

**City of Ramsey**  
**Agenda**  
**City Council Work Session**  
**Tuesday, January 27, 2026**

**5:30 pm**

**Lake Itasca Room, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW**

Remote Attendance available at [www.cityoframsey.com/meetings](http://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. Quarterly Update from Fire and Police Departments
2. Flock Drone as a First Responder (DFR) and Flock Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) program concept discussion.
3. Cryptocurrency Ordinance
4. Discussion 2026 Strategic Planning Session Structure

**3. Topics for Future Discussion**

1. Review Future Topics/Calendar

**4. Mayor/Council/Staff Input**

1. Update on Outside Committees
2. 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:** 01/27/2026

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

**Information**

**Title:**

Quarterly Update from Fire and Police Departments

**Purpose/Background:**

This case is informational to review the previous quarter of the calendar year related to Fire and Police activities, calls and any new trends. A verbal update will be provided.

**Time Frame/Observations/Alternatives:**

15 minutes

**Recommendation:**

Receive updates from both the Fire Chief and Chief of Police.

**Outcome/Action:**

No action requested.

**Attachments**

*No file(s) attached.*

**Form Review**

**Inbox**

Brian Hagen

Form Started By: Katie Schmidt

Final Approval Date: 01/22/2026

**Reviewed By**

Brian Hagen

**Date**

01/22/2026 02:10 PM

Started On: 01/22/2026 12:32 PM

**CC Work Session****Meeting Date:** 01/27/2026**Primary Strategic Plan Initiative:** Improve the safety and mobility of transportation corridors.**Information****Title:**

Flock Drone as a First Responder (DFR) and Flock Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) program concept discussion.

**Purpose/Background:**

The Anoka County Sheriff's Office is researching a county-wide partnership on a shared resource through Flock Safety. This shared resource has three areas; DFR, ALPR, and Software. This program would strengthen inner operability between the Anoka County Emergency Communication Center with Police and Fire departments in Anoka County. The DFR is not a replacement for drones used by agencies at public safety incident scenes.

In addition to the fixed ALPR and DRF, there is also software included with this program. Software called "Flock 911" helps generate information to launch and land the drone for 911 calls, with an average on-scene time of 60-90 seconds. This ability to have a DFR on scene will assist with confirming an emergency exists, and sizing up the emergency, so the appropriate resources can be dispatched.

This program would include a Real-Time Crime Center, which our Ramsey Investigators and Analysts will have access to this software and data. Traffic analytics are available for the mounted ALPR cameras.

The program would include the following items across Anoka County:

152 standard ALPR flock cameras.

12 long-range ALPR cameras.

33 live-view video cameras with ALPR.

8 DRF drones, with 3 avoid and detect radars, as required by law, around the Blaine airport.

The proposed locations where the 8 DRF drones would be housed were selected based on calls for service over the past 3 years.

Here is a privacy and ethics website that addresses many of the questions surrounding

Flock: <https://www.flocksafety.com/privacy-ethics>

**Time Frame/Observations/Alternatives:**

The goal is to start this program in 2026.

**Funding Source:**

Under a ten-year contract, the first two years would be a proof of concept. Year one will have no cost. Year two would be funded by the Anoka County Sheriff's Office. For years three to ten of the contract, there is a discussion about seeking funding from the Joint Law Enforcement Council. There is potential for a refund under Ramsey's 2026 contract. No direct billing or cost to Ramsey in 2027.

**Recommendation:**

Hold a discussion with the Fire and Police Chiefs, sharing information they've learned about the concept plan for this pilot program, and the potential of this proposed program.

**Outcome/Action:**

Questions, feedback, and consensus were received from the Mayor and Council members.

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**Attachments**

*No file(s) attached.*

**Form Review**

**Inbox**

Brian Hagen

Form Started By: Brad Bluml

Final Approval Date: 01/22/2026

**Reviewed By**

Brian Hagen

**Date**

01/22/2026 04:05 PM

Started On: 01/22/2026 01:38 PM

**CC Work Session**

**Meeting Date:** 01/27/2026

**Primary Strategic Plan Initiative:** Not Applicable

**Information**

**Title:**

Cryptocurrency Ordinance

**Purpose/Background:**

In October 2025, City Council received a presentation on fraud connected to cryptocurrency. More specifically, fraud connected to ATMs and the more senior population falling victim to scams that have them insert US Currency into ATMs associated with buying cryptocurrency. Following the informational presentation, City Council by consensus supported an ordinance that would ban ATMs in Ramsey that allowed cryptocurrency transactions due to the volume of fraudulent transactions experienced within Ramsey and throughout the world. Since the presentation, and while developing the ordinance, staff have learned of new information related to other Minnesota cities who have adopted such ordinances.

Staff will present the new information and seek direction on how an ordinance shall be drafted for introduction.

**Recommendation:**

Consider new information and provide consensus direction on drafting an ordinance.

**Outcome/Action:**

Provide consensus direction on drafting an ordinance.

**Attachments**

*No file(s) attached.*

**Form Review**

**Inbox**

Brian Hagen

Form Started By: Brian Hagen

Final Approval Date: 01/22/2026

**Reviewed By**

Brian Hagen

**Date**

01/22/2026 02:53 PM

Started On: 01/22/2026 02:45 PM

**CC Work Session**

**Meeting Date:** 01/27/2026

**Primary Strategic Plan Initiative:** Identify and implement operational efficiencies, cost savings and additional funding sources.

**Information**

**Title:**

Discussion 2026 Strategic Planning Session Structure

**Purpose/Background:**

Annually, the City Council and staff meet to review progress of the prior year strategic plan and to establish new goals for the upcoming year. The session is typically conducted over a special work session, and then a follow-up regularly scheduled work session. Looking back over the last several years, a large portion of the planning session is dedicated to a reflection activity on how the city is doing, along with identifying opportunities and impacts in the coming years. Much of the reflection activity results remain consistent from year to year.

**Time Frame/Observations/Alternatives:**

Given the consistency experienced in recent years, and the upcoming work session topics schedule, staff would like input from the council on a slight change to the 2026 Strategic Planning structure. An option for consideration would be for staff to meet during normal business hours to complete much of the strategic planning activities, and then present the results to the City Council to finalize the plan during our March and April regularly scheduled work sessions. The City Council would be provided opportunities to adjust the content of the plan as necessary. This option would eliminate a special work session.

**Recommendation:**

Conduct the 2026 Strategic Planning Sessions at the staff level with review and final adjustments by City Council at regularly scheduled work sessions.

**Outcome/Action:**

Provide consensus direction on 2026 Strategic Planning Sessions structure.

**Attachments**

*No file(s) attached.*

**Form Review**

**Inbox**

Brian Hagen

Form Started By: Brian Hagen

Final Approval Date: 01/22/2026

**Reviewed By**

Brian Hagen

**Date**

01/22/2026 04:20 PM

Started On: 01/22/2026 04:07 PM

**CC Work Session**

**Meeting Date:** 01/27/2026

**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: 01/22/2026

**Reviewed By**

Brian Hagen

**Date**

01/22/2026 02:43 PM

Started On: 01/20/2026 01:28 PM

	<u><i>Tentative City Council Future Work Session Topics</i></u>	
Proposed Date	Topic	Minutes (Estimate)
<b>2026</b>		
02/10	Local and Statewide Affordable Housing Aid Policy	
02/10	Improve the Image of Ramsey Along the Hwy 10 Corridor Discussion	
02/24	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	Highway 10 Pedestrian Bridge	
TBD	City Facilities Tour	
TBD	Community Art Resource Guide	
TBD	Commercial Property Public Utility Connection Program	
TBD	Subdivision Code	
TBD	Ramsey Christmas Market Update	
TBD	Prevailing Wage Policy – CM: KB, EP	
TBD	Public Safety Deep Dive – CM: KB, CR	
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:** 01/27/2026

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

**Information**

**Title:**

Update on Outside Committees

**Purpose/Background:**

This case will be added to the second work session meeting every other month. This provides an opportunity for the full Council to receive an update on outside committees from the Councilmembers who serve on those committees.

Outside Committees:

- Anoka County Fire Protection Council (ACFPC) - Last meeting January 22, 2026
- Anoka County Joint Law Enforcement Council (JLEC) Last Meeting - October 15, 2025
- Fire Relief Association - Last Meeting - January 25, 2026
- Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization (LRRWMO) - Last Meeting - January 15, 2026
- North Metro Mayors Association - Last Meeting - January 21, 2026
- Twin Cities Gateway Board - Last Meeting - December 16, 2025
- Quad Cities Cable Communications Commission (QCTV) Last Meeting - January 15, 2026

**Recommendation:**

For Council Discussion - no formal action necessary.

**Outcome/Action:**

For Council Review.

**Attachments**

*No file(s) attached.*

**Form Review**

<b>Inbox</b>	<b>Reviewed By</b>	<b>Date</b>
Brian Hagen	Brian Hagen	01/22/2026 04:02 PM
Form Started By: Katie Schmidt		Started On: 01/20/2026 01:22 PM
Final Approval Date: 01/22/2026		

**CC Work Session****Meeting Date:** 01/27/2026**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.
- The grant was awarded to Ramsey. Formal approval is on the regular council agenda for January 13, 2026.

**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.
- LRRWMO permitting is anticipated to be considered in February 2026.

**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.

- Ramsey's first business registration is on the January 13, 2026 consent agenda for approval. The business has satisfied state statute and building code requirements.

**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	Reviewed By	Date
Brian Hagen	Brian Hagen	01/22/2026 03:32 PM
Form Started By: Brian Hagen		Started On: 01/22/2026 02:01 PM
Final Approval Date: 01/22/2026		