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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a regular meeting on Monday, November 10, 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
Planning Manager Todd Larson
Recreation Coordinator Abby Proulx
Investigator Brad Hesse
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 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: Oath of Office - Patrol Officer

Police Chief Bluml introduced Jesse Overly and gave a brief background on Mr. Overly.

Mayor Heineman gave the Oath of Office to Officer Overly.

3.02: 2025 Happy Days Review

Recreation Coordinator Proulx reviewed the 2025 Happy Days recap. She highlighted the overall success of the event as well as the sponsors for the event. She thanked all of the volunteers, partners, and Staff who helped make this event a success. She shared that the next Happy Days event will be held on Saturday, September 12, 2026.

The Council thanked Recreation Coordinator Proulx for all of her work on this event.

4. CITIZEN INPUT

None.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 5.01: Receive September 2025 Financial Reports - General Fund, EDA, and Enterprise Funds
- 5.02: Receive Cash and Investments for Period Ending October 31, 2025
- 5.03: Note the following Boards, Commissions, and Meeting Minutes:
 - Planning Commission - October 2, 2025
 - Environmental Policy Board - August 18, 2025
 - Environmental Policy Board - September 15, 2025
 - Economic Development Authority - August 14, 2025
 - Park and Rec Commission - September 11, 2025
 - Public Works - September 16, 2025
- 5.04: Approve the Following Meeting Minutes:
 - 1) City Council Work Session dated October 28, 2025
 - 2) City Council Regular Session dated October 28, 2025
- 5.05: Approve Animal Impound and Containment Services MOU
- 5.06: Adopt Resolution #25-264 Approving Cash Disbursements Made and Authorizing Payment of Accounts Payable Invoicing Received During the Period of October 23, 2025, through November 5, 2025.
- 5.07: Adopt Resolution 25-260 Approving the Updated Municipal Center Conference Room Rental Policy
- 5.08: Adopt Resolution #25-261 Approving an Amendment to the Development Agreement for Cedarview Estates
- 5.09: Adopt Resolution #25-263 Accepting Quotes and Awarding Contract for The Waterfront Water-Play Mass Grading, Improvement Project #25-62
- 5.10: Adopt Resolution #25-265 Approving a Memorandum of Agreement with LELS Captains
- 5.11: Adopt Resolution #25-266 Approving a Memorandum of Agreement with LELS Sergeants

5:12: Adopt Resolution #25-267 Approving a Memorandum of Agreement with LELS Patrol

5:13: Adopt Resolution #25-268 Approving a Memorandum of Agreement with AFSCME

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

6. PUBLIC HEARING

6.01: PUBLIC HEARING: Opportunity for public comment on the proposed Police Department UAV (drone) program

Presentation

Police Chief Bluml reviewed the Staff report in regard to the proposed Police Department UAV program.

Public Hearing

Mayor Heineman called the public hearing to order at 7:15 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, Peters, and Specht. Voting No: None. Absent: Councilmember Olson.

Mayor Heineman closed the public hearing at 7:16 p.m.

Council Business

Councilmember Riley asked what the drone would be used for.

Police Chief Bluml shared that it will be used to look for missing persons as well as criminals.

Investigator Hesse added that they will only be able to deploy the UAV with a search warrant or in an emergency situation. He noted that they will need to report every instance of use at the end of each year.

Mayor Heineman asked if they would use this device for crowd control at large events.

Investigator Hesse said yes.

Councilmember Buscher thanked Staff for all of the work that they have done on this project and all the research they have done.

This item was for information only.

7. COUNCIL BUSINESS

7.01: Introduce Ordinance #25-10 Amending Chapters 2 and 106 Pertaining to Variances

Planning Manager Larson reviewed the Staff report in regard to amendments to Chapter 2 and 106 to the City Code. He shared the Planning Commission's recommendation of denial.

Councilmember Buscher asked if there are any negatives for the residents if they make this change.

Planning Manager Larson explained that if they made this change, it would only add about two weeks to the current process timeline. He noted that if the Council is to start making these decisions and the applicant then wants to appeal the decision, then this would have to be done through the court system, which will be more expensive for the applicants.

Councilmember Buscher shared that she does not agree with this change, as it will negatively impact residents if they need to appeal the decision made by the Council. She added that these decisions are currently being made by an appointed body by the Council. She said this practice has worked for the City for years. She noted that everyone on the Planning Commission opposed this as well.

Councilmember Riley said he expects that this change would have a very small impact on the current process for residents, as the Planning Commission would still hold the Public Hearing and make its recommendation to the Council. He noted that the Council is elected to make these decisions, and it only makes sense that they should be the ones to grant a variance. He said he does not see this as a change in power, but rather having the right group make the final decisions.

Councilmember Stewart noted that the Planning Commission will still review the project and give a recommendation to the Council. She said the only change will be that the Council will now be the ones making the final decision.

Councilmember Specht said he has heard from residents that sometimes the variance process can be lengthy if it needs to go through the application process a second time, if they were misunderstood by the Planning Commission originally.

Councilmember Buscher stated that she does not think that this would speed up the process, as it will take two additional weeks for residents to get approvals. She added that if this needs to go through the court system for the appeals process, this will also be much longer than the current appeals process.

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

Further discussion:

Mayor Heineman shared that he believes that these decisions should be made by the elected officials.

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. He welcomed the new City Attorney, Ms. Johnson.

Councilmember Specht shared that there will be a holiday market at Green Valley Nursery on November 14 and 15.


9. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The regular meeting of the City Council adjourned at 7:34 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.