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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, October 28, 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

Members Absent: Councilmember Shanna Stewart

Also Present: City Administrator Brian Hagen
Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Mark Riverblood
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. APPROVE AGENDA

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

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

3. PRESENTATIONS

None.

4. CITIZEN INPUT

Bruce Anderson, 14892 Bison Street, came forward and shared that he is a Planning Commissioner and thanked Staff for their constant hard work. He shared that he has not agreed with this Council and the previous Council's statements and actions, and he would like to resign from the Planning Commission. He said he feels the Planning Commission is being abused and that they are not being well represented.

Mayor Heineman shared that while they have not always agreed, Mr. Anderson has been a great asset to the Planning Commission.

Councilmember Specht shared his appreciation for Mr. Anderson and his insight over the years.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

5.01: Approve the Following Meeting Minutes:

- 1) City Council Special Work Session dated September 2, 2025 (*please note these minutes were delayed due to the process for the Civil Legal Services RFP*)
- 2) City Council Work Session dated September 9, 2025 (*please note these minutes were delayed due to the process for the Civil Legal Services RFP*)
- 3) City Council Work Session dated October 14, 2025
- 4) City Council Regular Session dated October 14, 2025

5.02: Approve partial payment #28 to Magney Construction, Inc. for improvement project #21-09; Centralized Water Treatment Plant.

5.03: Approve Termination of Ramsey Resident Advertising Sales Contract

5.04: Authorization to Reclassify the current Fire Captain of Administration to the new Deputy Fire Chief of Operations and Logistics position.

5.05: Authorize Request for Proposals - Towing Services Contract

5.06: Adopt Resolution #25-259 Approving Cash Disbursements Made and Authorizing Payment of Accounts Payable Invoicing Received During the Period of October 9, 2025, through October 22, 2025.

5.07: Adopt Resolution #25-248 Approving Final Payment to Corrective Asphalt Materials, LLC. for Improvement Project #25-10, 2025 Pavement Rejuvenation Improvements.

5.08: Adopt Resolution #25-249 Approving Partial Payment to Dave Perkins Contracting, Inc. for Improvement Project #25-04 Dickensons Mississippi Estates Street Reconstructions.

5.09: Adopt Resolution #25-250 Approving Partial Payment to Park Construction Company for Improvement Project #25-03, MSA Alpine Drive Reconstruction.

5.10: Adopt Resolution #25-251 Approving Partial Payment to North Valley, Inc. for Improvement Project #25-07, 2025 Neighborhood Pavement Overlay Improvements.

5.11: Adopt Resolution #25-254 Approving Final Payment to Northwest Asphalt Inc. for Improvement Project #24-05 MSA Xkimo Street Reconstruction.

5.12: Adopt Resolution #25-257 Approving a New Curbside Recycling Contract with ACE Solid Waste, Inc.

5.13: Adopt Resolution #25-258 Approving Cancellation of Lease at 6701 Hwy 10 NW (God's Kingdom Ministry)

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

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6. PUBLIC HEARING

None.

7. COUNCIL BUSINESS

7.01: Consider a Time Extension for Site Improvements Related to Northstar Truck & RV Parking - 15861 Jarvis St. NW

Planning Manager Larson reviewed the Staff report in regard to the request for a time extension to June 1, 2026, for site improvements for Northstar Truck & RV Parking at 15861 Jarvis St. NW.

Milaniya Oayenyagra, 21011 Peony Lane, Rogers, MN, the daughter of the applicant, came forward and shared that every vehicle currently on the property is licensed and registered. She noted that they have tenants from Alaska and Oklahoma, and these states only require license plates on the back of the vehicle. She explained that they have been working with the engineers and that they have had issues getting things approved to move forward. She said they have gotten rid of all of the dealership and salvage vehicles on the lot. She stated they have done everything the City has asked of them, and they are just waiting for the approval from the Lower Rum River WMO for a permit.

Councilmember Buscher asked where there have been issues getting the engineering plans approved.

Planning Manager Larson shared that the applicant's engineer was difficult to get a hold of and would not address all comments and concerns from Staff in the designs.

Councilmember Riley said that he knows that the City's engineers worked with the applicants a lot on this project. He stated that this was sent to the Lower Rum River WMO without the City's engineer's approval. He noted that the WMO came back with the same comments as the engineers, which is why they have not given the applicant their requested permits. He said that when this was originally discussed, they said this seemed like a non-compliant user, and so far through the summer and into the fall, they have not been complying. He stated he is not inclined to grant this extension request.

Ms. Oayenyagra shared that she has proof from Elk River that they were told that they did not have to worry about clearing anything on the property until November 1. She noted that when Code Enforcement Officer Swalchick comes out to the property, he takes pictures of what is on the Elk River side of their property. She said they have had to move items to the Elk River side of the property, as they are not compliant in Ramsey. She shared that they had seven vehicles towed away from their property a few weeks ago as the tenants were non-compliant.

Councilmember Specht asked if Staff recommends this extension.

Planning Manager Larson said they think it is a reasonable request; however, it is up to Council's discretion.

Councilmember Buscher noted that it is going to be very difficult for Staff to manage a site when items and vehicles can be moved around the property, between the lines of the two cities. She asked City Attorney Knaak for his thoughts on this request.

City Attorney Knaak explained that this is a complex situation since they are dealing with a property split between two cities. He said that if the applicant is making progress, then he would see why they would grant the request. He noted that if they do not grant this request, then they need to fully articulate why they are not granting the request.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Peters, to deny a time extension for a site plan review at 15861 Jarvis St. NW and give the applicant 60 days to vacate the property.

Further discussion:

Mayor Heineman said he will not be voting in favor of this denial. He noted that last time this was brought forward to the Council, they told the applicant that they had to get things done on this property to get them into compliance, and moving vehicles back and forth between the Ramsey part of the property and the Elk River part seems like the applicant is playing games. He said he is willing to have some grace since progress is being made; however, this needs to be taken care of. He stated he wants the applicants to succeed; however, they cannot continue to ask for extensions.

Councilmember Buscher agreed with Mayor Heineman. She said that they have given the applicants a lot of leniency with this, and the applicants' inability to meet the standards set before them will ultimately harm their business.

Councilmember Olson also agreed with Mayor Heineman. He added that a big issue seems to be the communication with the applicant's engineer and suggested that they make sure this engineer does what needs to be done, or they should find a new engineer.

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

Motion by Councilmember Specht, seconded by Councilmember Olson, to adopt Resolution #25-256, approving a time extension for a site plan review at 15861 Jarvis St. NW.

Further discussion:

Councilmember Peters offered a friendly amendment to the motion that this approval be contingent on the Lower Rum River WMO permit approval.

Councilmember Specht said he does not agree to this amendment as he does not want to interfere with this process.

Mayor Heineman noted that, per the City Attorney, they need to see progress made on this property, and if they do not see progress, then he would not be voting in support of any other time extensions.

Councilmember Riley asked if this time extension would allow junk vehicles to remain on the property until June 1, 2026.

Planning Manager Larson said no.

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

7.02: Approve Construction Management Services for The Waterfront Waterplay Project

Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood reviewed the Staff report concerning approving construction management services with H + U Construction and authorized Staff to get quotes for mass grading of the site. He shared the Planning Commission's recommendation of approval.

Joe Uhlhorn, H + U Construction, came forward and shared that part of their business is building large parks and splash pads throughout the metro area. He said they have been working with Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood and the design team to lay the path for completing this project by next summer. He noted that the mass grading is part of getting this project started. He explained that they are working to help the City take steps now to position them for a successful project starting in the spring of 2026.

Motion by Councilmember Peters, seconded by Councilmember Buscher, to approve a contract with H + U Construction for construction management services for The Waterfront waterplay park improvement project, at a not-to-exceed amount of \$50,000, until amended in January 2026.

Further discussion:

Councilmember Buscher shared that Mr. Uhlhorn's passion for this project is equally as important as all of the other work that H + U Construction is bringing to the table.

Councilmember Specht thanked Staff and H + U Construction for all of their hard work on this project and shared that he cannot wait for this to come to the City.

Mayor Heineman shared that this has been in the works for years, and he is glad to see it finally coming to fruition. He added that the money for this project has been collected from development for the sole purpose of parks.

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

7.03: Adopt Resolution #25-253 Accepting a Fishing Pier from the Minnesota DNR for The Waterfront

Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood reviewed the Staff report in regard to a fishing pier at The Waterfront.

Councilmember Specht thanked Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood for all of his hard work on this.

Mayor Heineman asked if the pier would be white.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood shared that they will have a number of different choices for this. He noted that lead times for certain materials may be a little long.

Motion by Councilmember Buscher, seconded by Councilmember Specht, to adopt Resolution #25-253 Accepting a Fishing Pier from the Minnesota DNR for The Waterfront.

Further discussion:

Councilmember Buscher thanked Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood for all of his hard work on this and so many other projects. She shared that she is very excited to be able to take her son fishing here in the City.

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

8. MAYOR, COUNCIL, AND STAFF INPUT

City Administrator Hagen announced upcoming meetings and events. He thanked City Attorney Knaak for all the work he has done for the City over the past four years and wished him well as he leaves the City.

Councilmember Specht gave a shout-out to QCTV for winning a local Emmy Award.

Councilmember Buscher thanked Senior Planner Anderson for taking her on a tour of the recycling facility. She said if any residents are interested in learning more about the recycling program, they can reach out to Staff. She shared that Fire Station #2 will be participating in Halloween this Friday, and there will be a Pumpkin Chuck event at Elmcrest Park on Saturday. She congratulated the Fire Department for all of their recent promotions and pinned firefighters. She noted that today is also National First Responder Day.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The regular meeting of the City Council adjourned at 8:02 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.