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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 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
Planning Manager Todd Larson
Assistant City Engineer Joe Feriancek
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

None.

3. CITIZEN INPUT

Debra Musgrove, 15247 Fluorine Street, came forward and shared that she has three items she would like to discuss with the Council this evening, the repackaging of the Missing Middle Housing legislation from 2024, cost-sharing with the County and State, and preserving parks and infrastructure. She explained that the Missing Middle Housing legislation failed in 2024; however, it is being brought back this year in the form of seven bills, the first being House File 1987 and Senate File 2229. She noted that these bills would permit at least two units on any single-family zoned lot and allow accessory dwellings. She added that it would limit minimum-sized lot to an eighth of an acre for duplexes and single-family homes, prohibit minimum-sized lots for townhouses larger than 1,500 square feet, allow at least 80% lot coverage and restrict floor and ratio setbacks, prohibit minimum parking requirements for any development, and require an administrative approval process for residential developments with no more than a public meeting, not a public hearing. She said more information can be found on the League of Minnesota Cities

website. She noted that the same government that is rot with waste, fraud, and overspending is now gaslighting the cities with legislation named the Minnesota New Starter Home Act, and others. She said these legislations all sound good, but due to overspending and overtaxing, these bills do not mean much. She stated she does not want to see zoning regulations taken away from those who have been elected at the City level to represent the City. She explained that the Council held a Special Meeting last year where they told the representatives to the Governor that they did not want the local zoning authority taken from the Council. She added that the Governor has also stated that he wants to save \$400,000,000,000 over the next four years by cost-sharing with the counties. She shared that she spoke to an Anoka County Commissioner who expressed concerns about the costs and issues this will bring to county budgets. She said it is proposed to be a 5% increase on top of any other increases. She noted these are unfunded mandates. She asked how people would be able to afford a home with such large tax increases. She noted that the Council will be beginning budget discussions soon and she would like them to be aware of what is happening at the State level so the Council can make a decision on if they want to voice their opinion against these issues. She added that she would also like to discuss fire prevention. She shared that she was walking in one of the City's parks and she noticed that the woodland area was not cleaned. She noted that it has been a problem across the country where underbrush had not been taken care of and the dangers of wildfire due to this.

Councilmember Specht asked which park she noticed this underbrush in.

Ms. Musgrove said she saw it in Elmcrest and Alpine Park.

Councilmember Riley shared that he had already discussed the bills mentioned by Ms. Musgrove with City Administrator Hagen and they will be added to the legislative updates.

4. APPROVE AGENDA

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

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

5. APPROVE MINUTES

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

5.01: City Council Work Session dated, February 25, 2025

5.02: City Council Regular Session dated, February 25, 2025

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

6. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 6.01: Receive January 2025 Financial Reports - General Fund, EDA and Enterprise Funds
- 6.02: Receive Cash and Investments for Period Ending February 28, 2025
- 6.03: Approve Business License Applications.
- 6.04: Adopt Resolution #25-056 to Update the Non-Union Post-Employment Healthcare Savings Plan
- 6.05: Adopt Resolution #25-059 Approving Cash Disbursements Made and Authorizing Payment of Accounts Payable Invoicing Received During the Period of February 20, 2025 through March 5, 2025.
- 6.06: Adopt Resolution #25-051, Approving a Development Agreement for Voice of Hope Church at 15620 Armstrong Blvd NW
- 6.07: Adopt Resolution #25-052, Approving a Final Plat and Development Agreement for Waterfront Village 2nd Addition
- 6.08: Adopt Resolution #25-053 Approving the Development Agreement for Emerald Estates, Located on 181st Avenue West of Xenolith Street (Project No. 24-123); Case of Alan & Joni Greenwaldt
- 6.09: Adopt Resolution #25-057 Approving the Transfer of Excess General Fund Revenues to the Equipment Revolving Fund, Facilities Construction Fund, Capital Maintenance Fund and Public Improvement Revolving (PIR) Fund.
- 6.10: Adopt Resolution #25-058 Approving Time Extensions for Preliminary Plat and Site Plan Review of Haviland Fields.
- 6.11: Adopt Resolution #25-060 Approving Premise Permit for Anoka Area Ice Arena for Lawful Gambling at Aurelio's Pizza

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

7. PUBLIC HEARING

None.

8. COUNCIL BUSINESS

8.01: Introduce Ordinance #25-04 Northstar Truck & RV Parking - Rezoning and Site Plan Review - 15861 Jarvis St. NW

Planning Manager Larson reviewed the Staff report in regard to the rezoning and site plan review for Northstar Truck & RV Parking. He shared the Planning Commission's recommendation of approval.

Nikolya Vladyka, the applicant, came forward and thanked Staff for working hard on this project with him. He noted that this is a very unique property, and they want to make everyone happy and comply with code.

Councilmember Peters asked if any vehicles holding hazardous waste will be allowed to be parked on this property.

Planning Manager Larson said they had not gone into much detail about what types of trucks are allowed and they left it broader at the applicant's request. He added that the applicant had requested to park rollover dumpsters on the property; however, Staff did not want to allow this.

Councilmember Specht noted that this is a great alternative for the applicant to have a business where these large trucks can be parked since there are different regulations around parking on the roads.

Councilmember Riley asked what is benefiting the City in this situation.

Planning Manager Larson said they are getting a business in the City out of this situation. He added that the applicant has done a lot to clean up this property.

Mayor Heineman asked if there are any concerns with these semi-trucks being able to pull out of this property onto the road.

Planning Manager Larson shared that there is plenty of room for these vehicles to maneuver as the railroad is a few hundred feet away from where the proposed gate will be.

Councilmember Stewart asked what would happen if this property were to be sold to a different owner.

Planning Manager Larson explained that if the parcels were sold separately, they would revert back to each city's regulations.

Councilmember Stewart asked if someone else purchased the property and wanted to use it for a parking business if they would be allowed to do so.

Planning Manager Larson said the new owner would have to bring a new application to the Council.

Councilmember Buscher asked what would happen if the parcels were sold together.

Planning Manager Larson explained that the land use approvals stay with the land and not the property owner. He said if there was a new buyer who bought both parcels then they would just need to get the permit changed over to their name.

Motion by Councilmember Stewart, seconded by Councilmember Olson, to introduce Ordinance #25-04 Rezoning Property From I-1 to PUD at 15861 Jarvis Street Northwest.

Further Discussion:

Councilmember Riley shared that he will not be supporting this as this is a user who already has a history of not following the rules of what is and is not allowed. He stated he thinks they will end up with more problems in the future.

Councilmember Peters said he will also not be supporting this as it has been a past enforcement issue, and he does not see this being a positive experience for the City.

A roll call vote was performed:

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

Motion carried.

8.02: Introduce Ordinance #25-05: Code Amendments to Chapters 2, 10, 26, 105, 106, and 109

Planning Manager Larson reviewed the Staff report concerning the code amendments to Chapters 2, 10, 26, 105, 106, and 109 of City Code. He shared the Planning Commission's recommendation of approval.

Councilmember Specht thanked Staff for their hard work on updating the code.

Motion by Councilmember Peters, seconded by Councilmember Olson, to introduce Ordinance #25-05 Amending Chapters 2, 10, 26, 105, 106, and 109 of City Code

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 #25-054 Accepting Bids and Awarding Contract for 2025 Crack Seal Improvements, Improvement Project #25-09

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek reviewed the Staff report in regard to accepting bids and awarding a contract for the 2025 crack seal improvements. He shared that the low bid came from FlowSeal Surface Maintenance of Elk River, in the amount of \$154,749.49.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Olson, to adopt Resolution #25-054 accepting bids and awarding contract for 2025 Crack Seal Improvements, Improvement Project #25-09.

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

8.04: Adopt Resolution #25-055 Accepting Bids and Awarding Contract for 2025 Pavement Rejuvenation Improvements, Improvement Project #25-10

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek reviewed the Staff report concerning accepting bids and awarding a contract for the 2025 pavement rejuvenation improvements. He shared that the low bid came from Corrective Asphalt Materials, LLC of South Roxana, Illinois, in the amount of \$233,191.32.

Councilmember Buscher thanked Assistant City Engineer Feriancak for all of his hard work on these street projects.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Buscher, to adopt Resolution #25-055 accepting bids and awarding contract for 2025 Pavement Rejuvenation Improvements, Improvement Project #25-10.

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

8.05: Adopt Charter Recommended Ordinance #25-02 to Amend Chapter 3 of the Charter

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

Motion by Councilmember Stewart, seconded by Councilmember Olson, to waive the City Charter requirement that the Ordinance be read aloud and Adopt 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.

9. MAYOR, COUNCIL AND STAFF INPUT

9.01: Legislative Update

City Administrator Hagen reviewed the legislative update with the Council. He shared that as the legislature is in session he will continue to provide updates to the Council on existing and new bills. He noted that the Council sent a letter last year opposing the Missing Middle Housing legislation. He said they can update and re-send this letter if the Council would like. He stated bills are moving very quickly this legislative session. He explained that the League of Minnesota had previously spoken out about this on behalf of cities keeping their local control.

Councilmember Riley noted that he thinks a letter would be the minimum of what they would like to do and would like it to be sent as soon as possible considering how quickly the legislature is moving. He added that he would be supportive of just having Mayor Heineman sign this letter rather than bringing it back to the next Council meeting to be approved by all members of Council. He suggested reaching out to legislators or other cities to try to build a coalition as they need to hit this one head-on.

Mayor Heineman agreed with Councilmember Riley and said he would be willing to sign off on this letter on behalf of the City.

The Council was in unanimous agreement to have Mayor Heineman sign a letter opposing the Missing Middle Housing bill.

Councilmember Peters shared that there is a 5K at Elmcrest Park on May 17 and encouraged others to sign up to participate.

Councilmember Buscher gave a shoutout to the Ramsey Fire Department and firefighter Tim for winning Rookie of the Year, firefighter Austin for winning Firefighter of the Year, and firefighter Mike for winning Officer of the Year.

Councilmember Specht shared that they have announced all of the acts for the summer concert series and the list can be found on the City's Facebook page.

Mayor Heineman noted there is an Egg-palooza coming up at Alpine Park on April 19. He shared that there are also open positions with the City that can be found on the City's website.

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The regular meeting of the City Council adjourned at 8:00 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.