballot anyway.

The consensus of the Council was to direct Staff to draft a resolution to have post-election reviews for two-thirds of the City's precincts for 12 races.

2.02: Discussion Regarding Union Contract Negotiations for AFSCME, LELS-Patrol, LELS-Sergeants & LELS-Captains (Discussion Closed to the Public)

Administrative Services Director Lasher introduced this item and asked the Council to move to Closed Session.

Motion by Councilmember Woestehoff, seconded by Councilmember Howell, to recess the meeting to Closed Session at 5:37 p.m.

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

The meeting reconvened to Open Session at 6:44 p.m.

Administrative Services Director Lasher shared that Council and Staff discussed union negotiation strategies for the upcoming contract which will begin January 1, 2025. She noted that they did not discuss the LELS-Sergeants contract as they have not yet received their initial proposal. She stated Staff has received Council's direction and they will proceed accordingly.

2.03: 2024 Community Survey Direction

City Administrator Hagen reviewed the Staff report concerning the 2024 Community Survey. He shared that he has spoken with Polco about his concerns with many surveys coming back with the wrong rating headline. He stated that Polco said that the feedback from the survey is still usable with these errors. He shared Polco's suggestions on how to handle the data.

Councilmember Howell said she is not happy with this as it seems that they will have to skew the survey to get an answer. She noted they may need to throw out the whole section where the error occurred.

City Administrator Hagen said he expressed concern to Polco that one of the City's custom questions was affected by this.

Councilmember Musgrove stated she is in favor of scrapping all parts of the survey where the error occurred and just focusing on the questions that they can get accurate feedback on.

Councilmember Woestehoff asked if they can ask Polco for a refund or free survey in the future because of this error.

City Administrator Hagen noted that he had also thought about asking for a full refund. He stated he will have to look into the contract to see if this could be a possibility.

Mayor Kuzma agreed that they should try to get their money back.

Councilmember Howell stated that she took the survey online and in order to do so, she had to set up a Polco account in order to even take the survey. She added that she was not impressed with this and believes they likely lost a lot of people who did not want to take the survey because they had to create an account.

City Administrator Hagen shared that he also heard comments from two residents about the annoyance of having to create an account to take the survey.

Councilmember Woestehoff asked if Polco had drop off rates that they could share to see how many people started the survey and did not finish it.

Councilmember Musgrove agreed that it would be helpful information to have.

City Administrator Hagen asked if Polco is not willing to give a refund for this year's survey if the Council would be comfortable with scrapping all responses that have the incorrect rating.

Councilmember Specht asked if they should use a different survey company in the future.

City Administrator Hagen said yes.

Councilmember Howell stated if Polco is not willing to issue a refund for their error she would at least like them to send out the corrected question to all who took the survey so that they can gather some data on this question.

The consensus of the Council was to direct Staff to request a refund from Polco for their errors to the Community Survey.

3. TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

3.01: Review Future Topics/ Calendar

Noted.

4. MAYOR / COUNCIL / STAFF INPUT

Councilmember Specht suggested getting the meals for Council meetings from local small businesses that are affected by the road construction as a way to support them.

Councilmember Musgrove added that she would like to discuss the agenda layout at an upcoming meeting.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The Work Session of the City Council was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian S. Hagen
City Administrator

ATTEST:

Katie M. Schmidt
City Clerk

Drafted by Ava Major
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, May 28, 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
Councilmember Matt Woestehoff

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 5:37 p.m.

2. COUNCIL BUSINESS

2.01: Discussion Regarding Union Contract Negotiations for AFSCME, LELS-Patrol, LELS-Sergeants & LELS-Captains (Discussion Closed to the Public)

Administrative Services Director Lasher reviewed the Staff report in regard to union contract negotiations for AFSCME, LELS-Patrol, and LELS-Captains. She stated they will not be discussing the LELS-Sergeants as they have not yet received their initial proposal.

Staff received direction from the Council.

3. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember Woestehoff, seconded by Councilmember Howell, to adjourn the Closed Session

Motion carried.

The Closed Session was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian S. Hagen
City Administrator

ATTEST:

Katie M. Schmidt
City Clerk

Drafted by Ava Major
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.