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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 26, 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  
Finance Director Diana Lund  
City Clerk Katie Schmidt  
Economic Development Manager Sean Sullivan

**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: Swearing-in and Pinning Ceremony for Incoming Police Chief Brad Bluml**

City Administrator Hagen introduced the new Police Chief, Brad Bluml and gave a brief background on Mr. Bluml. He shared his excitement for Mr. Bluml to be stepping into this role.

Police Chief Bluml recited the Oath of Office and was sworn in as Police Chief. He introduced himself and thanked everyone in his life, as well as the residents of Ramsey, for supporting him.

**3. CITIZEN INPUT**

None.

**4. APPROVE AGENDA**

Motion by Councilmember Woestehoff, 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. APPROVE MINUTES**

Councilmember Woestehoff noted that for item 8.05 of the Regular Session minutes they made the motion before hearing the case.

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

- 5.01: City Council Work Session dated, November 12, 2024
- 5.02: City Council Regular Session dated, November 12, 2024
- 5.03: City Council Canvassing Board dated, November 14, 2024

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. CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilmember Musgrove noted that for item 6.02, there are two dates listed for the public hearing, December 10 and 11. She shared that December 10 is the correct date for this public hearing.

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff, to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda with the above clarification:

- 6.01: Receive October 2024 Financial Reports - General Fund, EDA and Enterprise Funds
- 6.02: Schedule Public Hearing for Adoption of 2025-2034 Capital Improvement Plan
- 6.03: Authorization to Hire Paid-on-call Firefighters
- 6.04: Adopt Resolution #24-348 Approving Cash Disbursements Made and Authorizing Payment of Accounts Payable Invoicing Received During the Period of November 7, 2024 through November 20, 2024.
- 6.05: Adopt Resolution #24-245 Approving Final Payment to Asphalt Surface Technologies Corp. for Improvement Project #23-04; 167th Avenue Reconstruction.
- 6.06: Adopt Resolution #24-306 Authorizing Final Payment to RCM Specialties, Inc. for 2024 Spray Patching Contracted Services, Improvement Project #24-57.
- 6.07: Adopt Resolution #24-307 Authorizing Partial Payment No. 1 to Design Electric Inc. of St. Cloud, Minnesota for Improvement Project #24-56, Lift Station No. 1 Permanent Generator.
- 6.08: Adopt Resolution #24-319 Approving Partial Payment #1 to Douglas-Kerr Underground, LLC for Improvement Project #25-01, Rivers Bend Regional Stormwater Improvements.
- 6.09: Adopt Resolution #24-320 Authorizing Partial Payment #17 to Magney Construction, Inc. for Improvement Project #21-09; Centralized Water Treatment Plant.
- 6.10: Adopt Resolution #24-323 Approving Partial Payment to Douglas-Kerr Underground, LLC for Improvement Project #23-19, The COR Infrastructure Improvements.
- 6.11: Adopt Resolution #24-324 Approving Partial Payment to GMH Asphalt Corporation for Improvement Project #24-03, 2024 NE Ramsey Street Reconstruction.
- 6.12: Adopt Resolution #24-325 Approving Partial Payment to Twin Cities Utilities LLC for Improvement Project #24-04, Ford Brooks Estates Drainage Improvements.
- 6.13: Adopt Resolution #24-326 Approving the 2025-2026 LELS Captain Contract
- 6.14: Adopt Resolution #24-327 Approving the 2025-2026 LELS Sergeant Labor Agreement
- 6.15: Adopt Resolution #24-328 Approving the 2025-2026 LELS Patrol Labor Agreement
- 6.16: Adopt Resolution #24-329 Approving Partial Payment #7 to Northdale Construction Co. Inc. for Improvement Project #21-08, WTP Trunk Watermain Improvements.
- 6.17: Adopt Resolution #24-330 Approving Partial Payment #1 to Park Construction Company for Improvement Project #24-06, 2024 MSA Pavement Overlay Improvements.
- 6.18: Adopt Resolution #24-331 Amending Financial Policy for Purpose of Allocation of Excess/Deficient General Fund Revenues
- 6.19: Adopt Resolution #24-332 Not Waiving Statutory Tort Limits
- 6.20: Adopt Resolution #24-333 Adopting the 2025 Parking Ramp Maintenance Budget and Adopt Resolution #24-334 Allocating the Parking Ramp Maintenance Costs per the Adopted 2025 Budget
- 6.21: Adopt Resolution #24-338 Ordering Plans and Specifications for MSA Sunwood Drive Reconstruction, Improvement Project #25-02
- 6.22: Adopt Resolution #24-339 Ordering Plans and Specifications for MSA Alpine Drive Reconstruction, Improvement Project #25-03
- 6.23: Adopt Resolution #24-340 Ordering Plans and Specifications for High Point Street Reconstructions, Improvement Project #25-05

- 6:24: Adopt Resolution #24-341 Ordering Plans and Specifications for Sorteberg’s Street Reconstructions, Improvement Project #25-06
- 6:25: Adopt Resolution #24-342 Ordering Plans and Specifications for 2025 Neighborhood Pavement Overlay Improvements, Improvement Project #25-07
- 6:26: Adopt Resolution #24-343 Ordering Plans and Specifications for 2025 Crack Seal Improvements, Improvement Project #25-09
- 6:27: Adopt Resolution #24-344 Ordering Plans and Specifications for 2025 Pavement Rejuvenation Improvements, Improvement Project #25-10
- 6:28: Adopt Resolution #24-345 Ordering Plans and Specifications for 2025 MSA Pavement Marking Improvements, Improvement Project #25-11
- 6:29: Adopt Resolution #24-346 Authorizing the City's 2025 Non-Union City Health and Dental Insurance Contributions and Wages
- 6:30: Adopt Resolution #24-347 Approving the 2025-2026 Union Contract with AFSCME
- 6:31: Adopt Resolution #24-349 Approving 2025-2034 Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization Joint Powers Agreement

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. PUBLIC HEARING**

**7.01: PUBLIC HEARING: Adopt Ordinance #24-16: 2025 Schedule of Rates, Fees and Charges**

**Presentation**

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

**Public Hearing**

Mayor Kuzma called the public hearing to order at 7:16 p.m.

**Citizen Input**

There was none.

Motion by Councilmember Woestehoff, seconded by Councilmember Riley, 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 7:17 p.m.

### **Council Business**

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Olson, to waive the City Charter Requirement that the Ordinance be read aloud and Adopt Ordinance #24-16: 2025 Schedule of Rates, Fees and Charges.

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	aye

Motion carried.

### **7.02: PUBLIC HEARING: 2025 Tax Levies and General Fund Budget**

- **Adopt Resolution #24-335 Adopting the 2024, Payable 2025 Municipal Tax Levy**
- **Adopt Resolution #24-336 Adopting the 2025 General Fund Budget**
- **Adopt Resolution #24-337 Adopting the 2025 Economic Development Authority (EDA) Budget**

### **Presentation**

Finance Director Lund reviewed the Staff report concerning the 2025 tax levies and general fund budget.

**Public Hearing**

Mayor Kuzma called the public hearing to order at 7:37 p.m.

**Citizen Input**

There was none.

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Olson, 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 7:38 p.m.

**Council Business**

Motion by Councilmember Woestehoff, seconded by Councilmember Riley, to Adopt Resolution #24-335 Adopting the 2024, Payable 2025 Municipal Tax Levies (General, Pavement Management, EDA and debt service) in the amount of \$21,950,694.

A roll call vote was performed:

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

Motion carried.

Motion by Councilmember Woestehoff, seconded by Councilmember Riley, to Adopt Resolution #24-336 Adopting the 2025 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$20,373,610.

A roll call vote was performed:

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

Motion carried.

Motion by Councilmember Woestehoff, seconded by Councilmember Musgrove, to Adopt Resolution #24-337 Adopting the 2025 EDA Budget in the amount of \$91,367.

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. COUNCIL BUSINESS**

### **8.01: Adopt Ordinance #24-15 Amending Chapter 26 Pertaining to Rental Housing Licensing Requirements (Crime-Free Housing Program)**

Planning Manager Larson reviewed the Staff report in regard to the amendments to the rental housing licensing requirements.

Motion by Councilmember Howell seconded by Councilmember Musgrove, to waive the City Charter requirement to read the ordinance aloud and adopt 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.

**8.02: Adopt Ordinance #24-14 Pertaining to Residential Driveways**

Planning Manager Larson reviewed the Staff report concerning residential driveways. He shared the Planning Commission's recommendation of denial of the amendment to the ordinance.

Mayor Kuzma shared that he does not feel as though this is a good ordinance and will not be supporting it. He stated he believes there should be a distance setback for driveways from property lines.

Councilmember Woestehoff shared that he had a conversation with Councilmember-Elect Stewart on this matter and they discussed how future developments could take advantage of something like this to cut costs. He said he has some real concerns with what this could allow developers to do. He added that there are already legal mechanisms for people to apply for variances and get exceptions to that rule where they fit. He stated he is very nervous about having no setbacks and what this could do to future communities. He noted that he thinks there will be negative ramifications greater than what they are considering. He said a three-foot setback could be reasonable; however, he does not see zero-foot setbacks as reasonable.

Councilmember Specht said he is in favor of this as he has heard from many residents that they have the desire to use their entire property. He added that Coon Rapids has this requirement and it has not been an issue for them. He said he will be supporting this.

Councilmember Woestehoff noted that at one point there was a discussion about the potential need for encroachment agreements. He asked if there is a concern with this from a Staff perspective.

Planning Manager Larson explained that most of the lots in Ramsey are platted with a drainage and utility easement that is on all sides of the property. He noted that in the cases of the variances that the Planning Commission reviewed, these also included structures, and the structures are what needed the encroachment agreement. He stated there are clauses in the Zoning Code that state what things can be in easements without needing an encroachment agreement, one of which being driveways.

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

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.

**8.03: Adopt Ordinance #24-17 Implementing Lodging Tax**

Community Development Manager Sullivan reviewed the Staff report in regard to the implementation of a lodging tax.

Councilmember Musgrove asked about section 27.14 which states that 95% of the proceeds will go to the Twin Cities Gateway and 5% goes to the City. She asked if the 95% goes exclusively towards Ramsey or if it is a relative number that is mixed with other funds.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan shared that the 95% is not strictly allocated to Ramsey and that it will go to the Twin Cities Gateway for the funds to be used in accordance with the market spend.

Councilmember Musgrove stated she was glad to see that there will be annual reporting for this. She noted that when she read this, 95% said it will be used to promote the City, and the City is defined as just the City of Ramsey.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan shared that the Twin Cities Gateway represents 13 different cities and there are many events in other cities that the Twin Cities Gateway will help market and cities nearby have rooms available for these events. He added that they also do marketing for any other City events, such as Happy Days, GameFair, or other events that will help dollars be spent in the City. He noted that in the annual report, they will get to see how 95% of the funds were actually spent.

City Attorney Knaak noted that the definition does appear to be somewhat ambiguous in the way it is defining the City as Ramsey. He noted the agreement does not say that 95% of the funds will be used exclusively for the City; however, the City will benefit from spending the 95%. He shared that it is his understanding based on how this was presented to the Council that the City will receive whatever proportion of the 95% that Twin Cities Gateway chooses to use.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan shared that the Twin Cities Gateway marketing for the USA CUP in Blaine will make the event more successful and the City will benefit from this by having rooms booked at its hotels.

Councilmember Specht stated he is not in favor of raising taxes; however, this will help bring people to the area and promote the hotels. He added that the hotel owners are the ones who requested this and they want to support them.

Councilmember Riley reiterated that the hotel owners in the City are the ones who asked for this.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff, to Adopt 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.

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

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

Motion by Councilmember Woestehoff, seconded by Councilmember Olson, to waive the City Charter requirements that the ordinance be read aloud and adopt Ordinance #24-18.

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.

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

City Administrator Hagen announced upcoming meetings and events.

Councilmember Specht shared how thankful he is to the residents for allowing him the honor of serving on the Council. He shared his thankfulness for Staff and his fellow Councilmembers. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Councilmember Musgrove shared that the Ramsey Garden Club did a great job of decorating the Winter Wonderland tree in the City Hall lobby. She thanked Councilmember Howell and Mayor Kuzma for all of the work that they did for the items on the Consent Agenda for negotiations with the unions. She thanked Administrative Services Director Lasher and Engineering Staff for all of their work on the Consent Agenda as well.

## 10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember Riley, 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 8:00 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.