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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

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

Members Absent: None

Also Present: City Administrator Brian Hagen
City Attorney Fritz Knaak

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

2.01: State of the City 2025: Mayor's Address

Mayor Heineman reviewed the 2025 State of the City Address and provided a recap of City growth, new businesses and developments, updates, and news from the past year, as well as a look ahead to what is to come in 2025.

2.02: QCTV Update

QCTV Executive Director Karen George and Social Media and Communications Coordinator Seamus Burke presented the QCTV updates on the past year and future initiatives.

3. CITIZEN INPUT

Jen Shoemaker, a resident on Rivlyn Avenue, came forward and shared that she was one of the homeowners who was affected by the sewage leak caused by the construction of Highway 10 back in June of 2024. She shared that over the last eight months, they have been subjected to horrible treatment by Ames Construction, their insurance company, and their lawyers. She noted that Anoka County holds the contract with Ames Construction for the project and City Administrator

Hagen and the rest of the Council have been able to put pressure on the County to help with this matter. She explained that Ames Construction has chosen to ignore threats and fines from the County. She added that Ames Construction is who will be doing the Ramsey Boulevard connection this summer which could put more homes in danger of damages similar to what she has experienced. She said that after months of fighting with Ames Construction's general insurance company, they brought in a biohazard insurance company. She noted that they were told once the biohazard insurance company stepped in, things would be much smoother. She shared that they were offered a ridiculously low settlement amount, which they declined, and were then threatened that since they did not accept the offer, things would be made a lot more difficult. She said that they have had to pay out of pocket to have their basement cleaned and rebuilt after this incident which has caused a huge financial burden. She stated she has been emailing Ames three times a day trying to get answers from them. She shared that she is scared that this is the company that will be working on the Ramsey Boulevard connection project. She explained that they have a mediation date set for March but they are not expecting Ames to step up and take responsibility for this incident. She asked the Council to help them put pressure on the County to help her and the other affected homeowners.

Councilmember Specht said this is completely unacceptable and he will keep doing whatever he can to help in this situation.

City Administrator Hagen shared that County Staff is continuing to focus on this and they are continuing to put pressure on Ames. He noted that the legal challenges are outside of the City's hands as the contract for the Highway 10 project and the upcoming Ramsey Boulevard connection project are between Ames and the County.

Ms. Schumacher shared her appreciation for the City working so graciously with them as they reconstructed their basement and needed permits and inspections done quickly. She stated her home is one of the only ones that have begun reconstruction.

Mayor Heineman asked if they are able to provide a paper trail of communication with the County to these residents for their records.

City Administrator Hagen said yes, as all of this communication would fall under the Public Data Practices Act.

Derick Lind, 15230 Geranium Street, came forward and shared that he is a part of the Anoka County Election Integrity Team (ACEIT.) He explained that Anoka County is set to buy some new poll pads on February 25. He said that ACEIT does not think this is the right idea because they do not believe they are worth the money and they are a security risk. He shared that these poll pads will only last for five to seven years and they are costing a large amount of taxpayers dollars. He explained that these poll pads are iPads with cellular service that use third-party software. He said he does not see how this can be more secure than a paper poll pad at a local precinct. He noted that all 21 cities in Anoka County had service agreements and these agreements were handled by Staff and never seen by the Council. He stated this was a major change to the election system and there should be a political process involved with Council vote, not just Staff. He thanked Ramsey for being a supporter of ACEIT.

Mayor Heineman asked if the leasing agreement for the poll pads was just signed by Staff rather than coming forward to the Council.

City Administrator Hagen shared that there is a JPA for the election-related items with the cities in Anoka County which spells out the responsibility of the poll pads and the leasing agreement falls under this. He explained that the City's financial responsibility for the poll pads is that they would be responsible if an elections employee broke a piece of equipment. He said this agreement was signed by a member of Staff and has historically always been signed by Staff. He added that the Council terminated this agreement last year so they are no longer party to it; however, the County still has the authority to say when these poll pads will and will not be used. He noted that it has not been the County's goal to have the cities pay into the capital costs to replace these poll pads.

Mayor Heineman asked how terminating the leasing agreement would affect any future County or higher elections.

City Administrator Hagen shared that the main thing accomplished by terminating the contract is that the storage of the poll pads was taken away from the City. He said in 2026 at the next election, the poll pads would be delivered back to the City to be used.

Roxanne Tersteeg, 6263 Rivlyn Avenue, came forward and shared that she is another resident who was affected by the sewage leak caused by Ames Construction. She shared that she also opted to fix up her house rather than wait for a settlement with Ames. She said she is looking forward to the mediation and she is waiting for the judge to share the parameters of the mediation. She welcomed and congratulated the new Councilmembers. She added that she is supportive of the paper poll pads for elections.

Councilmember Stewart asked if the public is aware that the poll pads are just for how someone checks in to vote rather than what they actually cast their vote on.

4. APPROVE AGENDA

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

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Mayor Heineman, Councilmembers Olson, Peters, Buscher, Riley, Specht, and Stewart. Voting No: None.

5. APPROVE MINUTES

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

5.01: City Council Work Session dated, January 28, 2025

5.02: City Council Regular Session dated, January 28, 2025

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Mayor Heineman, Councilmembers Peters, Olson, Buscher, Riley, Specht, and Stewart. Voting No: None.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 6.01: Note the following Boards, Commissions, and Committee Meeting Minutes:
 - Environmental Policy Board Meeting Minutes Dated December 16, 2024
 - Park and Rec Commission Meeting Minutes Dated November 14, 2024
 - Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes Dated November 19, 2024
- 6.02: Adopt Resolution #25-041 Approving Cash Disbursements Made and Authorizing Payment of Accounts Payable Invoicing Received During the Period of January 23, 2025 through February 5, 2025.
- 6.03: Adopt Resolution #25-015, Approving a Development Agreement for Blanery LLC at 6591 141st Avenue NW
- 6.04: Adopt Resolution #25-035 Approving Partial Payment to GMH Asphalt Corporation for Improvement Project #24-03, 2024 NE Ramsey Street Reconstruction.
- 6.05: Adopt Resolution #25-039 Approving Proposal for Interim Stormwater Management and Water Resources Engineering Services

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Mayor Heineman, Councilmembers Stewart, Buscher, Olson, Peters, Riley, and Specht. Voting No: None.

7. PUBLIC HEARING

None.

8. COUNCIL BUSINESS

8.01: Introduce Charter Recommended Ordinance #25-02 to Amend Chapter 3 of the Charter

City Administrator Hagen reviewed the Staff report in regard to the Charter recommended amendments to Chapter 3 of the Charter.

Motion by Councilmember Olson, seconded by Councilmember Peters, to Introduce Ordinance #25-02: Amending Chapter 3 of the Charter.

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: Introduce Charter Recommended Ordinance #25-03 to Amend Chapters 2, 3 and 12 of the Charter

City Administrator Hagen reviewed the Staff report concerning the Charter recommended amendments to Chapter 3 of the Charter.

Councilmember Specht asked if they could vote to have a public hearing on this item so they could get the public's feedback without approving the changes.

City Administrator Hagen said yes and explained that a unanimous vote to introduce the ordinance does not force the Council to adopt it.

Councilmember Specht said he is not in favor of these changes; however, he would like to get this in front of the residents to get their feedback.

Councilmember Olson agreed.

Councilmember Peters agreed.

Councilmember Buscher agreed.

Motion by Councilmember Specht, seconded by Councilmember Olson, to Introduce Ordinance #25-03: Amending Chapters 2, 3, and 12 of the Charter.

Further discussion:

Councilmember Buscher asked if voting against the introduction of this ordinance would stop it from going to a public hearing.

City Attorney Knaak explained that the only way they can hold the public hearing is if they introduce the ordinance.

Councilmember Specht asked if the vote needed to be unanimous for this to be introduced.

City Attorney Knaak said no.

A roll call vote was performed:

Councilmember Buscher aye

Councilmember Riley	nay
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. He gave a legislative update.

Councilmember Specht shared that Green Valley Garden Center is having a Succulent Saturday evening this Saturday.

Councilmember Buscher thanked the residents on Rivlyn Avenue who came forward this evening to share their stories. She said she looks forward to other residents coming forward and sharing their stories as well so the Council can keep a pulse on the community.

Mayor Heineman shared that the Ramsey Police Department is still looking for a few more officers to join their team.

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Mayor Heineman, Councilmembers Olson, Buscher, Peters, Riley, Specht, and Stewart. Voting No: None.

The regular meeting of the City Council adjourned at 8:12 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.