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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 25, 2026, 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 Shanna Stewart

Members Absent: Councilmember Michael Olson
Councilmember Dan Specht

Also Present: City Administrator Brian Hagen
Police Chief Brad Bluml
Assistant City Engineer Joe Feriancek
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 Buscher, Peters, Riley, and Stewart. Voting No: None. Absent: Councilmembers Olson and Specht.

3. PRESENTATIONS

None.

4. CITIZEN INPUT

Mitch Minoski, 14529 Willemite, stated he had recently moved to the community, discussed concerns about ICE activity. He referenced comments he made at a previous meeting and apologized for expressing frustration at that time. He stated that although ICE's presence has been reduced, it has not fully ended. He cited testimony given to the U.S. House of Representatives by an individual he described as a whistleblower and former trainer, who alleged that ICE has

significantly reduced training hours for recruits and that new cadets may not be adequately prepared in tactics or legal standards.

Mr. Minoski expressed concern about the adequacy of training and instruction on the use of force. Based on those concerns, he urged the council to consider adopting policy recommendations similar to those taken by other cities.

Michelle Powers, a Ramsey resident and middle school teacher, spoke about the importance of listening to community voices. She referenced a prior meeting where public commenters were reminded not to assign motives to others and questioned whether such limitations restrict open expression, particularly when comments are delivered calmly and respectfully. She raised concerns about potential First Amendment implications.

Ms. Powers emphasized that individual experiences vary and that collective stories offer a broader understanding of community concerns. She called for understanding and compassion for people with different perspectives and encouraged the council to respect diverse lived experiences. She concluded by expressing hope that the community can work together in ways that support everyone.

Kali Gonzalez, a resident of 139th Avenue, referenced statements made during the Mayor's campaign about protecting vulnerable residents. She expressed concern that current actions appear to prioritize certain groups over others and asked when the commitment to protecting all vulnerable residents would be honored.

Cindy Anderson, a Ramsey resident read a statement on Sue Ann Richards's behalf, as Richards was unable to attend. The statement expressed concern that two weeks had passed since residents requested a formal response from the city council and Mayor regarding ICE activity in the community. It acknowledged the chief of police's detailed explanation of the limits of local authority, but questioned statements attributed to the Mayor, indicating that the city lacks legal authority to act. The statement cited examples of other cities that have passed ordinances or executive orders related to ICE activity and asked what prevents Ramsey from taking similar action. It called for a public statement clarifying the city's position and characterized the absence of such action as silence, which the author argued implies complicity. The statement questioned whether political considerations were influencing the city's response.

Diana Schansberg, a Ramsey resident, expressed concern about the possibility of Ramsey police officers being recruited to work with ICE or Customs and Border Protection. She cited information indicating that ICE actively recruits local law enforcement officers and noted that such involvement could erode community trust, create differences in policing philosophies, and cause operational confusion.

Ms. Schansberg noted that the Ramsey Police Department appears to have a policy stating that it does not work directly with ICE. She requested clarification on whether current Ramsey officers are permitted to work with ICE or Customs and Border Protection. She also asked whether former officers would be subject to any restrictions after leaving the department. She stated that such involvement could negatively affect the relationship between law enforcement and the community.

Mayor Heineman responded that he did not have specific information to answer the question about officers working with ICE or Customs and Border Protection. He indicated that the police chief would be able to provide clarification, either after the meeting or privately, to ensure accurate information is provided.

Kelly Mahuski, a Ramsey resident for approximately 10 years, requested that the police chief provide public clarification on whether local officers can work with ICE or Customs and Border Protection. She expressed appreciation for the opportunity to speak and reflected on previous discussions about the city's responsibility to keep the community safe.

Ms. Mahuski questioned how safety is defined, noting that it extends beyond crime prevention to include food security, housing stability, and the ability to leave one's home without fear. She expressed concern about individuals who feel unable to shop for groceries or work due to fear of ICE presence and described community efforts to provide food assistance. She asked whether city leaders have directly engaged with immigrant residents to understand their needs and urged them to consider broader definitions of community safety.

Mayor Heineman invited any additional in-person or online speakers to come forward. After hearing none, he closed the citizen input period. He stated that he would remain available after the meeting to speak with residents and provided his phone number for anyone wishing to contact him directly. He noted that he had not received calls following the previous meeting but reiterated his willingness to speak with residents either after the meeting or in the coming weeks.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 5.01: Approve the Following Meeting Minutes:
 - 1) City Council Work Session dated February 10, 2026
 - 2) City Council Regular Session dated February 10, 2026
- 5.02: Approve Business License Applications
- 5.03: Adopt Resolution #26-040 Approving a Roster of Qualified Hearing Officers for Dangerous and Potentially Dangerous Dog Appeal Hearings ~~Approval of Hearing Officer Roster for Dangerous Dog Appeal Hearings~~
- 5.04: Approve Request to Sell Surplus Equipment
- 5.05: Authorization to Hire a Community Service Officer/Law Enforcement Program Student (CSO/LEPS)
- 5.06: Authorization to Hire a Part-Time Police Technician
- 5.07: Adopt Resolution #26-063 Approving Cash Disbursements Made and Authorizing Payment of Accounts Payable Invoicing Received During the Period of February 5, 2026, through February 18, 2026
- 5.08: Adopt Resolution #26-007 Approving Final Payment of GMH Asphalt Corporation for Improvement Project #24-03, 2024 NE Ramsey Street Reconstruction

- 5.09: Adopt Resolution #26-034, Approving Partial Payment #31 to Magney Construction, Inc. for Improvement Project #21-09; Centralized Water Treatment Plant
- 5.10: Adopt Resolution #26-045 Approving Final Payment to Park Construction Company for Improvement Project #25-06 Sorteberg's Street Reconstruction
- 5.11: Adopt Resolution #26-047 Approving Release of Right of Re-Entry Agreement and Amended and Restated Right of Re-Entry Agreement-Ramsey Properties, Inc.
- 5.12: Adopt Resolution #26-051 Approving CBRE Real Estate Listing Agreement for City-Owned Land in COR
- 5.13: Adopt Resolution #26-052 Approving Amended and Restated Right of Re-Entry Agreement: Blanery LLC
- 5.14: Adopt Resolution #26-053 Approving On-Street Parking Restrictions Around Skyline Apartments
- 5.15: Adopt Resolution #26-054 Accepting Proposals for 2026 Geotechnical and Construction Testing Services
- 5.16: Adopt Resolution #26-055 Approving Assessment Agreements for MSA Bunker Lake Boulevard Reconstruction, Improvement Project #26-01
- 5.17: Adopt Resolution #26-057 Approving Partial Payment #32 to Magney Construction, Inc. for Improvement Project #21-09, Centralized Water Treatment Plant
- 5.18: Adopt Resolution #26-060 Approving Construction Contingency Expense #13 for Centralized Water Treatment Plant, Improvement Project #21-09

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

6. PUBLIC HEARING

None.

7. COUNCIL BUSINESS

7.01: Adopt Resolution #26-048 Accepting Bids and Awarding Contract for Countryside Estates Street Reconstruction, Improvement Project #26-04

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek presented the first of three proposed street reconstruction projects for award. The project includes the Countryside Estates neighborhood, built in 1980, and the Wildwood Acres neighborhood, built in 1989, totaling just under four miles of roadway. He noted that this is the city's largest project by length to date.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek explained that Wildwood Acres was originally scheduled for an overlay, but after review, staff determined full reconstruction was necessary. The Countryside Estates portion will receive full-depth reclamation with a new asphalt surface and aggregate base. At the same time, Wildwood Acres will undergo reclamation with asphalt placed over compacted existing pavement, minimizing driveway impacts. The project also includes replacing street culverts and updating concrete elements. There are no sanitary sewer or water main improvements in this area.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek noted that residents will be informed in advance of access restrictions during construction, though access will be restored at the end of each workday. He also stated that this is the first year since 2016 that the city will repair or replace impacted lawn irrigation systems as part of reconstruction projects.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek stated that bids were opened on February 11, with eight bids received and six below the engineer's estimate. North Valley submitted the lowest bid at approximately \$1.66 million, significantly below the estimated cost. Including indirect costs, the anticipated total project cost is approximately \$2.04 million, which is below the capital improvement plan estimate of \$2.6 million. The proposal also includes awarding a construction staking and as-built survey contract to Bolton and Menk.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek stated that construction timing will be determined following a pre-construction meeting, after which residents will be notified of the schedule. He presented a resolution to accept bids and award the contract to North Valley in the stated amount, including the construction staking proposal.

Motion by Councilmember Peters, seconded by Councilmember Stewart, to adopt Resolution #26-048 accepting bids and awarding a contract to North Valley, Inc. for the total amount of \$1,659,0583.61 for Countryside Estates Street Reconstruction, Improvement Project #26-04.

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

7.02: Adopt Resolution #26-049 Accepting Bids and Awarding Contract for Section 01 Unplatted Street Reconstruction, Improvement Project #26-07

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek presented the Section 01 street reconstruction project at the northeast corner of the city. The project includes approximately 1.44 miles of roadway, originally constructed in 1980, with a mix of urban and rural street sections.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek explained that the geotechnical review identified the need for soil correction in portions of the project area. The reconstruction will include three and a half inches of asphalt over six inches of aggregate base, with additional sand correction required on approximately half of the project area. Some areas will require the removal and replacement of up to one foot of unsuitable soil. The existing bituminous curb will be replaced with a concrete surmountable curb, and street crossing culverts will be replaced. In curb areas, flumes will be replaced with catch basin inlets to improve long-term maintenance. There are no sanitary sewer or water main improvements included in this project.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek noted that soil correction will increase resident impact and slightly extend construction duration, but contractors will restore access at the end of each workday. Bids were opened on February 12, with seven received and six below the engineer's estimate. North Valley was the low bidder at approximately \$1.19 million, narrowly edging the second bidder. Including indirect costs and construction staking by Bolton and Menk, the total anticipated project cost is approximately \$1.46 million. The higher cost compared with the capital

improvement plan estimate reflects additional soil correction work. Substantial completion is scheduled for August 28, with final cleanup by October 2.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek presented a resolution to award the contract and indicated he was available for questions.

Councilmember Stewart asked whether North Valley has the staffing capacity and resources to complete both neighborhood reconstruction projects concurrently while meeting the same scheduled completion date.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek reported that North Valley was also the low bidder on the third project. He stated that he has spoken with the contractor and that North Valley is one of the larger contractors in the area, typically completing multiple projects for the city each year. He noted that these projects represent approximately 5 percent of the contractor's annual workload, indicating that the company has sufficient capacity to complete the work as scheduled.

Motion by Councilmember Peters, seconded by Councilmember Stewart, to adopt Resolution #26-049 accepting bids and awarding a contract to North Valley, Inc. for the total amount of \$1,189,848.87 for Section 01 Unplatted Street Reconstruction, Improvement Project #26-07.

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

7.03: Adopt Resolution #26-050 Accepting Bids and Awarding Contract for MSA Bunker Lake Boulevard Reconstruction, Improvement Project #26-01

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek presented the Bunker Lake Boulevard reconstruction project, extending from Armstrong Boulevard to approximately 600 feet west of Jackal Street. The project covers just under half a mile and includes an urban section on the north side and a rural section on the south side. The roadway was originally partially constructed in 2011 with plans for a four-lane configuration, and in 2018, the western half was built as a three-lane road with a shared center turn lane. The current project will complete the roadway to match that three-lane configuration.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek explained that the project was advanced to take advantage of Tax Increment Financing District 18 funds associated with nearby development. Because the roadway is a municipal state aid route, it required approval through the Municipal State Aid process and coordination with Anoka County for modifications at the Armstrong Boulevard signal. Improvements include installing curb and gutter on the south side, extending storm sewer infrastructure to new catch basins, regrading the existing swale, modifying the concrete median, adjusting the signalized intersection to allow for two eastbound right-turn lanes in the future, and relocating fire hydrants to align with the new curb configuration. The existing sanitary sewer and water main infrastructure are relatively new and will not require replacement.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek stated the project will require a full closure of Bunker Lake Boulevard between Armstrong and Jackal, with a two-mile detour route established and communicated to property owners. Bids were opened on February 12, with eight bids received and

six below the engineer's estimate. North Valley was the low bidder at approximately \$1.07 million, with total project costs estimated at \$1.3 million, including construction services by Bolton and Menk. Approximately 56 percent of the project qualifies for TIF funding, and an inter-fund loan resolution is included to allow use of additional TIF funds as they become available. Remaining funding will come from municipal state aid, water funds, and stormwater utility funds. Separate special assessment agreements with property owners are included as a consent item.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek explained that substantial completion is scheduled for July 31 to minimize impact on nearby businesses and coordinate with the anticipated opening of a new Kwik Trip development. Completion is scheduled for August 31. Staff recommends adopting the resolutions to award the contract to North Valley and approve the interfund loan.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Stewart, to adopt Resolution #26-050 accepting bids and awarding a contract to North Valley, Inc. for the total amount of \$1,066,382.87 for MSA Bunker Lake Boulevard Reconstruction, Improvement Project #26-01. Adopt Resolution #26-051 approving the terms of up to \$2,000,000 interfund loan in connection with infrastructure improvements-Bunker Lake Boulevard Reconstruction in connection with Tax Increment Finance District No. 18.

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

8. MAYOR, COUNCIL, AND STAFF INPUT

City Administrator Hagen announced upcoming meetings and events.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The regular meeting of the City Council adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian S. Hagen
City Administrator

ATTEST:

Katie M. Schmidt
City Clerk

Drafted by Sue Osbeck
TimeSaver Off-Site Secretarial, Inc.