

City of Ramsey
Agenda
Revised
City Council Work Session
Tuesday, December 9, 2025
5:30 pm
Lake Itasca Room, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW

Remote Attendance available at www.cityoframsey.com/meetings.
Those joining remotely and requesting to speak are asked to use a webcam when speaking.

1. **Call to Order**

2. **Topics for Discussion**
 1. Large Format Retailer NDA Discussion - **Please Note: This case was added to the agenda at the the meeting.**
 2. Consider a Municipal Farmer's Market for 2026
 3. Council Meeting Active Threat Training
 4. 2026 Legislative Priorities
 5. Consider Ramsey Christmas Market

3. **Topics for Future Discussion**
 1. Review Future Topics/Calendar

4. **Mayor/Council/Staff Input**
 1. Updates on Items of Interest

5. **Adjournment***

***Note: the City Council may motion to recess this Work Session meeting and reconvene after the regular City Council meeting if items on the agenda are not completed.**

CC Work Session

Meeting Date: 12/09/2025

Primary Strategic Plan Initiative:

Information

Title:

Large Format Retailer NDA Discussion - **Please Note: This case was added to the agenda at the the meeting.**

Purpose/Background:

Recommendation:

Outcome/Action:

Attachments

No file(s) attached.

Form Review

Inbox

Brian Hagen

Form Started By: Kathy Schmitz

Final Approval Date: 12/10/2025

Reviewed By

Kathy Schmitz

Date

12/10/2025 12:07 PM

Started On: 12/10/2025 12:06 PM

CC Work Session

Meeting Date: 12/09/2025

Primary Strategic Plan Initiative: Promote economic growth and development.

Information

Title:

Consider a Municipal Farmer's Market for 2026

Purpose/Background:

Purpose Statement

Farmers markets serve as more than just places to buy wholesome fresh food—they can be community hubs where people gather to socialize, connect with local producers, and engage in community activities. Markets can feature live music, cooking demonstrations, food samples, games, and other events that create a lively and welcoming atmosphere—fostering a sense of community and promoting favorable interactions between neighbors, local businesses, and visitors from beyond Ramsey's borders. These social aspects of a farmers market make them an enjoyable and enriching experience for people—all of which were realized when Ramsey hosted a municipal farmers market a decade ago.

Background (summary)

The City of Ramsey began a municipal farmers market in 2011 and was accommodated at The Draw on concert days from 3 to 7 pm with a deliberate overlap with the concerts that began at 6:30 pm. This formula worked well in the beginning, with concert attendance and market participation, as well as grower and local producer presence increasing in each of the early years. In fact, the popularity of the market and especially the concerts created vehicle parking congestion along the parkway in the late afternoon that ultimately contributed to a decline in grower revenue (because residents wishing to visit the market could not conveniently park near enough). The market was then relocated in 2017 to alleviate the parking frustrations. This disruption, together with an inability to provide adequate marketing support (including advertising), together with a couple of growers aging out, contributed to a decline in market patronage, which resulted in less revenue, which led to less grower presence and then less attractiveness for purchasers and so on, leading Ramsey's Farmers Market to disappear.

In subsequent years, private parties attempted a farmers market held most recently at the Fairway Liquor's parking lot in Ramsey as recently as the early 2020's which also dissolved. Despite these markets' declines, residents still desire a farmers market—and as there are so many community benefits to a local farmers' market—and none in proximity to Ramsey's population center, staff has investigated and organized potential resources for creating a new municipal farmers' market for 2026.

Time Frame/Observations/Alternatives:

As indicated, there are myriad social and economic benefits to a local farmer's market—as well as aligning with the 'Strategy' from the 2025 Strategic Plan; "Strengthen and enhance our identity, brand and image." It is for these reasons that pursuing a well-thought-out market for the Summer of 2026 may be considered at this time. Of further interest, is that the program envisioned would seem to mirror each of the primary goals of the 2025 Strategic Plan:

Strategic Plan Goals	
Citizen Focused Government	Residents want to support a local farmer's market; creating a market in 2026 would be a direct response to these citizen requests.
Financial Stability	A new market would be proposed with no new impact to the tax levy; further, 1 in 25 Ramsey households receive SNAP benefits, and the market would redeem these benefits for healthy food—routing revenue to local small businesses (the growers).
A Balance of Rural Character and Suburban Growth	Over half of SNAP households in Ramsey consist of residents greater than 60 years in age; this represents many long-time residents that appreciate supports that allow aging in-place. Farmer Markets support small scale agriculture and favorable rural land use at the same time.
An Active, Connected and Engaged Community	Research shows that 78% of farmer's market shoppers report increased fruit and vegetable consumption, resulting in a more healthy citizenry, with residents also benefiting from a sense of community the market begets.
An Effective and Efficient Organization	Engaging volunteers would be a key aspect of the services offered to residents from the market. A municipal farmers market would provide multiple connections between city departments and the business community, together with opportunities for synergistic cross-promotion.
High Quality Services	Farmer's markets are renown for fresh and more nutritious food, and Ramsey's municipal market would be well-organized with the right ratio of offerings, programming and services.

For the meeting, staff will present a model of what a 2026 farmer's market would entail, noting also that to ensure success and to attract quality growers and producers, that program development would need to be underway by January 2026 for a June 23 debut.

Funding Source:

As the planning for a potential 2026 Farmers Market appears at this time, staff believes that no 'new' General Fund monies would be required and that the market can be managed as a financially self-contained endeavor, as had been done a decade before. This operating revenue would begin for 2026 with the \$2,443 balance in the city's Farmers Market 'account' remaining from 2016. Additional revenue may be summarized by:

- ~ Vendor and food truck participation fees (16 weeks) +/- \$5,000
- ~ Anoka County Dept, of Health funding for city/volunteer booth tables, tents signs and tokens etc. \$500-\$1,500
- ~ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - Electronic Benefit Transfer machines (MDH or Anoka Co.) \$250
- ~ On-site management of the SNAP/EBT transactions by the Ramsey Community Foundation volunteers, a \$4,650 value

Additional details on the market model (money in/money out, and program elements) will be presented at the meeting.

Recommendation:

Staff requests input on whether planning should continue with respect to developing a municipal farmers market for 2026.

Outcome/Action:

Concensus direction on whether a farmers market is desired for 2026, or a subsequent year.

Attachments

Benefits of Farmers Markets

Form Review

Inbox	Reviewed By	Date
Bruce Westby	Kathy Schmitz	12/03/2025 04:05 PM
Mark Riverblood (Originator)	Mark Riverblood	12/04/2025 11:19 AM

Bruce Westby
Mark Riverblood (Originator)
Bruce Westby
Brian Hagen
Form Started By: Mark Riverblood
Final Approval Date: 12/04/2025

Mark Riverblood
Mark Riverblood
Bruce Westby
Brian Hagen

12/04/2025 11:22 AM
12/04/2025 11:24 AM
12/04/2025 11:45 AM
12/04/2025 02:54 PM
Started On: 12/01/2025 09:56 AM

7 Benefits of Shopping at Local Farmer Markets That Nourish Your Community

(reprinted from FarmstandApp)

Discover 7 powerful reasons to shop at farmer markets: fresher produce, economic support for local farmers, environmental benefits, unique foods, community connections, and better health outcomes.

Ever wondered why those vibrant farmer markets popping up in your neighborhood are gaining so much popularity? When you shop at local farmer markets, you're not just buying groceries—you're participating in a tradition that benefits your health, community, and environment in meaningful ways.

From farm-fresh produce bursting with flavor to the satisfaction of supporting local agriculture, farmer markets offer advantages that supermarkets simply can't match. Discover how making this simple switch in your shopping routine can transform your meals, strengthen your local economy, and even reduce your carbon footprint.

1. Accessing Fresher, Seasonal Produce

How Farmer's Market Produce Compares to Supermarkets

Farmer's market produce typically travels less than 50 miles from farm to stand, while supermarket fruits and vegetables often journey 1,500+ miles before reaching shelves. This shorter supply chain means market produce is harvested at peak ripeness—often picked just 24 hours before sale. You'll notice the difference immediately in crispness, color vibrancy, and intense flavor profiles impossible to find in commercial varieties bred for shipping durability rather than taste.

Peak Season Benefits for Flavor and Nutrition

Seasonal produce harvested at optimal ripeness contains up to 40% more nutrients than items picked prematurely for long-distance shipping. You're getting maximum antioxidants, vitamins, and minerals exactly when nature intended. Flavor compounds develop fully in naturally ripened fruits and vegetables, creating distinctive taste experiences throughout the year—from summer's explosive tomatoes to fall's honey-sweet squashes. These peak-season eating patterns also naturally diversify your diet.

2. Supporting Your Local Economy

Direct Impact on Local Farmers' Livelihoods

When you purchase produce at farmer markets, you're putting money directly into farmers' pockets. Unlike supermarkets where farmers receive only 15-20 cents of each dollar spent, local markets allow them to keep 80-100% of your purchase. This immediate financial support helps small-scale farmers maintain their operations, invest in sustainable practices, and continue providing fresh food to your community.

Creating and Sustaining Community Jobs

Farmer markets generate significant local employment opportunities beyond just the farmers themselves. Each market stall supports an average of 2-3 jobs, from field workers to market staff. These markets also stimulate adjacent businesses – nearby cafes, shops, and services typically see a 30-40% increase in foot traffic on market days. Your weekly shopping trip essentially creates a ripple effect of economic activity throughout your community.

3. Reducing Environmental Impact

Shopping at farmer markets directly contributes to environmental sustainability through multiple channels. When you choose local markets over conventional grocery stores, you're making a choice that benefits the planet in tangible ways.

Decreased Carbon Footprint Through Shorter Supply Chains

Locally grown produce travels an average of just 50 miles to farmer markets compared to 1,500 miles for supermarket food. This dramatic reduction in “food miles” cuts transportation emissions by up to 90%. Your purchases help eliminate the need for extensive refrigeration, fuel consumption, and the associated carbon emissions that come with long-distance food shipping.

Less Packaging and Food Waste

Farmer markets typically offer minimally packaged items, with 78% of vendors using recyclable or compostable materials. You’ll find fruits and vegetables sold loose or in [paper bags](#) rather than [plastic containers](#). Local farmers harvest crops based on actual demand, reducing food waste by 30-40% compared to commercial supply chains where aesthetic standards lead to

4. Discovering Unique and Heritage Varieties

Access to Rare and Heirloom Produce

At farmer markets, you’ll find vegetables and fruits you’ve never seen in chain supermarkets. Local farmers often cultivate [heirloom varieties](#) passed down for generations, preserving biodiversity that’s disappearing from commercial agriculture. These unique varieties—like [Purple Cherokee tomatoes](#) or [Mortgage Lifter peppers](#)—offer distinctive flavors, colors, and textures that mass-produced alternatives simply can’t match.

Expanding Your Culinary Horizons

Shopping at farmer markets inevitably transforms your cooking repertoire. You’ll discover unfamiliar ingredients that inspire new recipes and techniques. Many vendors eagerly share preparation tips and family recipes, helping you incorporate these distinctive foods into your meals. This culinary education extends beyond ingredients to include seasonal cooking methods that maximize each item’s unique characteristics and nutritional benefits.

5. Building Community Connections

Fostering Relationships with Local Producers

Shopping at farmer markets creates meaningful connections with the people who grow your food. You'll learn farmers' names, their growing practices, and their family stories after just a few visits. These personal relationships transform routine shopping into social experiences where you can ask questions about cultivation methods, get recipe tips, and receive recommendations for seasonal specialties directly from expert producers.

Creating Neighborhood Gathering Spaces

Farmer markets function as community hubs where neighbors naturally congregate and connect. You'll often spot friends catching up between vendor stalls or families enjoying live music while shopping. These markets host an average of 3-5 community events monthly, from cooking demonstrations to children's activities, creating spaces where relationships flourish beyond transactions. The regular rhythm of weekly markets builds neighborhood identity and strengthens community bonds.

6. Learning About Your Food Sources

Understanding Growing Practices and Methods

At farmer's markets, you'll gain firsthand knowledge about how your food is grown. Vendors eagerly share details about their organic, conventional, or biodynamic farming methods. You can learn about crop rotation, pest management techniques, and soil health practices that affect your food's quality. This agricultural education helps you make more informed dietary choices aligned with your values.

Transparency in Food Production

Farmer's markets eliminate the mystery behind your food's journey from farm to table. You can ask producers direct questions about harvesting timelines, chemical use, and animal welfare standards. This transparency isn't possible in conventional grocery stores where products travel through multiple distribution channels. Studies show that consumers who understand production methods make healthier food choices and waste 25% less food at home.

7. Enjoying Health and Wellness Benefits

Nutritional Advantages of Fresh, Local Foods

Shopping at farmer markets provides access to produce harvested within 24 hours, preserving up to 60% more nutrients than store-bought alternatives. Local fruits and vegetables contain 25% higher levels of essential vitamins and minerals, as they're picked at peak ripeness rather than harvested early for shipping. Farm-fresh foods also have significantly fewer preservatives and pesticide residues.

Encouraging Healthier Eating Habits

Farmer markets naturally inspire better eating habits, with 78% of regular shoppers reporting increased fruit and vegetable consumption. The colorful, seasonal variety entices you to experiment with new produce—shoppers typically try 4-5 new vegetables annually. Direct farmer interactions also provide valuable cooking tips and nutritional information, helping you make more informed dietary choices for long-term wellness.

Conclusion: Making Farmer's Markets Part of Your Lifestyle

Shopping at local farmer's markets transforms your grocery routine into a meaningful experience that nourishes both body and community. By making this simple shift in your shopping habits you'll enjoy fresher more nutritious foods while directly supporting the hardworking farmers in your area.

The environmental benefits are substantial too as you'll help reduce food miles packaging waste and carbon emissions with every purchase. Plus you'll discover unique varieties and flavors that simply can't be found on supermarket shelves.

Next weekend take the first step – visit your local farmer's market and experience these benefits firsthand. Your health your community and our planet will thank you for it.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why should I shop at farmer markets instead of supermarkets?

Farmer markets offer fresher produce with up to 40% more nutrients, as items typically travel less than 50 miles from farm to stand. Shopping at these [markets supports local farmers](#) who receive 80-100% of each sale (compared to just 15-20% from supermarkets), reduces your carbon footprint by cutting transportation emissions up to 90%, and strengthens community connections. You'll also discover unique [heirloom varieties](#) unavailable at chain stores while enjoying a vibrant social experience.

How much fresher is produce at farmer markets?

Farmer market produce is significantly fresher, often harvested within 24 hours of sale, preserving up to 60% more nutrients than supermarket alternatives. Local fruits and vegetables contain approximately 25% higher levels of essential vitamins and minerals because they're picked at peak ripeness rather than early for extended shipping and storage. The shorter travel distance (averaging just 50 miles versus 1,500 for supermarket food) means you're getting produce at its nutritional and flavor peak.

Do farmer markets actually help local economies?

Absolutely. Farmer markets directly boost local economies by allowing farmers to retain 80-100% of each sale compared to just 15-20% from supermarket sales. Each market stall supports an average of 2-3 local jobs, and nearby businesses experience a 30-40% increase in foot traffic on market days. This financial circulation stays within the community, helping small-scale farmers maintain operations and invest in [sustainable farming practices that benefit](#) the entire local economy.

Are farmer markets better for the environment?

Yes. Farmer markets significantly reduce environmental impact through shorter supply chains, with locally grown produce traveling an average of just 50 miles compared to 1,500 miles for supermarket food. This reduces transportation emissions by up to 90%. Additionally, 78% of market vendors use recyclable or compostable packaging, reducing plastic waste. Farmer

markets also help reduce food waste by 30-40% since farmers harvest based on actual demand rather than speculative retail forecasts.

What unique products can I find at farmer markets?

Farmer markets offer rare and [heirloom varieties](#) rarely found in supermarkets, such as [Purple Cherokee tomatoes](#) and [Mortgage Lifter peppers](#). These unique products preserve agricultural biodiversity while providing distinctive flavors and textures. You'll also find specialty items like small-batch [preserves](#), [artisanal cheeses](#), locally-raised meats, and handcrafted goods. Many vendors share family recipes and preparation tips to help you incorporate these unique ingredients into your meals.

How do farmer markets build community connections?

Farmer markets foster community by creating spaces where neighbors gather and socialize. The average market hosts 3-5 community events monthly, from cooking demonstrations to live music. Shopping at markets allows you to build relationships with local producers, learning about their farming practices and stories. These direct connections create transparency in food production and strengthen social bonds. Regular market shoppers report feeling more connected to their [communities](#) and more invested in local sustainability efforts.

Will shopping at farmer markets improve my health?

Research shows that 78% of regular farmer market shoppers report increased fruit and vegetable consumption. The exceptional freshness (often harvested within 24 hours) [preserves](#) up to 60% more nutrients compared to store-bought alternatives. Direct interaction with farmers provides valuable cooking tips and nutritional information. The rotating seasonal selection encourages dietary diversity and exposes you to a wider range of nutrients throughout the year, naturally supporting healthier eating habits.

Are farmer markets more expensive than supermarkets?

Not necessarily. While some specialty items may cost more, staple produce is often comparably priced or even less expensive, especially when in peak

season. The value equation changes when you factor in the superior freshness, flavor, and nutritional content of market produce. Many markets also accept SNAP/EBT benefits and offer matching programs to make fresh food more accessible. The environmental and community benefits provide additional value beyond the price tag.

CC Work Session

Meeting Date: 12/09/2025

Primary Strategic Plan Initiative: Not Applicable

Information

Title:

Council Meeting Active Threat Training

Purpose/Background:

Council will be briefed and partake in active threat scenario training for both the work session and council chamber settings.

Time Frame/Observations/Alternatives:

30 minutes.

Recommendation:

N/A

Outcome/Action:

This is a scenario exercise.

Attachments

No file(s) attached.

Form Review

Inbox

Brian Hagen

Form Started By: Brian Hagen

Final Approval Date: 12/04/2025

Reviewed By

Brian Hagen

Date

12/04/2025 03:26 PM

Started On: 12/04/2025 02:46 PM

CC Work Session

Meeting Date: 12/09/2025

Primary Strategic Plan Initiative: Enhance City’s communication through transparency and accountability.

Information

Title:

2026 Legislative Priorities

Purpose/Background:

The 2026 Minnesota Legislative Session starts on February 17, 2026 and ends on May 18, 2026.

Ramsey annually identifies items of interest to work with legislators on. This list generally identifies local items that require specific legislation as well as state-wide policy level legislation. Attached is the 2025 priority list for reference. Looking to 2026, the local priority list will be reduced to focus on funding towards a future Mississippi River Crossing, expanding the Metro Mobility Service Area and continue to recognize an opportunity driven closed landfill legislation to promote economic development. Regarding the state-wide policy level items, these tend to be opportunity driven and are dependent on a number of other entities sharing similar concerns and legislators willingness to introduce the topics.

This is an introductory discussion to gather any other items of interest the consensus of council would like added to the list. A draft 2026 list and an accomplishments on the 2025 list will be brought to the January 13th work session. Final adoption of the 2026 list is anticipated for the January 27th City Council meeting.

Time Frame/Observations/Alternatives:

15 minutes.

Recommendation:

Provide consensus direction on removing or adding items to the list.

Outcome/Action:

Provide consensus direction on removing or adding items to the list.

Attachments

2025 Legislative Priority List

Form Review

Inbox

Brian Hagen

Form Started By: Brian Hagen

Final Approval Date: 12/04/2025

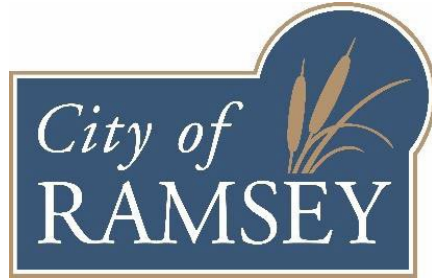
Reviewed By

Brian Hagen

Date

12/04/2025 03:26 PM

Started On: 12/04/2025 02:56 PM



2025 City of Ramsey Legislative Priorities

Local Priority: Sales and Use Tax Exemptions for Water Treatment Plant Trunk Watermain Improvements

During the 2023 legislative session, state sales and use tax exemptions were approved for the purchase of materials for the new Water Treatment Plant. Unfortunately, sales and use tax exemptions were not approved for the necessary Trunk Watermain improvements. The City sought after legislative approval in 2024 for state sales and use tax exemptions for the necessary Trunk Watermain improvements. We had success with the request in the form of budget impact from the State's perspective. When working through the request in 2024, we learned the full financial liability to the State's budget was included in the estimates that were provided in 2023 for both the physical plant and the trunk water lines. Unfortunately, at the end of session in 2024 our request was removed from the omnibus bill along with many other tax related requests from other entities.

- In 2023, sales and use tax exemptions were approved for the Water Treatment Plant.
- The City will work with legislators to amend the approved language to authorize applying sales and use tax exemptions to the necessary Trunk Watermain improvements. Given the project completion timeline of Summer 2025, this will be our last year to make this request.

Local Priority: Tax Increment Financing District 14 (TIF 14, The COR)

Language in the original 2010 legislation included, but did not limit to, the city's share of the costs necessary to provide for the construction of the Northstar Transit Station and related infrastructure as eligible expenditures. This included structured parking, a pedestrian overpass and roadway improvements. State Statute requires interfund loan resolutions when a city borrows funds to a district for improvements with plans to repay itself back through future tax increment. However, these expenses were funded without the required interfund loan resolutions pursuant to the TIF statute. Special legislation did not exempt the City from the interfund loan requirement.

- The City will work with legislators to amend the special TIF 14 legislation to exempt the interfund loan requirement. Thus, creating the potential repayment of such interfund loans through TIF 14 revenue through 2040.

Local Priority: Funding for continued study of Ramsey/Dayton Mississippi River bridge project

The feasibility study for a new Mississippi River bridge was completed in 2021 with funds allocated by the 2020 legislature. Staff will work with local legislators to secure the funding for the next step in pursuit of this project. These next steps may include establishing a location of the crossing, in which will be used when developing parcels impacted by a future river crossing. It should be noted, the City of Dayton recognizes the likelihood of a future crossing and are developing a master plan to incorporate such crossing in the future. Other entities also support this project in a way to reduce traffic impact through their communities. The North Metro

Mayors Association has historically identified this project on their Legislative Priorities, and will serve as a resource to advocate for the project on behalf of its membership.

Local Priority: Metro Mobility Service Area

- Introduce legislation that will add Ramsey to the service area for Metro Mobility.
- Over the years some residents have expressed an interest in getting door-to-door Metro Mobility Service in Ramsey.
- City residents annually pay \$352,000 to the Metro Transit Taxing District that the City was required to enter when the NorthStar Station was completed.
- Inclusion in the Metro Mobility service area requires a state statute and was last extended to the City of Lakeville in 2019. The cost of the service is covered by the state.
- Fall of 2024 conversations with Metropolitan Transportation Services indicated the request would not be viewed as unreasonable by them. They noted that services are currently in the City of Anoka, therefore extending services to an adjacent city is more reasonable than creating a satellite service area. With funding for metropolitan transportation shifting to the State's operating budget, no additional property taxes would be levied to Ramsey properties for the expanded service.

Local Priority: Closed landfill legislation to allow economic development

- Staff will work with the PCA and local legislators to determine what, if any, legislation will allow closed landfill property to be put back on the tax role for private development opportunities.

State-wide Policy Priority: Exemption of residential gardens from water emergency restrictions

Staff will work with legislators to research possible legislation to ensure that, in the event the governor declares by executive order a critical water deficiency, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 103G.291 implementing mandatory emergency water conservation measures and mandatory restrictions upon nonessential water use is enforced and outdoor irrigation is prohibited, that gardens created by Minnesota residents for the cultivation of vegetables, fruits, herbs and flowers for food and medicinal purposes will not be subject to water restrictions, nor shall they be limited to reclaimed water.

State-wide Policy Priority: Statewide licensure of massage therapy

Support legislation that seeks to adopt a state license requirement for massage therapists. Lack of a statewide license for massage therapists has hampered law enforcement’s ability to regulate illegal activities across municipal boundaries related to this profession.

State-wide Policy Priority: Local Government Aid (LGA)

Local Government Aid for Ramsey has fluctuated (see chart below) from a high of \$396,382 in 2001, to the current level of \$0 in 2017 and beyond. The basic formula was changed in 2014 and some level of LGA was restored for the next three years (approximately \$100,000 per year), however the same formula has now resulted in the elimination of all LGA for Ramsey and similar developing suburbs.

FY 2000 - \$359,771
FY 2001 - \$396,382
FY 2002 - \$303,894
FY 2003 through 2013 - \$0
FY2014 - \$91,381
FY 2015 - \$110,352
FY 2016 - \$111,311
FY 2017 through 2023 - \$0

Background:

Support legislation that revises the LGA formula and recognizes the needs of developing suburbs, restoring LGA to developing suburbs for long-term capital needs.

- No changes were made to the LGA funding formula in 2022.
- The City should consider working with legislators to determine if there is an opportunity to revise the LGA formula in the future to provide greater resources to developing suburbs.
- A couple of LGA bills were introduced in 2021 that may have impacted Ramsey, but failed

to become law:

- LGA adjusted for unpaid local assistance costs HF 1052/SF 749 (Rep. Jim Nash, R-Waconia, and Sen. Bill Weber, R-Luverne) would have allowed cities that have not been reimbursed by another city for local assistance costs to submit an application for reimbursement through a reduction in the LGA of the recipient city.
- LGA minimum distribution HF 1096/SF 1238 (Rep. Jerry Hertaus, R-Greenfield, and Sen. David Osmeck, R-Mound) would have provided for a minimum per capita LGA amount for all cities that otherwise would receive no LGA, and increased the LGA appropriation to cover the additional amount.
- During the 2022 session, discussions occurred regarding updating the LGA formula. Based on a draft formula, Ramsey would have received funds.
- The most recent LGA adjustments left Ramsey with \$0 LGA contributions.

State-wide Policy Priority: Metropolitan Council Committee Membership

Support legislation that seeks to adjust Metropolitan Council Committee membership qualifications and membership determination. Currently there are 16 geographical Council Districts and one chair. Members are comprised of a representative who resides in the district they represent, with the chair serving at large. All members are interviewed by a nominating committee created by the governor, and the final appointment is determined by the governor.

CC Work Session

Meeting Date: 12/09/2025

Primary Strategic Plan Initiative:

Information

Title:

Consider Ramsey Christmas Market

Purpose/Background:

Mayor Heineman and Councilmember Specht requested this discussion.

The purpose of this discussion is to gather initial ideas related to organizing and hosting a Christmas Market.

Recommendation:

Provide consensus direction on general ideas for staff to research further.

Outcome/Action:

Provide consensus direction on general ideas for staff to research further.

Attachments

No file(s) attached.

Form Review

Inbox

Brian Hagen

Form Started By: Brian Hagen

Final Approval Date: 12/04/2025

Reviewed By

Brian Hagen

Date

12/04/2025 03:25 PM

Started On: 12/04/2025 01:20 PM

CC Work Session

Meeting Date: 12/09/2025

Primary Strategic Plan Initiative: Enhance City’s communication through transparency and accountability.

Information

Title:

Review Future Topics/Calendar

Purpose/Background:

The first attachment is the current list of future topics for work session discussions. Items are drawn from Council requests at meetings, or are related to topics that have been identified in the City's strategic plan. Tentative dates have been assigned. The second attachment includes Councilmember initiatives for future work session topics. Those items are up for discussion and, with consensus, will be added to the future topics list.

Recommendation:

For Council review - no formal action necessary.

Outcome/Action:

For Council review.

Attachments

Future Topics List

Councilmember Topic Requests

Form Review

Inbox

Brian Hagen

Form Started By: Katie Schmidt

Final Approval Date: 12/04/2025

Reviewed By

Brian Hagen

Date

12/04/2025 02:55 PM

Started On: 12/02/2025 12:46 PM

	<u><i>Tentative City Council Future Work Session Topics</i></u>	
Proposed Date	Topic	Minutes (Estimate)
2026		
01/13	Council Organization	
01/13	2026 Legislative Priorities	
01/27	Quarterly Police & Fire Update	
02/10	Local and Statewide Affordable Housing Aid Policy	
TBD	Water Treatment Facility Tour	90
04/28	Quarterly Police & Fire Update	
07/28	Quarterly Police & Fire Update	
08/25	Union Negotiations	
10/27	Quarterly Police & Fire Update	
TBD	City Facilities Tour	
TBD	Community Art Resource Guide	
TBD	Improve the Image of Ramsey Along the Hwy 10 Corridor Discussion	
TBD	Discuss Commercial Property Public Utility Connection Program	
TBD	Subdivision Code	
TBD	Hwy 10 Pedestrian Overpass	
TBD	Prevailing Wage Policy – CM: KB, EP	
TBD	Public Safety Deep Dive – CM: KB, CR	
TBD	Ramsey Christmas Market – CM: RH, DS	
TBD	Waterfront Venue Ideas – CM: RH, DS	

	<u><i>Councilmember Initiatives for Future Work Session Topics</i></u>
Proposed by CM	Topic
Buscher	Wage Theft Enforcement

CC Work Session**Meeting Date:** 12/09/2025**Primary Strategic Plan Initiative:** Enhance City's communication through transparency and accountability.**Information****Title:**

Updates on Items of Interest

Purpose/Background:

Below are various updates on items of interest. This case is being provided as an FYI with no specific discussion planned. Staff will be able to answer questions during the work session if needed. If there are any other specific topics City Council would like to add to the case, please let staff know.

Historic Townhall

A grant application has been submitted for \$40,000 to hire the necessary consultants to design plans to maintain the historic aspects for it to remain on the National Register of Historic Places, ADA accessibility and HVAC needs. Results of awarded funds will be released at the end of November 2025.

- No formal decision on awarded funds has been released. Staff has learned our project has received a recommendation to receive funding.

Veterans Memorial/Park

Staff will meet to discuss opportunities through upcoming park projects. Staff will further identify and discuss community partner relationship to advance this effort.

Waterfront Park**Phase 1: Water Play Area**

- Approvals are underway to progress the project for completion on or about July 1, 2026.
- Sewer and water installation is occurring fall 2025.
- The bathroom/support building for the water play area was ordered fall 2025, anticipated delivery is March 2026.
- Council approved the Construction Manager at Risk contract with H+U Construction on October 28, 2025. The initial contract is to aid in finalizing design for bidding. An amended contract for the construction phase will come later.
- Council approved fall grading work at the November 10, 2025 meeting.
- Council approved purchasing owner procured items on the November 25, 2025 agenda. These items included tables, chairs, bike racks, benches, three pavilion structures, water meter and Adirondack chairs.
- Staff has requested authorization to purchase owner procured items on the November 25, 2025 agenda. These items include umbrellas, tables for the pavilions and trash receptacles.

Phase 2: Additional Building Structure on remaining open area

- As planning efforts on this downtown regional park progressed through the years, the intent has been to construct a community center at this park location along with the water play area.
- In 2024, the City Council held multiple discussions on the plan for the park, with the ultimate direction being to construct the park in two phases. The first phase would focus on the water play area that is currently under construction, and phase two would be the building to complement the remainder of the park.
- A future Work Session Topic is on the schedule to discuss phase 2.
- Past Meeting Discussions
 - [April 9, 2024 Work Session Case](#)

- [April 9, 2024 Work Session Minutes](#)
- [April 23, 2024 Regular Council Meeting Case](#)
- [April 23, 2024 Regular Council Meeting Minutes](#)
- [July 23, 2024 Work Session Case](#)
- [July 23, 2024 Work Session Minutes](#)

Cannabis

Two pending retail locations are in the process of review by the Office of Cannabis Management. Following approval by the state, City Council will have a case to approve the Business License Registration.

Outdoor Wood Burning Boiler

Per the direction of the City Council, the Environmental Planning Board (EPB) reviewed the City's current ordinance. Amendments will be brought to the EPB to update language related to current state regulations. Following the EPB's recommendation, City Council will have a case to adopt the amendments into the code.

Recommendation:

Outcome/Action:

No action required.

Attachments

No file(s) attached.

Form Review

Inbox

Brian Hagen

Form Started By: Brian Hagen

Final Approval Date: 12/04/2025

Reviewed By

Brian Hagen

Date

12/04/2025 03:25 PM

Started On: 12/04/2025 02:38 PM