

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. CALL TO ORDER 2

2. APPROVE AGENDA 2

3. PRESENTATIONS..... 2

 3.01: Swearing in and Badge Pinning Ceremony for Sergeant Aaron Pipenhagen 2

 3.02: Proclamation Declaring November 29, 2025, as Small Business Saturday in the City of Ramsey 3

4. CITIZEN INPUT 3

5. CONSENT AGENDA 3

6. PUBLIC HEARING 4

7. COUNCIL BUSINESS..... 4

 7.01: Introduce Ordinance #25-12: Amending Chapter 2 and Repealing and Replacing Article VI-Finance; Division 3-City Funds; Section 2-306-Establishment of Funds..... 4

 7.02: Introduce Ordinance #25-11: 2026 Schedule of Rates, Fees and Charges 5

 7.03: Adopt Ordinance #25-10 Amending Chapters 2 and 106 Pertaining to Variances 5

8. MAYOR, COUNCIL, AND STAFF INPUT 7

9. ADJOURNMENT..... 7

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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, November 25, 2025, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Mayor Ryan Heineman
Councilmember Kirsten Buscher
Councilmember Eric Peters
Councilmember Chris Riley
Councilmember Dan Specht
Councilmember Shanna Stewart

Members Absent: Councilmember Michael Olson

Also Present: City Administrator Brian Hagen
Police Chief Brad Bluml
City Attorney Amanda Johnson
Community Development Director Stephanie Hanson
City Clerk Katie Schmidt

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 Stewart, to approve the agenda as presented.

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

3. PRESENTATIONS

3.01: Swearing in and Badge Pinning Ceremony for Sergeant Aaron Pipenhagen

Police Chief Bluml introduced and gave a brief background on the new Patrol Sergeant Pipenhagen.

Mayor Heineman gave Sergeant Pipenhagen the oath of office.

3.02: Proclamation Declaring November 29, 2025, as Small Business Saturday in the City of Ramsey

Mayor Heineman read the proclamation declaring November 29, 2025, as Small Business Saturday. He encouraged the residents to support small businesses not only on Small Business Saturday, but throughout the entire year. He thanked all of the small businesses that operate in the City.

4. CITIZEN INPUT

Jason Troup, 14731 Neon Street NW, came forward and shared that he is aware the City has an RFP for a new tow contractor and wanted to make the Council aware of the experience with the current tow company. He shared that in July of 2023, his 16-year-old was involved in a traffic accident on Highway 47 and 167th. He said thankfully, neither driver was injured; however, both cars involved were disabled and obstructing traffic. He stated that the current tow company towed the car, and when he went to take care of the car at their yard, the total came out to \$444.59, which was excessive in his opinion. He noted that when he arrived, they suggested that he sign the car over to the company; otherwise, they would continue to bill him \$75 a day until the car was removed from the lot. He said this whole situation did not sit well with him, and he felt that he was overcharged. He explained that after this interaction with the tow company, he called the Police Department and was told that per their contract with the City, he should have only paid \$180 for this. He noted that the Police Department and the tow company could not agree on the cost of this service, which led to the City Attorney conducting an audit on the tow company. He shared that he is not sure what came of this audit; however, he was never reimbursed for any of the money he spent. He shared that in May, the tow company reached out and offered to reimburse him \$105, when he should have been offered \$260. He said he declined this offer unless the tow company was willing to reimburse him the whole amount. He shared his appreciation for the Police Department and City Attorney for trying to help make this right for him. He noted that the current tow company does not have the City's best interest in mind.

City Administrator Hagen shared that he is not fully aware of this situation; however, they took this situation into consideration with the current RFP, and they put in language that would require the tow company to honor rates anytime the City requests towing services, regardless of whether a tow sheet is used or not used.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 5.01: Receive October 2025 Financial Reports - General Fund, EDA, and Enterprise Funds
- 5.02: Schedule Public Hearing for Adoption of 2026-2035 Capital Improvement Plan
- 5.03: Approve Fixed Asset Policy
- 5.04: Approve the Following Meeting Minutes:
 - 1) City Council Work Session dated November 10, 2025
 - 2) City Council Regular Session dated November 10, 2025

- 5.05: Approve Business License Applications
- 5.06: Authorization to Hire Paid-on-call Firefighters
- 5.07: Adopt Amended Policy for the Reimbursement of Land Proceeds and Tax Increment for Tax Increment Financing Area #14 - COR
- 5.08: Adopt Resolution #25-280 Approving Cash Disbursements Made and Authorizing Payment of Accounts Payable Invoicing Received During the Period of November 6, 2025, through November 19, 2025.
- 5.09: Adopt Resolution #25-262 Approving Final Payment to Enebak Construction Company for Improvement Project #23-20, COR Mass Grading.
- 5.10: Adopt Resolution #25-269 Approving Partial Payment #29 to Magney Construction, Inc. for Improvement Project #21-09, Centralized Water Treatment Plant.
- 5.11: Adopt Resolution #25-270 Approving Partial Payment to Dave Perkins Contracting, Inc. for Improvement Project #25-04, Dickensons Mississippi Estates Street Reconstructions.
- 5.12: Adopt Resolution #25-273 Authorizing Final Payment to Dave Perkins Contracting, Inc., for Improvement Project #25-61, Waterfront - Water-Play Utility Improvements.
- 5.13: Adopt Resolution #25-274 Not Waiving Statutory Tort Limits
- 5.14: Adopt Resolution #25-275, Adopting the 2026 Parking Ramp Maintenance Budget, and Adopt Resolution #25-276, Allocating the Parking Ramp Maintenance Costs per the Adopted 2026 Budget
- 5.15: Adopt Resolution #25-278 Authorizing the Purchase of Shelters and Furnishings for The Waterfront
- 5.16: Adopt Resolution #25-279 Approving Construction Contingency Expense No. 12 for Improvement Project #21-09, Centralized Water Treatment Plant
- 5.17: Adopt Resolution #25-281 Accepting Donation of a \$2,000 grant from the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Foundation

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

6. PUBLIC HEARING

None.

7. COUNCIL BUSINESS

7.01: Introduce Ordinance #25-12: Amending Chapter 2 and Repealing and Replacing Article VI-Finance; Division 3-City Funds; Section 2-306-Establishment of Funds

City Clerk Schmidt reviewed the Staff report in regard to amending Code Chapter 2 and repealing and replacing Article VI-Finance; Division 3-City Funds; Section 2-306-Establishment of Funds.

Motion by Councilmember Peters, seconded by Councilmember Stewart, to introduce Ordinance #25-12: Amending Chapter 2 and Repealing and Replacing Article VI-Finance; Division 3-City Funds; Section 2-306-Establishment of Funds.

A roll call vote was performed:

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

Motion carried.

7.02: Introduce Ordinance #25-11: 2026 Schedule of Rates, Fees and Charges

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

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Peters, to introduce Ordinance #25-11: 2026 Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges.

A roll call vote was performed:

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

Motion carried.

7.03: Adopt Ordinance #25-10 Amending Chapters 2 and 106 Pertaining to Variances

Community Development Director Hanson reviewed the Staff report in regard to amending City Code Chapters 2 and 106 pertaining to variances.

Debra Musgrove, 15247 Fluorine Street, came forward and shared that she opposes this ordinance. She shared that she was the former City Council liaison to the Planning Commission and is now a Planning Commissioner. She noted that she believes that the current process is what is best for the residents, as they will spend less time in both the preparation and approval phase of their variance requests. She said that this change will extend the time it takes to receive an approval. She added that residents are currently able to appeal the Planning Commission’s decisions directly to the Council. She noted that if this is approved, then the Judge will be the one who handles any appeals. She shared that she had spoken with the Staff and they told her that in other cities that have their Council make variance decisions, there are not often appeals because residents do not want to go through the appeals process since it would be costly through the court system. She added that she believes the current process is also the most transparent for the residents. She stated that she also opposes this change for consistency reasons. She noted that there are a number of other items that

the Council trusts other groups or individuals to make, and if they take this decision away from the Planning Commission, then she believes they also need to look at the decisions being made by other groups. She requested that the Council take these things into consideration before voting on this.

Matt Woestehoff, 16078 Uranimite Street, came forward and shared that he agrees with the points made by Ms. Musgrove. He noted that this change would add time to the approval process for variances and would waste the time of residents. He encouraged the Council to continue to let the Planning Commission make these decisions.

Councilmember Riley shared his appreciation for the residents coming forward and sharing their concerns. He noted that he has considered the items of concern; however, he does not believe that the process would change much for residents if they move forward with this Code amendment.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Stewart, to adopt Ordinance #25-10, Amending Chapters 2 and 106 Pertaining to Variances.

Further discussion:

Councilmember Buscher shared that she agrees with Ms. Musgrove and Mr. Woestehoff. She explained that if they move forward with this change, then the appeals process would go through the judge, which would take the final decision out of the local government's hands. She noted that the Council was elected to make sure that the residents are put first, and this change does not benefit the residents. She added that the individuals on the Planning Commission are appointed by the elected body. She noted that these are not just random people who wanted to serve, but appointed individuals who were deemed qualified to make these kinds of decisions. She shared that she does not believe that the entire Council will be reading the entire Staff report in regard to these variance requests every time they come up as thoroughly as the Planning Commissioners do. She noted that this is trying to fix something that is not broken.

Councilmember Peters agreed with Councilmember Buscher, Ms. Musgrove, and Mr. Woestehoff. He shared that he served on the Planning Commission for five years. He noted that it is the Planning Commission's job to make these decisions, and the Council's job to review appeals when they are needed. He said he would like to see this process stay with an apolitical group that reads the ordinances as they are and interprets them the way they believe they should be interpreted. He shared that he will not be supporting this motion.

Councilmember Stewart noted that the only reason these decisions would go through the court system is if the Council denies the variance request.

Mr. Woestehoff added that even if a variance is approved, another resident could take this decision to court through the appeals process.

Councilmember Buscher asked what kind of financial burden the City would take on if it had to fight an appeal in court.

Mayor Heineman noted that they are now in the discussion portion and cannot ask any questions. He explained that they have recently reviewed appeals as the Council, where they found that the Planning Commission had an error in their decision-making. He shared that he has recently lost confidence in some members of the Planning Commission, and he does not believe that they should have the final say in these decisions, which can only be overruled if the Council finds that the decision was made in error. He said he believes the best thing to do for the residents is to bring this decision-making authority back to the elected officials whom they voted for.

A roll call vote was performed:

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

Motion carried.

8. MAYOR, COUNCIL, AND STAFF INPUT

City Administrator Hagen announced upcoming meetings and events.

Mayor Heineman shared that he is always happy to discuss any Council decisions with residents after meetings.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The regular meeting of the City Council adjourned at 7:43 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.