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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 25, 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
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

Susan Ariano, 16222 Ramsey Boulevard, came forward and shared that there are a lot of residents in Ramsey that would like to have chickens. She asked where they are at with allowing this.

City Administrator Hagen shared that the City's animal ordinance was revised back in 2022, and they expanded a lot of the properties that were allowed to have animals, including chickens, on lots a quarter acre and larger. He noted that there is a calculation in the City Code that dictates how many animals are allowed depending on the size of the lot.

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

- 5.01: City Council Work Session dated, March 11, 2025
- 5.02: City Council Regular Session dated, March 11, 2025

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

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Specht requested to remove Item 6.09 from the Consent Agenda and consider it under Council Business for discussion.

Motion by Councilmember Specht, seconded by Councilmember Peters, to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda with the removal of Item 6.09:

- 6.01: Approve Business License Applications.
- 6.02: Authorization to hire a Part-time Police Technician
- 6.03: Adopt Resolution #25-067 Approving Cash Disbursements Made and Authorizing Payment of Accounts Payable Invoicing Received During the Period of March 6, 2025 through March 19, 2025.
- 6.04: Adopt Resolution #25-050 Partial Payment No. 3 to Design Electric, Inc. for Improvement Project #24-56, Lift Station No. 1 Permanent Generator.
- 6.05: Adopt Resolution #25-061 Approving Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids for Dickenson's Mississippi Estate Street Reconstructions, Improvement Project #25-04
- 6.06: Adopt Resolution #25-063, Authorizing partial payment #21 to Magney Construction, Inc. for Improvement Project #21-09; Centralized Water Treatment Plant.
- 6.07: Adopt Resolution #25-066 Appointing Board and Commission Members
- 6.08: Adopt Resolution #25-068 Approving Loan Application for Restaurant Subsidy Program: King Baguette
- 6.09: ~~Adopt resolution #25-069 to Update the Policy for the Recruitment, Application, and Interview Process of Appointing City Board and Commission Members and Chair Member Term Rotations~~ - **Please Note: this case was removed from the Consent Agenda and moved to the Regular Agenda as item 8.3.**

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

7. PUBLIC HEARING

None.

8. COUNCIL BUSINESS

8.01: Adopt 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 and RV Parking.

Milaniya Oayenyagra, 21011 Peony Lane, Rogers, MN, the daughter of the applicant, came forward and shared that the reason they never came to the City to get any permits originally was because her father did not know they were needed. She noted that once the City intervened and requested these permits, they started working with both Ramsey and Elk River the past two years to get the property into compliance. She said the intent of the business was for outdoor storage. She shared that they have contacted the owner of the dumpster that is parked on the property and let them know that they will need to find somewhere else to park it. She added that all of the vehicles that are from the auction are being removed. She noted that they were under the impression that they could park semi-trucks on the property as long as the number of inoperable vehicles was under 3% of the property. She stated that the photos that were shown this evening are very old and the property has since been cleaned up.

Councilmember Riley asked if some of the photos shown have been taken in the last few weeks since this item was discussed.

Planning Manager Larson said the pictures shown that do not show snow were taken last week.

Councilmember Riley asked if the paving is included in the site plan.

Planning Manager Larson said yes.

Mayor Heineman noted that there had been new vehicles added to the lot since the first reading of the ordinance, which have now been removed. He asked what kind of enforcement measures they can have if these infractions continue.

Planning Manager Larson explained that they could have code enforcement send out a nuisance violation with fines that would increase with every violation.

Councilmember Riley shared that last time they discussed this, he was concerned with the applicant not following the rules and they have already violated these rules. He noted that if they pass this, he believes they are opening Staff up to a never-ending code enforcement battle.

Councilmember Buscher said she will not be supporting this; however, she is grateful to have new businesses in the City, but would like to see the City uphold its standards in this situation.

Councilmember Peters stated he will also not be supporting this.

Councilmember Specht noted that the applicant has cleaned up this property and it is not a property that can be used for much more than this. He said he will be supporting this as it gives vehicles and semi-trucks somewhere to park other than on the roads.

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

Further discussion:

Mayor Heineman shared that he will be supporting this as he believes the City has a need for some of these services. He noted that they do have standards, and he believed it was clear after the last meeting what those standards were, yet these standards have already been violated. He stated the applicant will have to be very careful moving forward as the City's eyes will be on this property. He shared his frustration with there already being a violation on this property. He noted that this is property that the applicant owns and is invested in and pulling the rug out from under him would not be fair at this time. He cautioned the applicant that they need to hold this property to the standards.

Ms. Oayenyagra shared that she was not aware of what violation had occurred in the last two weeks. She said they have already reached out to everyone who has a vehicle parked on the property, letting them know the tabs need to be up to date.

Mayor Heineman noted that the new pictures that Planning Manager Larson showed, which have been taken in the last two weeks, contained new violations, as there are more vehicles that are in disrepair parked on the property.

Ms. Oayenyagra stated they have received an email from Planning Manager Larson outlining all that should be taken care of by this Council Meeting, and they have completed all of these items. She said they have been cooperative and are doing the best they can.

Councilmember Riley asked Ms. Oayenyagra if she clearly understands the rules and standards now.

Ms. Oayenyagra said yes.

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.

Motion by Councilmember Stewart, seconded by Councilmember Specht, to Adopt Resolution #25-028 Approving Site Plan Review for Northstar Truck and RV Parking at 15861 Jarvis Street Northwest.

Further discussion:

Councilmember Buscher apologized to the applicant if they found this process to be confusing. She shared her appreciation for the collaboration with Staff and the work they are doing to try to meet these standards. She said she would like the City to stay in close contact with the applicant.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Mayor Heineman, Councilmembers Stewart, Specht, and Olson. Voting No: Councilmembers Buscher, Peters, and Riley.

8.02: Introduce Ordinance #25-06 Amending Chapter 26: Rental Residential Dwelling Units

Planning Manager Larson reviewed the Staff report concerning amendments to the rental licensing program.

Councilmember Buscher shared that she will not be supporting this as she believes that Staff drafted a good policy previously and they are the subject matter experts in this field and trust their judgement.

Planning Manager Larson noted that Staff is in agreement with this ordinance and the policy itself would be up for discussion at the next meeting.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Olson, to Introduce Ordinance #25-06 Amending Chapter 26: Rental Residential Dwelling Units.

Further discussion:

Councilmember Specht thanked Staff for all of their hard work on this.

A roll call vote was performed:

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

Motion carried.

8.03: Adopt resolution #25-069 to Update the Policy for the Recruitment, Application, and Interview Process of Appointing City Board and Commission Members and Chair Member Term Rotations - Please Note: this case was moved from the Consent Agenda item 6.9 to the Regular Agenda as item 8.3.

Councilmember Specht shared that he requested that this item be removed from the Consent Agenda. He noted that Boards and Commissions are such a great asset to the community. He explained in previous years they had put term limits on the Chairs for these Boards and Commissions to allow more people to get involved in leadership positions. He said he still believes it is a good idea to have Chair term limits. He added that he does not think this should apply to the EDA.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Stewart, to adopt resolution #25-069 updating the Policy for the Recruitment, Application and Interview Process for Appointing City Board and Commission Members and removing content within the policy addressing chair member term rotations.

Further discussion:

Mayor Heineman echoed what Councilmember Specht shared as he would like to give additional citizens on these Boards and Commissions a leadership opportunity. He noted that he thinks two years is too short of a Chair term limit; however, they did not come to a consensus on what the term limit should be. He said he will not be supporting this.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Councilmembers Riley, Stewart, Buscher, Olson, and Peters. Voting No: Mayor Heineman and Councilmember Specht.

9. MAYOR, COUNCIL AND STAFF INPUT

9.01: Legislative Update

City Administrator Hagen reviewed the legislative update with the Council. He shared that they are monitoring Senate File 1981, which is the sales and use tax exemption for construction materials related to the water treatment plant and trunk water main improvements. He said he will be attending the Tax Committee hearing on this tomorrow, testifying for this. He added that there was a Senate Tax Committee hearing on the TIF District 14 on March 12 and this bill would allow them to pass interfund loans and allow them to pay themselves back on hard infrastructure through tax revenue. He said they are seeing some success in their efforts and will continue to monitor things. He announced upcoming meetings and events.

Councilmember Buscher shared that there are still two open positions in the Police Department. She thanked the residents who interviewed for open Committee and Commission positions. She congratulated those who were chosen.

Councilmember Specht encouraged residents to visit Lord of Life Church on Saturday at their 4th Annual Makers Market.

Councilmember Peters shared that there will be a Dash and Dine 5K on May 17.

Mayor Heineman echoed the thanks to the residents who came forward to interview for the Committee and Commission openings. He encouraged residents to look at the Ramsey Facebook page to stay up to date on City news.

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The regular meeting of the City Council adjourned at 7:42 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.