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

The Ramsey City Council conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, 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
Crime Data Analyst Jamie Wergin
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 Riley, seconded by Councilmember Peters, to approve the agenda as presented.

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

3. PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Annual Police Department Report to City Council and Review of 2025

Police Chief Bluml and Crime Data Analyst Jamie Wergin presented the annual Police Department report and review of 2025.

Police Chief Bluml provided an overview of the department's 2025 activities, highlighting strong community engagement through events such as Police in the Park, Shop with a Cop, Citizens

Academy, and other outreach programs, all supported by department-wide participation. He also reviewed departmental updates, including promotions, new hires, and the contributions of reserve officers and youth explorers, emphasizing their important role in both operations and community connection. He noted the growing importance of data-driven policing, crediting the crime data analyst for helping guide decisions and compile the crime statistics that would be presented next.

Crime Data Analyst Wergin provided an overview of administrative and data functions within the department, highlighting the significant workload handled by police technicians, including thousands of records requests, reports, and arrest case processing. She explained her role in analyzing data, connecting crimes across jurisdictions, and using technology to assist investigations and decision-making.

Crime Data Analyst Wergin reported that overall dispatch activity reached a high of over 16,000 calls in 2025, with increases in ordinance-related incidents and continued growth in suspicious activity and extra patrol requests, reflecting strong community engagement. While overall crime slightly decreased, she noted a rise in person crimes, particularly assaults. She emphasized that crime data does not fully capture the time and resources required to handle cases. She also introduced the use of force data, noting 30 incidents in 2025, representing a very small percentage of police interactions, with all cases involving non-weapon physical force, and emphasized the department's commitment to transparency and improving data tracking in the future.

Police Chief Bluml concluded by discussing the use of force, noting that while the goal is to avoid it, officers sometimes must act to ensure safety, and when they do, they use the lowest level of force necessary. He expressed pride in the department's restraint and training, highlighting that incidents remain very low. He also highlighted the work of investigators, sharing examples such as a homicide case, a stolen-trailer operation, and a package-theft investigation, emphasizing strong collaboration with other agencies and the community in solving cases. He closed by reinforcing the department's commitment to serving the community with integrity and professionalism and by expressing pride in the officers and their work.

Councilmember Specht thanked staff for the well-prepared presentation and expressed appreciation for the work of the police chief and officers.

Mayor Heineman noted the high volume of police activity, averaging dozens of calls per day, and praised the department's low use of force rate, highlighting their strong emphasis on de-escalation and discretion. He thanked the department for keeping the community safe.

4. CITIZEN INPUT

None.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 5.01: Approve the following Meeting Minutes:
 - 1) City Council Work Session dated April 14, 2026
 - 2) City Council Regular Session dated April 14, 2026
- 5.02: Approve a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Blaine for the 2026 3M PGA
- 5.03: Approve Business License Applications
- 5.04: Authorization to hire the City's New Fire Chief/Emergency Management Director
- 5.05: Authorization to Hire the City's New City Engineer
- 5.06: Authorization to Hire a Community Service Officer/Law Enforcement Program Student (CSO/LEPS)
- 5.07: Adopt 2026 Strategic Plan
- 5.08: Adopt Resolution #26-100 Approving Cash Disbursements Made and Authorizing Payment of Accounts Payable Invoicing Received During the Period of April 9, 2026, through April 22, 2026
- 5.09: Adopt Resolution #26-095 Approving Partial Payment No. 2 to H+U Construction Improvement Project #25-58; The Waterfront Park Improvement
- 5.10: Adopt Resolution #26-098, Approving Partial Payment #34 to Magney Construction, Inc. for Improvement Project #21-09; Centralized Water Treatment Plant
- 5.11: Adopt Resolution #26-099 Accepting and Awarding Proposals for Topographic Surveys for 2027 Pavement Management Program Projects

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

6. PUBLIC HEARING

None.

7. COUNCIL BUSINESS

7.01: Adopt Ordinance #26-05 Amending Chapter 106 (Zoning Code) of City Code Pertaining to the Maximum Front Yard Setback for the R-1A, R-1B, and R-1C Districts

Planning Manager Larson explained that the previously introduced ordinance would allow an exception to front-yard setback requirements in certain residential districts, particularly for riverfront properties. This change would give homeowners more flexibility to position homes closer to the water, similar to existing allowances for accessory structures, and staff recommended adoption of the ordinance.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Olson, to adopt Ordinance #26-05 amending Chapter 106 of the City Code.

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.

7.02: Introduce Ordinance #26-07 Amending Street Names in the Plat of “Riverstone”

Planning Manager Larson explained that the ordinance addresses a clerical issue identified by the Anoka County surveyor involving street names in the Riverstone plat. While the intended street names were previously approved, they were never formally applied to the recorded plat. This ordinance would correct the records to match the names already in use, with no impact on residents, and staff recommended introducing the ordinance.

Motion by Councilmember Peters, seconded by Councilmember Olson, to introduce Ordinance #26-07 amending street names in the plat of “Riverstone”.

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: Introduce Ordinance #26-08 Amending a Street Name in the Plats of “Affinity at the COR” and “Ramsey Town Center Addition”

Planning Manager Larson explained that this ordinance would simplify roadway naming by eliminating the “West Ramsey Parkway” designation and standardizing it to just “Ramsey Parkway” to reduce confusion. He noted that “East Ramsey Parkway” would remain unchanged to avoid disrupting existing addresses, and that the change would affect only certain plats, with support from the county surveyor.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Olson, to introduce Ordinance #26-08 amending a street name in the plats of “Affinity at the COR” and “Ramsey Town Center Addition.”

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.

8. MAYOR, COUNCIL, AND STAFF INPUT

8.1 Legislative Update

City Administrator Hagen provided the City Council with legislative updates and announced upcoming meetings and events.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The regular meeting of the City Council adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian S. Hagen
City Administrator

ATTEST:

Katie M. Schmidt
City Clerk

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