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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, November 12, 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

Members Absent: None

Also Present: City Administrator Brian Hagen  
Planning Manager Todd Larson  
City Attorney Fritz Knaak  
Community Development Director Stephanie Hanson  
City Clerk Katie Schmidt  
Police Chief Jeff Katers  
Police Captain Tim Frankfurth

**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: Recognition of Retiring Police Chief Jeff Katers for 24 Years of Service with the Ramsey Police Department**

Police Captain Frankfurth gave the Council a brief presentation on Police Chief Katers and his accomplishments while serving as the Police Chief of Ramsey ahead of his upcoming retirement. He thanked Police Chief Katers for all he has done for the City of Ramsey and wished him well in his retirement.

Mayor Kuzma, on behalf of the entire Ramsey community, expressed gratitude for Police Chief Kater's dedication and hard work to the City.

Police Chief Katers thanked the Council for all of their support over the years. He also thanked the citizens of Ramsey and shared his enjoyment from serving this City.

## **2.02: Sheriff Brad Wise Presentation to City Council**

Anoka County Sheriff Wise gave the Council a presentation and an update on the Anoka County Sheriff's Office and how it works with the Ramsey Police Department.

Councilmember Musgrove shared her appreciation for Anoka County Sheriff Wise coming forward this evening. She asked about his involvement with Ramsey and the other cities in Anoka County moving forward.

Anoka County Sheriff Wise stated he enjoys working in the law enforcement with all of the Police Chiefs in the County. He said there are 18 Council meetings he is attending to give a presentation similar to what he gave the Council this evening. He noted his commitment to continue to attend Council meetings for all cities in Anoka County moving forward to give updates from the Sheriff's Office.

## **2.03: Proclamation Declaring November 30, 2024, as Small Business Saturday in the City of Ramsey**

Mayor Kuzma read the proclamation declaring November 30, 2024, as Small Business Saturday for the City of Ramsey. He encouraged the residents to support small businesses not only on Small Business Saturday, but throughout the entire year.

## **3. CITIZEN INPUT**

Roxanne Tersteeg, 6263 Rivlyn Avenue, came forward and gave an update on the sewage that leaked into her home during the County Road project. She stated they have come to a settlement agreement with the insurance company. She said she is working on getting the final numbers together.

## **4. APPROVE AGENDA**

Councilmember Woestehoff requested they remove item 8.04 from the agenda.

City Administrator Hagen explained that during the Work Session meeting prior to this meeting, it was discussed that Council would like to table this item for future discussion; however, Staff discussed this between the meetings, and they feel as though they can move forward with this item as it is just an introduction and they can come forward at a later meeting with further ordinance amendments.

Councilmember Woestehoff asked if there is a need to remove the crime free multi-family housing requirement today.

City Administrator Hagen explained that there are a number of rental homeowners who are asking about whether they need to do their crime free multi-family housing class or not. He noted that if they move forward with the ordinance today, this will give the rental homeowners a more definitive answer and eliminate the need for them to take this class.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if they would summarize the changes that were discussed during the Work Session when this item is discussed.

City Administrator Hagen said they can give a summary; however, he would recommend this discussion be after the ordinance has been introduced so there is no confusion.

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

Further discussion:

Councilmember Riley shared that there were two items added to the agenda after 12:00 p.m. today and he does not feel as though they should be discussing these items before being able to fully review them.

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

## **5. APPROVE MINUTES**

Councilmember Musgrove noted a correction needed on page 6 of the Regular Session minutes in paragraph two of the Mayor, Council, Staff Input section, updating the word 'served' to 'serves.'

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff, to approve the following meeting minutes:

- 5.01: City Council Work Session dated, October 22, 2024
- 5.02: City Council Regular Session dated, October 22, 2024

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

## **6. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- 6.01: Receive September 2024 Financial Reports - General Fund, EDA and Enterprise Funds
- 6.02: Receive Cash and Investments for Period Ending October 31, 2024
- 6.03: Note the following Boards, Commissions, and Committee Meeting Minutes:
  - Planning Commission Meeting Minutes Dated September 26, 2024

- Economic Development Authority Meeting Minutes Dated August 8, 2024
  - Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes Dated August 20, 2024 and September 17, 2024
  - Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes Dated September 12, 2024
- 6.04: Approve Lease with Anoka County for Anoka County License Center
- 6.05: Approve Business License Applications.
- 6.06: Authorization to Hire Building Inspectors / Plans Examiners
- 6.07: Adopt Resolution #24-296 Approving Construction Contingency Expense No. 7 for Improvement Project #21-09, Centralized Water Treatment Plant
- 6.08: Adopt Resolution #24-308 Approving Withdraw from Northwestern Anoka County Community Consortium
- 6.09: Adopt Resolutions #24-309; #24-310, and #24-311 Accepting Sewer Cleaning and Televising Proposals for 2025 Pavement Management Program Projects
- 6:10: Adopt Resolution #24-312 Declaring Certain Agreements Related to Ramsey Town Center 7th Addition Satisfied and Authorizing Release from Property; Case of COR at Ramsey, LLC
- 6:11: Adopt Resolution #24-316 Approving Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids for Fox Ridge Estates 1st & 2nd Street Reconstructions, Improvement Project #24-13
- 6:12: Adopt Resolution #24-318 to Appoint a New Police Chief

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

## 7. PUBLIC HEARING

None.

## 8. COUNCIL BUSINESS

### **8.01: Adopt Resolution #24-303, Approving a Conditional Use Permit for Motor Vehicle Repair in the I-1 Zoning District for Blanery LLC at 6591 141st Avenue NW**

Planning Manager Larson reviewed the Staff report in regard to the request for a Conditional Use Permit for a motor vehicle repair shop in the I-1 Zoning District. He shared the Planning Commission's recommendation of approval.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Specht, to adopt Resolution #24-303, Approving a Conditional Use Permit for Motor Vehicle Repair at 6591 141st Avenue NW.

Further discussion:

Councilmember Musgrove said she is glad to see this business moving into the area. She appreciated the changes and markups done by Staff for this item.

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

**8.02: Introduce Ordinance #24-16: 2025 Schedule of Rates, Fees and Charges**

City Clerk Schmidt reviewed the Staff report concerning the 2025 schedule of rates, fees, and charges.

City Administrator Hagen noted that per the discussion at the Work Session this evening, the Council opted to include no charge for any single family homes who received a rental license in 2024 at the 2024 rate.

Motion by Councilmember Howell, seconded by Councilmember Olson, to Introduce Ordinance #24-16: 2025 Schedule of Rates, Fees and Charges with the addition of a no charge of \$200 for any single family homes who received a rental license in 2024 at the 2024 rate.

A roll call vote was performed:

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

Motion carried.

**8.03: Adopt Ordinance #24-12 Regulating Cannabis Businesses**

Community Development Director Hanson reviewed the Staff report in regard to the regulation of cannabis businesses.

Councilmember Howell asked if they did not pass this tonight if it would open up the City to potentially have multiple, unregulated cannabis shops.

City Attorney Knaak said yes.

Councilmember Riley noted that he will be voting in favor of this even though he does not agree with the cannabis businesses.

Councilmember Specht agreed.

Motion by Councilmember Woestehoff, seconded by Councilmember Musgrove, to waive the City Charter requirement to read the ordinance aloud and adopt Ordinance #24-12 Regulating Cannabis Businesses.

Further discussion:

Councilmember Woestehoff shared that he will be voting against this as he finds the regulations to be too restrictive and he would prefer to have two cannabis locations in the COR, as opposed to having the two locations spread across the City.

A roll call vote was performed:

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

Motion carried.

#### **8.04: Introduce Ordinance #24-15 Amending Chapter 26 Pertaining to Rental Housing Licensing Requirements**

Planning Manager Larson reviewed the Staff report concerning the amendments to the rental housing license requirements. He reiterated that they will be bringing this back with changes as discussed in the earlier Work Session meeting.

Councilmember Woestehoff asked for clarification that Staff is only requesting that they introduce this item and that the changes will be made prior to the adoption of the ordinance, or if there will be a separate ordinance at a later date making the amendments that were discussed.

Planning Manager Larson said he would like to bring forward a separate ordinance and Staff will work to get this on the next agenda.

Motion by Councilmember Woestehoff, seconded by Councilmember Olson, to waive the City Charter requirement to read the ordinance aloud and introduce Ordinance #24-15 amending Chapter 26.

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.

**8.05: Introduce Ordinance #24-14 Pertaining to Residential Driveways**

Planning Manager Larson reviewed the Staff report in regard to residential driveways. He shared the Planning Commission’s recommendation of denial.

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Howell, to waive the City Charter requirement to read the ordinance aloud and adopt Ordinance #24-14 pertaining to residential driveways.

Further discussion:

Councilmember Riley stated that he sees the only wrong answer to this dilemma as being a zero foot setback, which is what is being proposed. He noted that five feet may be too wide; however, he does not support lowering the requirement to zero feet per Planning Commission and Staff recommendations.

Mayor Kuzma said he also does not support a zero foot setback.

Councilmember Specht stated this has been discussed at length during Work Session meetings. He noted that approving this does not necessarily mean that everyone will now be putting their driveways up to their property lines; however, it is the property owner’s right to put their driveway up to the property line. He noted this item will come back for a final decision at the next meeting.

Councilmember Howell agreed.

A roll call vote was performed:

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

Motion carried.

**8.06: Introduce Ordinance #24-17 Implementing Lodging Tax and Adoption of Resolution #24-317 Approving Agreement with Minnesota Metro North Tourism (dba Twin Cities Gateway)**

Community Development Director Hanson reviewed the Staff report concerning implementing a lodging tax and entering an agreement with Minnesota Metro North Tourism (dba Twin Cities Gateway.)

Councilmember Musgrove shared that when the Council was first introduced to this during a Work Session, she did not understand that this agreement would also be putting the lodging tax on any future hotels in the area which a future Council could expand. She said she does not support this as she does not like that the City would be responsible for the funding of this and she also does not like the philosophy of the Minnesota Metro North Tourism.

Councilmember Specht noted that he also did not originally support this; however, he has decided to support this after talking to the local business owners that this would affect. He noted that future Council's will have the ability to do a lot of things, and the current Council cannot control what future Councils will do, they can only control what is decided now.

Councilmember Howell shared her concerns with the 3% tax as everyone is pinching pennies these days. She noted that this could be putting the City at a disadvantage by adding this cost to people who will be staying in the City. She stated she will not be supporting this.

Councilmember Riley stated that the City considered this a number of years ago; however, it was not the right time back then. He said the two hotels currently in Ramsey are both asking for this as they expect it to help them. He added that he will be supporting this.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff, to waive the City Charter requirement to read the ordinance aloud and introduce Ordinance #24-17 to Implement Lodging Tax.

A roll call vote was performed:

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

Motion carried.

Motion by Councilmember Woestehoff, seconded by Councilmember Olson, to adoption of Resolution #24-317 Approving Agreement with Minnesota Metro North Tourism (dba Twin Cities Gateway) (as presented); subject to City Attorney review.

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

**8.07: Introduce Ordinance #24-18 Amending Chapter 58 Utilities Regarding the Declaration of a Critical Water Deficiency**

City Administrator Hagen reviewed the Staff report in regard to the declaration of a critical water deficiency and exempting watering of gardens for the use of food or medicinal purposes from any watering bans.

Councilmember Howell shared that this discussion first started when she joined the Council in 2020 as the Minnesota DNR had brought forward the idea of an ordinance regarding a critical water deficiency. She added that this ordinance failed to call out people who grow their own food or medicinal plants. She explained that the purpose behind this is to insure that people have food security and recognizing this essential need for people who grow their own food.

Councilmember Riley stated that he is in favor of this. He noted that this would also remove the section where watering is prohibited from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. He asked if this could stay in the ordinance.

Councilmember Howell said not watering from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. is important.

City Administrator Hagen suggested striking the last sentence of the ordinance and including this restriction earlier in the ordinance.

Motion by Councilmember Woestehoff, seconded by Councilmember Howell, to waive the City Charter requirement to read the ordinance aloud and introduce Ordinance #24-18 Amending Chapter 58 Utilities regarding the Declaration of a Critical Water Deficiency with changes as discussed in regard to time restrictions.

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.

**8.08: Adopt Resolution #24-321 Terminating Agreement with Anoka County for Pollbook Election Equipment**

City Administrator Hagen shared that Councilmember Howell, Musgrove, and Olson requested this case concerning the termination of the agreement with Anoka County for pollbook election equipment, to be discussed.

Councilmember Howell shared that when she reviewed this agreement between Anoka County and Ramsey, it appeared to her that Ramsey was getting the short end of the stick by taking on a lot of liability as a City. She added that she went back to review City Council meeting minutes from when this was originally approved and found that this agreement never came before the City Council and was only signed by the City Clerk. She explained that there is a lot of financial risk that is taken on with this which is concerning to her. She noted that since they have just passed the General Election and there is not another election coming up, she felt that this was a good time to address this agreement. She said this agreement can be terminated with the County with seven days notice.

Councilmember Olson agreed with Councilmember Howell and noted that the timing of this is great as they will have time to figure this out and establish a better agreement before the next election.

Councilmember Musgrove added that during her time on the Council, she has come across several agreements that have not been in Ramsey's best interest. She noted that this was a 2018 agreement and things have changed since then and it could be a better agreement with the County. She shared that at the last Anoka County Elected Officials meeting, she had the opportunity to speak with the County and she has no doubt that they can come up with a better agreement to better suit Ramsey and the County. She noted it would be best to have this agreement reviewed with the Council to be transparent with the residents. She added that she does not want the County to be an adversary but wants to work with the County to come up with a better agreement.

Councilmember Riley asked if the only interest with this is to have a better contract with the County.

Councilmember Howell said yes and explained that this agreement should be terminated as it is written very poorly. She suggested that the Council sit down and work through their proposal to make this better with the Council.

Councilmember Riley asked if they were to terminate this contract, where this would put the City.

City Attorney Knaak explained that they also have a joint powers agreement which would remain in effect that establishes the financial relationship; however, it does not deal specifically with this kind of equipment. He noted that by terminating this agreement, the County could insist that the City continue to use the electronic equipment that the County provides. He added that the joint powers agreement covers everything imaginable in regard to the economic relationship between the City and County on this equipment, other than these particular polling pads. He agreed that the way this agreement was originally written is very one sided benefiting the County. He said it does not hurt to bring this up to the County; however, it is the County's decision whether or not they want to allow the City to get rid of the poll pads.

Councilmember Riley asked if the City Clerk had the authority at the time to act on the City's behalf in signing this agreement.

City Attorney Knaak noted that under some circumstances, the City Clerk does have this authority; however, he does not know about this particular circumstance. He said he would like to see somewhere that this authorization was expressed; however, he imagines the authority was given and is not worried about it.

Councilmember Howell explained that she had reviewed the meeting minutes from the time of this agreement and could not find where this authority was given.

Councilmember Specht agreed that this agreement was very one sided in favor of the County and would support terminating the agreement to ensure everything is done properly moving forward.

Mayor Kuzma stated he believes this is being done too fast and shared that he thinks there should have been some conversations with the County before terminating the agreement. He said he does not disagree that the agreement could be better written.

Councilmember Woestehoff noted that the way this agreement was written does not surprise him. He stated that trying to hold the County liable for the actions of a City employee with a device that is used as part of the voting process does not make sense as the liability does not need to be on the County at this point, but on the individual. He explained that this is what can be seen in many agreements and does not see what issues other Councilmembers have with the agreement.

Councilmember Howell said the agreement has the City take on some of the financial liability if things go wrong with the devices. She added that she cannot find any record of this agreement going before the Council for discussion. She stated she does not like the idea that this liability was taken on without coming before the Council and she also does not like the way the agreement was written.

Councilmember Woestehoff stated that if a City employee broke something on one of these devices, then the City should be financially responsible for fixing it. He added that they do not have enough information to prove whether or not the City Clerk had the authority to sign the agreement on the City's behalf. He noted that he does not have any concerns with the agreement itself as the items it makes the City responsible for should be the City's responsibility.

Councilmember Musgrove noted that this agreement requires the City to have all of the licenses for the election equipment to be operating. She stated if the County wants them to use this equipment, it would be better to have an agreement that requires the County to provide the licensing for the City. She agreed with Councilmember Howell that this embodies a lot of financial responsibility.

City Administrator Hagen shared that the City does not pay any money towards this equipment or licensing and it is all provided by the County. He said the City's cost with this equipment maybe would have involved the cost of picking up the equipment but that would be it.

Councilmember Musgrove stated this proves her point that this was a badly written agreement. She noted that this was written in 2018 so the language could be updated to have a better understanding of responsibilities.

Motion by Councilmember Howell, seconded by Councilmember Musgrove, to adopt Resolution #24-321 terminating the agreement with Anoka County for pollbook election equipment.

Further discussion:

Councilmember Woestehoff noted that this item is not time sensitive and there are four Councilmembers who will not be on the Council come January. He said he does not think this is a fair decision for this Council to make on behalf of the future Council. He requested this item be tabled to a January Work Session.

Councilmember Howell stated this has been an ongoing discussion and they waited until after the election to deal with it. She noted that the Council was elected to represent the people and she does not want to table this for a future Council to discuss as this was not what she was elected to do.

Councilmember Riley recommended they go to the County to discuss and negotiate this before terminating the current agreement. He said he does not want to start a disagreement over this.

City Clerk Schmidt shared that Tom Hunt, the Anoka County Elections Manager is planning on attending the next Work Session meeting to discuss the joint powers agreement and noted that they will also be able to discuss this pollbook agreement.

Councilmember Howell shared that she still believes they can have a better agreement and does not think this discussion is premature.

Councilmember Specht agreed that he does not think the current Council should stop doing what they were elected to do just because new Councilmembers will be joining soon. He added that he thinks it would be best to terminate this agreement and begin negotiations to create a better agreement. He said he will be supporting this.

Councilmember Musgrove said if they terminate this agreement this evening before they meet with Mr. Hunt at the next Work Session, it will put them in a much better place than if they were to push this item down the road. She noted this is the first step in creating a new agreement and she wants to get this process started.

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

#### **8.09: Adopt Resolution #24-322 Approving Agreement with Anoka County for Pollbook Election Equipment**

City Administrator Hagen reviewed the Staff report in regard to an agreement with Anoka County for pollbook election equipment. He noted that based on the discussion just had, he believes the agreement will need some revised language.

Councilmember Howell noted that this item is not to ask the Council to approve an agreement with the County, it is to have a discussion on the direction the Council would like to go in regard to pollbooks. She explained that they would bring this agreement to the County to see if there is an appetite for this new agreement.

Mayor Kuzma asked if they even need to vote on this if it is just the starting point to get discussions started with the County.

City Attorney Knaak explained that they can vote on this for whether or not they bring this to the County for consideration. He noted that by leaving this on the table they can say that this is a matter that the City Council continues to consider. He said if this gets voted down, then they would be going to the County with nothing.

Councilmember Riley noted that this agreement is very different from the now terminated agreement as it goes in a totally different direction to paper pollbooks.

Councilmember Howell said this was the starting point that she and Councilmembers Musgrove and Olson had agreed upon to bring to the Council.

Councilmember Woestehoff stated that another agreement did not need to be presented at this time. He added that he does not agree with anything within the agreement and this is an attempt to replace the electronic pollbooks which work extremely well and are very efficient. He said the electronic pollbooks prevent voter fraud and offer a better experience for both voters and Staff. He asked if the County can still require the City to use electronic pollbooks.

City Attorney Knaak added that the City will still need to use electronic pollbooks if the County requires it.

Councilmember Woestehoff said he feels like this is very political and not practical.

Councilmember Howell rejected Councilmember Woestehoff's framing of this narrative. She explained that this is the proposal that she and Councilmembers Musgrove and Olson settled on.

Councilmember Riley said he would not like to see anything in this agreement about not using electronic pollbooks as this will not go anywhere with the County as they will require them to be used. He stated he would have thought they would have taken whatever City Attorney Knaak found objectionable in the now terminated agreement and framed it in more neutral terms.

Councilmember Howell shared that her intent with bringing this item forward was to see the appetite of the entire Council. She stated she does understand that they have to work with the County on this agreement; however, they still need to approach the County with their agreements.

Councilmember Specht said it is important that they come up with an agreement that is the best solution. He noted that they will not all agree on this but that is why items are passed based on a majority vote. He shared that he thinks this agreement is a good idea to present to the County and see where things go from there.

Mayor Kuzma stated that since Mr. Hunt will already be attending the next Work Session, it would be in their best interest to bring this item back to the next Work Session so they can talk it through with Mr. Hunt. He said he will not be supporting this tonight.

Councilmember Howell stated that regardless of what they approve as their proposal, it will be beneficial to go into a meeting with the County with a proposal that a majority of the Council is interested in.

Motion by Councilmember Howell, seconded by Councilmember Olson, to present the agreement for the use of manual pollbooks in the City of Ramsey to Anoka County to begin discussions on crafting a new pollbook agreement.

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

#### **8.10: Adopt Resolution #24-305 to Enter into a Residential Recycling Program Agreement with Anoka County**

City Administrator Hagen reviewed the Staff report concerning entering into a residential recycling program agreement with Anoka County.

Councilmember Musgrove shared that she requested this item be pulled from the Consent Agenda. She said she will not be supporting this as the recycling material that is gathered gets collected and weighed, then taken off to the next location and if it is contaminated, it is not recycled. She explained that they are being deceived into thinking that they are doing all of this recycling by tonnage while they do not know what is being contaminated and just ending up in the trash. She added that part of this has to do with educating people on what can and cannot be recycled.

Councilmember Specht asked when the agreement for City wide recycling expires.

City Administrator Hagen said it will expire in 2025. He explained that the City does hold a contract for City wide recycling. He noted this item has to do with funding that is available if they meet certain metrics for recycling goals for the City.

Councilmember Specht asked if this agreement puts any restrictions or limitations on the City.

City Administrator Hagen said no. He added that they use this funding for the curbside recycling that they implemented a few years ago.

Councilmember Howell said she will be supporting this item this evening; however, she does think it was important for it to be pulled from the Consent Agenda so they were able to highlight the problems with the recycling for educational purposes. She noted she would like to find out how much of their tonnage is contaminated.

Motion by Councilmember Howell, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff, to adopt Resolution #24-305 authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to execute the Residential Recycling Agreement with Anoka County to receive SCORE funds for 2025.

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

**8.11: Adopt Resolution #24-315 Approving Cash Disbursements Made and Authorizing Payment of Accounts Payable Invoicing Received During the Period of October 17, 2024, through November 6, 2024**

City Administrator Hagen reviewed the Staff report in regard to approving the cash disbursements made and authorizing payments of accounts payable invoicing received between October 17, 2024 and November 6, 2024. He noted that this item is being pulled for one payment made to Youth First.

Councilmember Howell shared that she does not support making the final payment to Youth First as she does not feel like it is good business to throw money in bad places and due to her concerns with the DEI hire that they have listed with Andover. She noted that this puts some kids at a disadvantage and helps some more than others. She said this money could go towards parks or park programming as a better use of the funds.

Motion by Councilmember Woestehoff, seconded by Councilmember Riley, to adopt Resolution #24-315 Approving Cash Disbursements Made and Authorizing Payment of Accounts Payable Invoicing Received During the Period of October 17, 2024, through November 6, 2024.

Further discussion:

Mayor Kuzma stated they did make a commitment to Youth First for this amount and he does not feel comfortable breaking this commitment with them. He said he will be supporting this.

Councilmember Musgrove said she will not be supporting this as she agrees with Councilmember Howell's thoughts behind this and does not want to continue to throw money at a bad idea. She noted it is the Council's job to look after where the City spends its dollars.

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

**9. MAYOR, COUNCIL AND STAFF INPUT**

City Administrator Hagen announced upcoming meetings and events.

Councilmember Musgrove thanked City Clerk Schmidt for all of her hard work on the election, as well as all of the hard work by all of the election judges.

Councilmember Specht shared that former Minnesota Vikings quarterback Tommy Kramer will be at Aurelio's Pizza on November 13 at 6:00 p.m.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

The regular meeting of the City Council adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Brian S. Hagen  
City Administrator

ATTEST:

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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) <<http://www.qctv.org>>. Recordings are available for 36 months after the date of the meeting.