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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Mayor Ryan Heineman  
Councilmember Kirsten Buscher (attended remotely)  
Councilmember Michael Olson  
Councilmember Eric Peters  
Councilmember Chris Riley  
Councilmember Dan Specht  
Councilmember Shanna Stewart

Members Absent: None

Also Present: City Administrator Brian Hagen  
Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Mark Riverblood  
Assistant City Engineer Joe Feriancek

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Heineman 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 Heineman.

**2. PRESENTATION**

None.

**3. CITIZEN INPUT**

None.

**4. APPROVE AGENDA**

Motion by Councilmember Peters, seconded by Councilmember Olson, to approve the agenda as presented.

A roll call vote was performed:

Councilmember Buscher	aye
Councilmember Riley	aye
Councilmember Stewart	aye
Councilmember Olson	aye

Councilmember Specht     aye  
Councilmember Peters     aye  
Mayor Heineman           aye

Motion carried.

**5.     APPROVE MINUTES**

Motion by Councilmember Specht, seconded by Councilmember Olson, to approve the following meeting minutes:

- 5.01: City Council Work Session dated, January 14, 2025
- 5.02: City Council Regular Session dated, January 14, 2025

A roll call vote was performed:

Councilmember Buscher     aye  
Councilmember Riley       aye  
Councilmember Stewart     aye  
Councilmember Olson       aye  
Councilmember Specht      aye  
Councilmember Peters      aye  
Mayor Heineman           aye

Motion carried.

**6.     CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- 6.01: Approve Business License Applications.
- 6.02: Authorization to Promote the Police Records Technician/Data Analyst to Crime Data Analyst
- 6.03: Authorization to Promote the HR Specialist to HR Generalist
- 6.04: Authorization to Fill the HR Specialist Position
- 6.05: Adopt Resolution #25-033 Approving Cash Disbursements Made and Authorizing Payment of Accounts Payable Invoicing Received During the Period of January 9, 2025 through January 22, 2025.
- 6.06: Adopt Resolution #25-020 Approving Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids for 2025 Crack Seal Improvements, Improvement Project #25-09
- 6.07: Adopt Resolution #25-021 Approving Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids for 2025 Pavement Rejuvenation Improvements, Improvement Project #25-10

- 6.08: Adopt Resolution #25-022 Approving Partial Payment to Douglas-Kerr Underground, LLC for Improvement Project #25-01, Rivers Bend Regional Stormwater Pond Improvements.
- 6.09: Adopt Resolution #25-023 Approving Final Payment to North Valley, Inc. for Improvement Project #24-07, 2024 Neighborhood Pavement Overlay Improvement.
- 6.10: Adopt Resolution #25-024 Approving Final Payment to North Valley, Inc. for Improvement Project #24-12, Juniper Woods 1st - 3rd Street Reconstruction.
- 6.11: Adopt Resolution #25-031 Approving Construction Contingency Expense No. 8 for Improvement Project #21-09, Centralized Water Treatment Plant
- 6.12: Adopt Resolution #25-032 Authorizing Partial Payment #19 to Magney Construction, Inc. for Improvement Project #21-09, Centralized Water Treatment Plant
- 6.13: Adopt 2025 Legislative Priorities

A roll call vote was performed:

Councilmember Buscher	aye
Councilmember Riley	aye
Councilmember Stewart	aye
Councilmember Olson	aye
Councilmember Specht	aye
Councilmember Peters	aye
Mayor Heineman	aye

Motion carried.

## 7. PUBLIC HEARING

None.

## 8. COUNCIL BUSINESS

**8.01: Adopt Resolution #25-029, Central Park Playground Renovation and Replacement - Please Note: due to technical difficulties, this case was moved to the last case on the agenda.**

Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood reviewed the Staff report in regard to the Central Park playground renovations and replacement.

Councilmember Specht thanked Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood for all of his work on this project. He asked if there is a consideration for the noise that the music aspects of the park will have on the baseball or football fields within the park.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood said he does not expect this to be an issue as the spectator areas for these fields are around 300 feet from the playground with the music aspects.

Councilmember Specht asked how new the artificial turf landscaping is and if it will be durable.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood explained that they toured a park in Brooklyn Park that has artificial turf which has been in use for 12 years and is holding up well. He added that Brooklyn Park maintenance staff has not reported any issues or concerns.

Councilmember Peters asked if they will be keeping replacement parts in stock at Public Works for quick fixes if needed.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood shared that the playground equipment comes with a maintenance kit that has touchup paint and fixtures. He noted they would not stock larger replacement parts as they do not know what pieces will be needed. He shared that parts for the equipment will be available for around 15 years and common parts are available beyond this.

Councilmember Specht asked if they are using this much park funding this year if it will affect their ability to renovate and replace other parks next year.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood stated they originally looked at putting a pause on the parks scheduled for replacement in 2026; however, in looking at the cash flows, they will likely still have enough funding next year for a neighborhood park as it will be smaller. He added that there likely will not be a request for the \$25,000 that the City had been contributing to Youth First, which will be funding that can go towards the parks.

Councilmember Riley noted that this is not coming out of the general fund. He added that he is pleased to see that they will have new boulders as they get a lot of use.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood shared that around 30% of the play at this playground is from children hopping from boulder to boulder. He added that this project provides for a 4%-7% discount off of the list cost because of the State contract and the equipment is available at the warehouse in Wisconsin today and they will not have to wait for the manufacturing of the equipment.

Councilmember Specht asked if this project would interfere with any other projects, like a splash pad, that they have been discussing to use park dedication funds for.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood explained that the present balance in the park trust fund is around \$5,000,000 and they are continuing to bring in more funds with development in the COR so this project will use a small amount of those funds.

Mayor Heineman asked if there is a warranty on the turf and if it is UV-resistant. He asked what the digging play equipment will be used for.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood stated the digging area will have washed sand that the children can play in that will be split off from the rest of the park by boulders. He noted that there is a two-year warranty of the installation of the turf; however, even after this point, the installers have stood behind their products for others who have used their turf.

Mayor Heineman stated putting money into the parks is very important.

Motion by Councilmember Peters, seconded by Councilmember Olson, to adopt Resolution #25-029, approving a playground replacement for Central Park at a not-to-exceed cost of \$449,000, with an intended completion date of May 2025.

A roll call vote was performed:

Councilmember Buscher	aye
Councilmember Riley	aye
Councilmember Stewart	aye
Councilmember Olson	aye
Councilmember Specht	aye
Councilmember Peters	aye
Mayor Heineman	aye

Motion carried.

**8.02: Adopt Resolution #25-018 Accepting Bids and Awarding Contract for Fox Ridge Estates 1st & 2nd Street Reconstructions, Improvement Project #24-13**

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek reviewed the Staff report concerning the street reconstruction for Fox Ridge Estates 1st and 2nd. He shared the low bid came from Douglas-Kerr Underground, L.L.C. in the amount of \$2,099,737.06.

Mayor Heineman asked how they ensure all bids come in with reliable work history to make sure the lowest bidder does not equate to the lowest quality.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek explained that each bidder must be bonded and insured, as well as a responsible contractor. He added that Douglas-Kerr tends to have a project in the City almost every year. He noted if a new contractor bids the project, they will do a reference check for the contractor.

Councilmember Riley shared that this was recommended by the Public Works Committee. He explained that all of these projects go before the Public Works Committee, and they get a longer presentation of the project and make a recommendation for the Council.

Motion by Councilmember Olson, seconded by Councilmember Peters, to adopt Resolution #25-018 awarding a contract to Douglas-Kerr Underground, L.L.C. in the amount of \$2,099,737.06 for Fox Ridge Estates 1st & 2nd Street Reconstructions, Improvement Project #24-13.

A roll call vote was performed:

Councilmember Buscher	aye
Councilmember Riley	aye

Councilmember Stewart     aye  
Councilmember Olson        aye  
Councilmember Specht       aye  
Councilmember Peters       aye  
Mayor Heineman             aye

Motion carried.

**8.03: Adopt Resolution #25-019 Accepting Bids and Awarding Contract for MSA Sunwood Drive Reconstruction, Improvement Project #25-02**

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek reviewed the Staff report in regard to the MSA Sunwood Drive reconstruction. He shared the low bid came from North Valley, Inc. in the amount of \$272,962.90.

Motion by Councilmember Olson, seconded by Councilmember Stewart, to adopt Resolution #25-019 awarding a contract to North Valley, Inc. in the amount of \$272,962.90 for MSA Sunwood Drive Reconstruction, Improvement Project #25-02.

A roll call vote was performed:

Councilmember Buscher     aye  
Councilmember Riley        aye  
Councilmember Stewart     aye  
Councilmember Olson        aye  
Councilmember Specht       aye  
Councilmember Peters       aye  
Mayor Heineman             aye

Motion carried.

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

City Administrator Hagen announced upcoming meetings and events.

Councilmember Stewart thanked Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood for all of his work on the Central Park Playground.

Mayor Heineman shared that there are some Boards and Commissions that have openings and applications can be accepted until February 28.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

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

A roll call vote was performed:

Councilmember Buscher     aye  
Councilmember Riley        aye  
Councilmember Stewart     aye  
Councilmember Olson       aye  
Councilmember Specht      aye  
Councilmember Peters      aye  
Mayor Heineman            aye

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the City Council adjourned at 7:44 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.