

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. CALL TO ORDER ..... 2

2. APPROVE AGENDA ..... 2

3. PRESENTATIONS..... 2

    3.01: Presentation of the 2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report by the City's Auditing Firm of LB Carlson..... 2

4. CITIZEN INPUT ..... 3

5. CONSENT AGENDA ..... 3

6. PUBLIC HEARING ..... 4

    6.01: PUBLIC HEARING: Adopt Resolution #25-130 Vacating Right-of-Way Easements in Trott Brook Crossing. .... 4

    6.02: PUBLIC HEARING: Approve On-Sale Liquor License, including Sunday and 2 AM sales, for SM Enterprises dba Riversbend Sports Bar & Grill. This request is due to a change in the license applicant. .... 5

7. COUNCIL BUSINESS..... 6

    7.01: Adopt Resolution #25-107, Approving a Preliminary and Final Plat for Bunker Lake Crossing at the northeast corner of Sunwood Drive and Armstrong Boulevard ..... 6

    7.02: Adopt Resolution #25-109, Approving a Conditional Use Permit and Site Plan for Taco Bell at 14751 Armstrong Blvd NW ..... 6

    7.03: The Waterfront - Approve Water-Play and Eastern Park Development Process ..... 6

8. MAYOR, COUNCIL, AND STAFF INPUT ..... 8

    8.01: Legislative Update ..... 8

9. ADJOURNMENT..... 8

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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, June 10, 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: Planning Manager Todd Larson  
Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Mark Riverblood  
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. APPROVE AGENDA**

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

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

**3. PRESENTATIONS**

**3.01: Presentation of the 2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report by the City's Auditing Firm of LB Carlson**

Aaron Nielsen, LB Carlson, reviewed the findings of the 2024 comprehensive financial report and audit.

Councilmember Riley thanked Mr. Nielsen for his report.

Mayor Heineman also thanked the Finance Department and Finance Manager Lund for all the work they do throughout the year to make sure everything is done correctly.

#### **4. CITIZEN INPUT**

John Enstrom, a 48-year Ramsey resident, came forward and announced the 20th anniversary of the Veterans Lake Flag Retirement will be this Saturday at 1:00 p.m. He welcomed the community to attend this event.

#### **5. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- 5.01: Receive Cash and Investments for Period Ending May 31, 2025
- 5.02: Receive April 2025 Financial Reports - General Fund, EDA, and Enterprise Funds
- 5.03: Receive 2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report
- 5.04: Note the following Boards, Commissions, and Meeting Minutes:
  - Planning Commission Meeting Minutes - April 24, 2025
  - Economic Development Authority Meeting Minutes - April 10, 2025
  - Environmental Policy Board Meeting Minutes - April 21, 2025
  - Park and Rec Commission Meeting Minutes - April 10, 2025
  - Public Works Meeting Minutes - April 15, 2025
- 5.05: Approve the Following Meeting Minutes:
  - 1) City Council Work Session dated May 27, 2025
  - 2) City Council Regular Session dated May 27, 2025
- 5.06: Approve Liquor License Renewals
- 5.07: Approve Business License Applications
- 5.08: Approve Request to Declare Surplus Property
- 5.09: Authorization to Hire a Building Inspector/Plans Examiner
- 5.10: Adopt Resolution #25-135 Approving Cash Disbursements Made and Authorizing Payment of Accounts Payable Invoicing Received During the Period of May 22, 2025, through June 4, 2025.
- 5.11: Adopt Resolution #25-122 Ordering Plans and Specifications for MSA Sunwood Drive Crosswalk Repairs, Improvement Project #25-08
- 5.12: Adopt Resolution #25-123 Awarding Construction Staking Contract for MSA Alpine Drive Reconstruction, Improvement Project #25-03
- 5.13: Adopt Resolution #25-124 Awarding Construction Staking Contract for 2025 Neighborhood Pavement Overlay Improvements, Improvement Project #25-07
- 5.14: Adopt Resolution #25-126 Declaring Participation in State Performance Measurement Program
- 5.15: Adopt Resolution #25-129 Approving Construction Contingency Expense No. 9 for Improvement Project #21-09, Centralized Water Treatment Plant
- 5.16: Adopt Resolution #25-143 Adopting the 2025 Strategic Plan

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

## **6. PUBLIC HEARING**

### **6.01: PUBLIC HEARING: Adopt Resolution #25-130 Vacating Right-of-Way Easements in Trott Brook Crossing.**

#### **Presentation**

Planning Manager Larson reviewed the Staff report in regard to the vacation of right-of-way easement request in Trott Brook Crossing.

#### **Public Hearing**

Mayor Heineman called the public hearing to order at 7:12 p.m.

#### **Citizen Input**

None.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Olson, to close the Public Hearing.

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

Mayor Heineman closed the public hearing at 7:13 p.m.

#### **Council Business**

Councilmember Riley asked if the affected property owner is acceptable to what is being proposed.

Planning Manager Larson said he has not spoken with this property owner directly; however, the developer has been in contact with them, and they are comfortable with what is being proposed.

Councilmember Riley asked if the access that they are providing will be permanent.

Planning Manager Larson said it would be temporary until the other development comes forward later this summer or into early fall.

Tracey Rust, Twin Cities Land Development, shared that they have been in contact with this property owner, who is also the seller of Trott Brook Crossings, and they have been working together on this for several years. She noted the property owner understands, and they will be providing him access to his home. She explained that the access would be temporary, to begin with, but will be permanent once the property to the north develops.

Councilmember Riley asked if the City's interest is being protected with what is being proposed.

Planning Manager Larson said yes.

Motion by Councilmember Peters, seconded by Councilmember Olson, to adopt Resolution #25-130 Vacating Right-of-Way in Trott Brook Crossing.

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

**6.02: PUBLIC HEARING: Approve On-Sale Liquor License, including Sunday and 2 AM sales, for SM Enterprises dba Riversbend Sports Bar & Grill. This request is due to a change in the license applicant.**

**Presentation**

Planning Manager Larson reviewed the Staff report concerning the liquor license change request for Riversbend Sports Bar & Grill.

**Public Hearing**

Mayor Heineman called the public hearing to order at 7:17 p.m.

**Citizen Input**

None.

Motion by Councilmember Peters, seconded by Councilmember Olson, to close the Public Hearing.

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

Mayor Hieneman closed the public hearing at 7:18 p.m.

**Council Business**

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Specht, to approve an On-Sale liquor license, including Sunday and 2 am sales, for SM Enterprises dba Riversbend Sports Bar & Grill.

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

## **7. COUNCIL BUSINESS**

### **7.01: Adopt Resolution #25-107, Approving a Preliminary and Final Plat for Bunker Lake Crossing at the northeast corner of Sunwood Drive and Armstrong Boulevard**

Planning Manager Larson reviewed the Staff report in regard to the preliminary and final plat for Bunker Lake Crossing.

Motion by Councilmember Specht, seconded by Councilmember Olson, to adopt Resolution #25-107, Approving a Preliminary and Final Plat for "Bunker Lake Crossing".

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

### **7.02: Adopt Resolution #25-109, Approving a Conditional Use Permit and Site Plan for Taco Bell at 14751 Armstrong Blvd NW**

Planning Manager Larson reviewed the Staff report concerning the conditional use permit and site plan for Taco Bell. He shared the Planning Commission's recommendation of approval.

Motion by Councilmember Peters, seconded by Councilmember Olson, to adopt Resolution #25-109 Approving a Conditional Use Permit for a Drive-Through Lane and a Site Plan Review for Taco Bell at 14751 Armstrong Blvd NW.

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

### **7.03: The Waterfront - Approve Water-Play and Eastern Park Development Process**

Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood reviewed the Staff report in regard to the water play and park development process at The Waterfront.

Councilmember Riley asked if this timeframe is doable with how aggressive it is.

Chuck Evens, Damon Farber Landscape Architects, came forward and shared that the timeline of the construction will depend on the contract and who they award the bid too. He said they would be able to achieve the design schedule, but the construction schedule would be up to the contractor.

Councilmember Riley asked at what point in the process would they be deciding what this project would look like.

Mr. Evens said a lot of this will happen in the initial design phase during the schematic design.

Councilmember Buscher asked what role Damon Farber Landscape Architects will play in selecting the contractor for this project.

Mr. Evens stated they would want this to be a competitive bidding process. He said they can make recommendations as to who they may want to invite to bid on the project. He noted they would want to receive as many bids as possible and could then offer the Council some expertise on the bids received.

Councilmember Stewart asked if Damon Farber Landscape Architects would be a part of this process from start to finish.

Mr. Evens said yes and explained that their process includes construction administration. He said they would be signing off on the work the contractor does throughout the course of the project.

Councilmember Stewart asked what would happen if they got through the design process and then put a pause on the project.

Mr. Evens shared that this has happened on other projects they have worked on in the past. He said the client always has the right to pause services at any time.

Councilmember Specht thanked Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood for all of his work on this. He noted that the budget for this project will be coming from a park fund and will not be coming from taxes.

Councilmember Stewart noted that the land for phase two will be untouched for the foreseeable future. She asked if any past projects have done this and how they will protect this investment from the dirt and undeveloped land for phase two.

Mr. Evens shared that they have dealt with phased projects in the past. He said he would want to make sure this area was covered with grass or seeded to control any erosion or dust blowing into the water-play area. He added that they could also look at planting a few trees to make the area look more full. He noted that they will be adding landscaping around the play area to make it more intimate and less exposed to the open, undeveloped area.

Councilmember Buscher asked how they will connect the play area to the future community building once it is built. She asked if Damon Farber Landscape Architects would also be helping with the design of the community building.

Mr. Evens said they would love to be a part of the design team for the community building. He stated they are working with Cunningham Architects who have done some of the concept development on this building to make sure they are proceeding in harmony with the future building project. He noted they want to stitch these two projects together as seamlessly as possible.

Councilmember Riley asked if this proposal included recycling and filtering the water for the play area.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood explained that it is always desirable to think about the reuse of water; however, it is very expensive to build complex filtration systems, along with staffing costs to run the filtration system. He shared that in Minnesota, these types of water-

play areas typically have 100 usable days, which would equate to around 5,000,000 gallons of passthrough water, which is not a lot of water in the scope of municipal water production. He said they would reuse this water in other water features at the site.

Motion by Councilmember Specht, seconded by Councilmember Riley, to authorize engaging Damon Farber at a not-to-exceed amount of \$268,900, for landscape architectural services for the development of the water-play and park development at The Waterfront.

Further Discussion:

Councilmember Stewart shared that she is hesitant about this project due to the phasing of this project and the building. She added she is also concerned with the lack of restrooms at the play area.

Councilmember Buscher thanked Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood for all of his work on this. She noted this is something the residents have been asking for from the City for a long time now and she is excited to see it come to the City.

Councilmember Riley shared that he has heard time and time again how badly the residents want this and he is excited to see it happening. He asked if there was a plan to figure out a bathroom facility.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood said yes and noted that this will be discussed during the schematic design process.

Mayor Heineman shared that this is something that they have been talking about for many years and it was his goal as Mayor to get this off the ground and he is excited to see it get started.

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

## **8. MAYOR, COUNCIL, AND STAFF INPUT**

### **8.01: Legislative Update**

Mayor Heineman reviewed the legislative update and shared that the legislative session closed on May 19 and they are working towards a special session to wrap up their work.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood shared that the summer concert series is beginning this Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m.

## **9. 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 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.