

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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a City Council Work Session 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  
City Clerk Katie Schmidt  
Police Chief Brad Bluml  
Investigator Derek Anderson  
Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Mark Riverblood  
Planning Manager Todd Larson  
Community Development Director Stephanie Hanson  
City Attorney Fritz Knaak

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Heineman called the City Council Work Session to order at 5:30 p.m.

**2. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

**2.01: Cryptocurrency Ordinance Presentation**

Police Chief Bluml and Investigator Anderson reviewed the Staff report in regard to a new Cryptocurrency Ordinance.

Councilmember Buscher asked if the entire Police Department would have a tracing license for cryptocurrency.

Investigator Anderson said that one individual would be in charge of this license, and if they were to leave, then they would need to train another individual on it.

Councilmember Buscher asked if they would be able to hire someone for this who is not a licensed police officer.

Investigator Anderson said he would need to check into this, but he believes that these individuals do not need to be sworn in.

Councilmember Buscher said she would be supportive of banning cryptocurrency ATMs in the City.

Councilmember Specht asked how much cryptocurrency ATMs in the City make in fees.

Investigator Anderson said he is not sure.

Mayor Heineman asked if they were to create an ordinance banning cryptocurrency ATMs if the City could be sued, similar to the state of Iowa.

City Attorney Knaak explained that the City is able to regulate its own residents, and he does not anticipate this would be an issue.

Councilmember Specht asked why more cities have not introduced something like this.

Investigator Anderson explained that there is not a lot of regulation with cryptocurrency, and it is very new to the general public. He noted that if they ban these cryptocurrency ATMs in the City, this would not stop residents from driving to other cities to access these machines.

Councilmember Buscher asked if any conversations around cryptocurrency have been happening at the County level for broader enforcement.

Investigator Anderson said no.

Councilmember Specht asked if the County would be a better fit to have the tracing license.

Investigator Anderson shared that it can get to a point where they would be overwhelmed with tracing so many cases under one license.

The consensus of the Council was supportive of moving forward with a Cryptocurrency Ordinance.

## **2.02: Animal Impound and Containment Services**

Police Chief Bluml reviewed the Staff report concerning animal impound and containment services. He shared that Anoka has a new Animal Containment Center and is charging an annual administrative fee of \$10,000; however, there is currently a waitlist for this Containment Center.

Mayor Heineman said \$10,000 annually is cheaper than building and operating their own facility. He asked how many animals they impound a year.

Police Chief Bluml said they see about 50 animals impounded a year. He shared that they would pay the same fee regardless of the number of animals they impound for the year. He noted that the

dog owner is charged a fee when collecting the animal, and the City only has to pay the fee if the animal is not collected.

City Administrator Hagen asked the Council if they would like Staff to look into what it would take to have their own containment facility in the City.

Mayor Heineman said no.

Councilmember Peters asked if they have a chip reader that they use on found animals to help locate their owners.

Police Chief Bluml said yes.

The consensus of the Council was to direct Staff to move forward with the Anoka Animal Containment Center for animal impounds.

### **2.03: Review Proposed 2026 Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges**

City Clerk Schmidt reviewed the Staff report in regard to the 2026 schedule of rates, fees, and charges.

Councilmember Specht asked about the variance appeal fee.

Community Development Director Hanson explained that they have not had a variance appeal fee in the schedule. She noted that they had a few appeals this year, and they take a lot of Staff time, so they would like to add this fee.

Councilmember Specht said he is generally not in favor of charging a fee for a variance appeal so that residents know that this is an option they have in front of them. He asked how much Staff time these typically take.

Planning Manager Larson explained that they have had four variance appeals in the last few years, and every time a different department works on a development case, they charge for time. He noted that the fee would be charged to whoever files the appeal in hopes that it will cut down on unnecessary appeals.

Councilmember Riley asked about the food truck fees and if the County was taking this over.

Community Development Director Hanson said she is not aware of the County's interest in taking this over. She said she can look into this.

Councilmember Specht asked how their food truck fees compare to those of other cities.

City Clerk Schmidt noted that they are very comparable with surrounding cities, and the price increase is being driven by the time it takes to complete the fire inspections of these trucks.

City Administrator Hagen explained that the City is not looking to make a profit on any of these fees; it is just to cover their own costs and Staff time.

The consensus of the Council was to move forward with the proposed 2026 schedule of rates, fees, and charges.

#### **2.04: Review Revised Municipal Center Conference Room Rental Policy**

City Clerk Schmidt reviewed the Staff report concerning revisions to the municipal center conference room rental policy to remove the Rum River Room from the rental list and transition the application process to an online reservation system.

The consensus of the Council was to move forward with the proposed changes to the municipal center conference room rental policy.

#### **2.05: Construction Management Services for The Waterfront Waterplay Project**

Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood reviewed the Staff report in regard to the construction management services for the Waterfront project.

Joe Uhlhorn, H + U Construction, the proposed Construction Manager, reviewed what they would be helping with in regard to this project in the preconstruction phase to ensure the project will be completed next summer.

Councilmember Peters asked if the water for the waterplay area will be treated or just filtered.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood said it will be filtered and drawn from the municipal drinking water supply. He added that it will only flow on demand if someone is trying to use the water play area.

Councilmember Olson said he loves this plan of having a construction manager help with the preconstruction phase so everything moves smoothly. He asked if the schedule is doable.

Mr. Uhlhorn said it is an aggressive schedule, but it is doable with the amount of preconstruction work they will be doing.

Councilmember Olson asked if the City has any protection against things going wrong during the project.

Mr. Uhlhorn shared that H + U Construction would provide a performance and payment bond for the project. He added that they have also discussed having some of the subcontracts include liquidated damages.

Councilmember Riley shared his appreciation that they are already thinking about a lot of the aspects of this project far before the construction season starts.

Councilmember Buscher said it is great to hear that they are already getting ahead of things for this project. She added that she is also pleased that Mr. Uhlhorn is being honest with the Council that this is an aggressive timeline, but they still feel that it is doable. She shared that she is very excited to be working with H + U Construction on this project.

Mayor Heineman asked if the not-to-exceed amount would protect the City after all of the bids come back from the subcontractors.

Mr. Uhlhorn said yes and explained that the not-to-exceed amount will have some contingencies in it that are controlled by H + U Construction; however, the savings would all go back to the City.

Mayor Heineman asked how often the entire contingency amount is used up on a project like this.

Mr. Uhlhorn said it has only happened one time for them. He stated that about 2% to 3% of the project's value is used from the contingency amount during the project for design-related changes.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood shared that H + U Construction will have a project manager on site at all times throughout this project. He said this gives them confidence that every part of this project will be overseen, and they can keep all of the subcontractors on track. He added that they will also be requesting approval to go out for quotes for the mass grading of the project at the Council meeting this evening.

The consensus of the Council was supportive of this project and directed Staff to bring the Construction Management Services contract forward to this evening's Council meeting for approval.

### **3. TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION**

#### **3.01: Review Future Topics/ Calendar**

Noted.

### **4. MAYOR / COUNCIL / STAFF INPUT**

#### **4.01: Updates on Items of Interest**

Mayor Heineman shared that he attended the JLEC meeting where the CIP was approved, but the radios were not included. He added that they also discussed an auto task force that would be paid by insurance agencies.

### **5. ADJOURNMENT**

The Work Session of the City Council was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Brian S. Hagen  
City Administrator

ATTEST:

---

Katie M. Schmidt  
City Clerk

Drafted by Ava Major  
*TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*