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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, December 9, 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: City Administrator Brian Hagen  
Finance Director Diana Lund  
Police Chief Brad Bluml  
Planning Manager Todd Larson  
City Attorney Amanda Johnson

**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**

None.

**4. CITIZEN INPUT**

Randy Kiser, 16967 Bison Street, came forward and shared that back in August, he had attended an environmental meeting to discuss his concerns about the smoke production from outdoor wood boilers in his area. He said that he lives in a neighborhood where everyone's lots are around an

acre and a third. He explained that after this meeting, he was informed that the Council would hold a discussion related to the Code regarding these wood boilers. He shared that last winter, he had some medical issues due to this smoke production. He said that three of his neighbors all have these outdoor wood boilers. He noted that he has not heard any updates on the Council discussing this. He recommended that the City either ban these wood boilers altogether or require them to be more widely spaced. He encouraged the Council to conduct research on the health hazards associated with breathing wood smoke. He added that he has already reported the excessive smoke to the Police Department, as he was told this would fall under the nuisance code. He shared that he got a PurpleAir monitor to monitor the air conditions in his house.

Mayor Heineman shared that the Council has discussed this in past Work Sessions. He noted that it is a delicate balance between the concerns of a resident and the current allowable use. He explained that the Council was looking at offering rebates to improve wood-burning boilers. He said they will continue to discuss this.

Mr. Kiser added that if anyone would like to view the air quality data from his PurpleAir device, this information can be found on their website by typing in his address.

## **5. CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilmember Stewart requested that they remove item 5.06 for further discussion.

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

- 5.01: Note the following Boards, Commissions, and Meeting Minutes:
  - Planning Commission — November 20, 2025
  - Environmental Policy Board — October 20, 2025
  - Economic Development Authority — No Meeting in October
  - Park and Rec Commission — November 13, 2025
  - Public Works — October 21, 2025
- 5.02: Consider Accepting Donated Exercise Equipment
- 5.03: Approve the Following Meeting Minutes:
  - 1) City Council Work Session dated November 25, 2025
  - 2) City Council Regular Session dated November 25, 2025
- 5.04: Approve Business License Applications (includes 2026 Business License Renewals)
- 5.05: Approve Axon Mobile Responder Memorandum of Understanding
- 5.06: ~~Award Towing Contract for the City of Ramsey~~ - **Please Note: this case was removed from the Consent Agenda and added to the Regular Agenda as Case 7.3**
- 5.07: Authorization to Increase a Part-time Police Records Technician to Full-time
- 5.08: Authorization to Hire a Public Works Parks Maintenance Worker.
- 5.09: Authorization to Terminate a Probationary Building Inspector/Plans Examiner
- 5.10: Adopt Resolution #25-294 Approving Cash Disbursements Made and Authorizing Payment of Accounts Payable Invoicing Received During the Period of November 20, 2025, through December 3, 2025.

- 5:11: Adopt Resolution #25-255 Approving Final Plat and Development Agreement for "Naperville" (Illinois Avenue Holdings LLC)
- 5:12: Adopt Resolution #25-277, Approving a Development Agreement for Roers at 7979 Sunwood Drive NW
- 5:13: Adopt Resolution #25-282 Approving an Amended and Restated Development Agreement (Zero Zone)
- 5:14: Adopt Resolution No. 25-283 Approving Purchase of Vertical Man-Lift for Water Treatment Plant
- 5:15: Adopt Resolution #25-284 Denying a Peddler/Solicitor License
- 5:16: Adopt Resolution #25-285 Approving Early Access Agreement with LH Road LLC (Wildlife Research Center)
- 5:17: Adopt Resolution #25-286 Decertifying Tax Increment Financing District #16
- 5:18: Adopt Resolution #25-291 Adopting 2025 Enterprise Fund Budgets
- 5:19: Adopt Resolution #25-292 Authorizing the City's 2026 Non-Union City Health and Dental Insurance Contributions and Wages
- 5:20: Adopt Resolution #25-293 Approving Purchase Agreement for Sale of 6701 and 6745 Highway 10 to MW Properties LLC
- 5:21: Adopt Resolution #25-295 Authorizing the Purchase of Umbrellas, High-top Tables, and Litter/Recycling Receptacles for The Waterfront Water Play Park Improvements
- 5:22: Adopt Resolution #25-296 to Approve the Updated Personnel Policy

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

## **6. PUBLIC HEARING**

### **6.01: PUBLIC HEARING: 2026 Tax Levies and General Fund Budget**

- **Adopt Resolution #25-288 Adopting the 2025, Payable 2026 Municipal Tax Levy**
- **Adopt Resolution #25-289 Adopting the 2026 General Fund Budget**
- **Adopt Resolution #25-290 Adopting the 2026 Economic Development Authority (EDA) Budget**

### **Presentation**

Finance Director Lund reviewed the Staff report in regard to the 2026 tax levies and general fund budget, as well as the 2026 EDA budget.

### **Public Hearing**

Mayor Heineman called the public hearing to order at 7:32 p.m.

### **Citizen Input**

None.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Specht, to close the public hearing.

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

Mayor Heineman closed the public hearing at 7:33 p.m.

### **Council Business**

Councilmember Riley noted that, as part of the Consent Agenda, they decertified TIF District #16. He asked if this was included in all of the numbers presented.

Finance Director Lund noted that this amount is very small and has not been calculated in.

Councilmember Riley suggested reducing the levy by this amount.

Councilmember Buscher asked for an explanation as to why some cities in Anoka County receive Local Government Aid (LGA), yet Ramsey does not.

Finance Director Lund explained that this is formula-driven, and most growing communities do not receive any LGA, whereas older cities do receive this LGA.

Councilmember Buscher added that other cities do not have their own Police or Fire Departments, which allows them to have smaller budgets. She also noted that some cities use franchise fees or other taxes for revenue.

Finance Director Lund shared that Coon Rapids generates around \$4,400,000 in franchise fees. She noted that other cities also have liquor stores or will soon have cannabis dispensaries that will also help create revenues.

Councilmember Buscher thanked Finance Director Lund for all of her work on the budget.

Motion by Councilmember Peters, seconded by Councilmember Olson, to adopt Resolutions #25-288 Adopting the 2025 Payable 2026 Municipal Tax Levies (General, Pavement Management, EDA, and Debt Service) in the amount of \$23,376,916, to include a reduction of the decertified TIF District #16, making the amount \$23,338,916.

Further Discussion:

Councilmember Riley said the City is spending too much on this budget. He stated that the Council wanted the increase to be less than 10% and this is a 12% increase in spending. He noted that they were able to find additional revenues rather than reducing spending. He said he will not be supporting this budget.

Councilmember Specht shared that he believes the City needs to work on improving spending. He said he will also not be supporting this budget.

Councilmember Buscher said she will be supporting this budget. She noted that a large portion of the City's budget is for public safety, and she thinks this is a very important use of funds.

Mayor Heineman shared that this budget is high; however, they gave Staff a target increase of 6.5% and they were able to meet this with the additional revenues. He added that they also want to make sure that they are employing the best Staff to help the City run. He noted that they are not even among the highest salaries paid by cities. He said that while this budget is not perfect, Staff was able to meet the increase that the Council wanted to see. He stated that he will be supporting this budget.

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

Motion by Councilmember Peters, seconded by Councilmember Olson, to adopt Resolution #25-289 Adopting the 2026 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$22,789,599.

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

Motion by Councilmember Peters, seconded by Councilmember Olson, to adopt Resolution #25-290 Adopting the 2025 EDA Budget in the amount of \$91,167.

Further Discussion:

Mayor Heineman thanked the EDA for staying consistent with this budget.

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

**6.02: PUBLIC HEARING: Adopt Resolution #25-287 Adopting the City's 2026-2035 Capital Improvement Program (CIP)**

**Presentation**

Finance Manager Lund reviewed the Staff report concerning the 2026-2035 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

**Public Hearing**

Mayor Heineman called the public hearing to order at 7:52 p.m.

**Citizen Input**

None.

Motion by Councilmember Peters, seconded by Councilmember Stewart, to close the public hearing.

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

Mayor Heineman closed the public hearing at 7:53 p.m.

### **Council Business**

Motion by Councilmember Peters, seconded by Councilmember Olson, to adopt Resolution #25-287 Adopting the City's 2026-2035 Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

Further Discussion:

Councilmember Specht reiterated that this does not approve any of the projects in the CIP, just the overall plan.

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

### **6.03: PUBLIC HEARING: Adopt Ordinance #25-11: 2026 Schedule of Rates, Fees and Charges**

#### **Presentation**

Finance Director Lund reviewed the Staff report in regard to the 2026 schedule of rates, fees, and charges.

#### **Public Hearing**

Mayor Heineman called the public hearing to order at 7:56 p.m.

#### **Citizen Input**

None.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Stewart, to close the public hearing.

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

Mayor Heineman closed the public hearing at 7:57 p.m.

### **Council Business**

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Olson, to adopt 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 Olson	aye
Councilmember Specht	aye
Councilmember Peters	aye
Mayor Heineman	aye

Motion carried.

## 7. COUNCIL BUSINESS

### **7.01: Adopt Resolution #25-271 Approving Final Plat for "COR SIX" and Resolution #25-272 Approving a Conditional Use Permit for a Bank with Two Drive-Thru Lanes at 7845 Sunwood Drive NW (CorTrust Bank)**

Planning Manager Larson reviewed the Staff report concerning the final plat for COR Six and approving a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for two drive-thru lanes at CorTrust Bank. He shared the Planning Commission's recommendation of approval.

Dean Suchy, Market President for CorTrust Bank, came forward and shared that they have made some adjustments to what they have requested in the past. He shared that they are really looking forward to being a part of the Ramsey community.

Councilmember Buscher thanked Mr. Suchy for attending a recent Work Session to share more about CorTrust Bank and what they do in their communities with the Council.

Councilmember Riley shared his appreciation for Mr. Suchy and CorTrust Bank's desire to be a part of Ramsey.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Buscher, to adopt Resolution #25-271 approving Final Plat of COR Six and adopt Resolution #25-272 approving a Conditional Use Permit for a bank with two drive-thru lanes at 7845 Sunwood Drive NW.

Further discussion:

Mayor Heineman said he will be voting against this, as he would rather see a restaurant or small retailer in this location rather than a bank. He shared that his vote has nothing to do with CorTrust Bank, just this location.

Councilmember Olson shared that he is very excited to see CorTrust in this location, as a bank is an anchor to a community, and having it in a prominent spot is a good thing.

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

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

Finance Director Lund 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 Riley, seconded by Councilmember Stewart, to adopt 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 Olson	aye
Councilmember Specht	aye
Councilmember Peters	aye
Mayor Heineman	aye

Motion carried.

**7.03: Award Towing Contract for the City of Ramsey - Please Note: this case was removed from the Consent Agenda, Case #6, and added to the Regular Agenda**

Police Chief Bluml reviewed the Staff report concerning awarding the contract for towing services.

Councilmember Stewart shared that there was a resident who made complaints against North Star Towing at the last Council meeting. She asked why Staff is still coming forward with this recommendation.

Police Chief Bluml shared that North Star has been the City's towing company for over 20 years, and they have done a great job providing services to the City. He noted that there was a short amount of time when they used another tow company, and their services were not consistent or competent. He stated that the complaint received at the last meeting is the only complaint that he has ever received on North Star.

Jason Rolow, North Star Towing, shared that they have been working with the customer who complained and offered resolutions that were denied. He said they tried to make things right with him.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Peters, to authorize City staff to enter into a five-year contract with North Star Towing.

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

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

City Administrator Hagen announced upcoming meetings and events.

Councilmember Buscher thanked Public Works for all of their work plowing the streets to keep them safe for the residents.

Councilmember Stewart shared that there will be a Christmas Market on December 13 at the La Fontaine Event Center.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

The regular meeting of the City Council adjourned at 8:20 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.