

**CITY OF RANIER
CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MEETING MINUTES
RANIER COMMUNITY BUILDING
THURSDAY JANUARY 16, 2025 @ 6:30 pm**

Mayor Dennis Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

Council Present: Mayor Dennis Wagner, Councilmembers Todd Coulombe, JoAnn Kellner, Jennifer Lahmayer,
Absent: Councilmember Ron Wilcox
Others present: City Administrator Sherril Gautreaux, Liquor Store Manager Jenn Seegert, Dan Joyce, Kris and Charles Helleloid, Paul and Marilyn Jones, Darcy Sullivan – KCC-TV, Karina Joyce-Ham

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- To approve tonight’s agenda.

Councilmember Coulombe made a motion to approve tonight’s agenda; seconded by Councilmember Lahmayer and carried unanimously.

SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED COUNCILMEMBERS

- To swear in Mayor Dennis Wagner, Councilmember Todd Coulombe and Councilmember Jennifer Lahmayer.

Newly elected Mayor Dennis Wagner, Councilmembers Todd Coulombe and Jennifer Lahmayer were sworn in to the Council for a 4-year period.

BUDGET/ADMINISTRATION

- To recommend approving the 12/17/2024 Council Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Coulombe made a recommendation to approve the minutes from the previous Regular Council Meeting of 12/17/2024; seconded by Councilmember Lahmayer and carried unanimously.

- To recommend approving the December 2024 Claims.

A recommendation was made by Councilmember Coulombe; seconded by Councilmember Kellner and carried unanimously to approve the December 2024 claims lists in the amounts of:

\$174,819.27 for General Fund
\$22,881.23 for Liquor Fund
\$17,251.16 for Water/Sewer Fund
\$44,855.05 for Capital Projects Fund

- To review the Account Balances and Financial Statements as of 12/31/2024.

Councilmember Kellner made a recommendation to accept the reports and discuss the Profit and Loss statements to date for each fund at the next regular council meeting; seconded by Councilmember Lahmayer and carried unanimously.

- To recommend designation of Fryberger Law Firm as City Attorney.

Councilmember Coulombe made a recommendation to designate the Fryberger Law Firm as City Attorneys; seconded by Councilmember Lahmayer and carried unanimously.

- To recommend designation of official city newspaper for publications – Rainy Lake Gazette

Councilmember Coulombe made a recommendation to designate Rainy Lake Gazette as the official city newspaper for publications; seconded by Councilmember Lahmayer and carried unanimously.

- To recommend designation of Bremer Bank, Border Bank and TruStar Federal Credit Union as city depositories.

Councilmember Coulombe made a recommendation to designate Bremer Bank, Border Bank and TruStar Federal Credit Union as the city depositories; seconded by Councilmember Lahmayer and carried unanimously.

- To recommend selection of Acting Mayor (Pro-Tem).

Councilmember Kellner made a recommendation to designate Todd Coulombe as Acting Mayor (Pro-Tem); seconded by Councilmember Lahmayer and carried unanimously.

- To recommend 2025 appointments to committees.
- 1.) **Committee of the Whole** – All Council Members.
 - 2.) **North Koochiching Sanitary Sewer District** – John Bruggeman, Dennis Wagner-alternate.
 - 3.) **Koochiching Community Development Association** (KCDA)– Dennis Wagner.
 - 4.) **Ranier Land Use Planning Commission** – JoAnn Kellner.
 - 5.) **Convention and Visitors Bureau** – JoAnn Kellner.
 - 6.) **Safe Harbor/Transient Dock Committee** – Todd Coulombe, Jenn Lahmayer, Sherril Gautreaux.
 - 7.) **Koochiching County Hazard Mitigation Committee** – Ron Wilcox, Sherril Gautreaux.
 - 8.) **Capital Planning Committee** – Jenn Lahmayer, Nick Hagen, Ron Wilcox, Jenn Seegert and Sherril Gautreaux.
 - 9.) **Ranier Park Planning Committee** – Jenn Lahmayer, Ron Wilcox, Sherril Gautreaux.
 - 10.) **Koochiching Childcare Initiative** – JoAnn Kellner

Councilmember Coulombe made a recommendation to approve the above appointments to committees; seconded by Councilmember Lahmayer and carried unanimously.

- To recommend approval of Resolution 2025-02 Electronic Fund Transfers

Councilmember Coulombe made a recommendation to approve Resolution 2025-02 Electronic Fund Transfers; seconded by Councilmember Kellner and carried unanimously.

- To recommend not waiving statutory tort limits on LMCIT Liability Coverage Waiver

The LMCIT allows cities to choose whether to waive the statutory tort limits allowing an individual claimant to recover no more than \$500,000 on any claim to which the statutory tort limits apply.

Councilmember Coulombe made a recommendation to not waive the statutory tort limits; seconded by Councilmember Lahmayer and carried unanimously.

- To recommend accepting Ranier Recreation Club donation of \$4,000.

Councilmember Coulombe made a recommendation to accept the Ranier Recreation Club donation; seconded by Councilmember Lahmayer and carried unanimously.

LIQUOR STORE

- Liquor Manager’s Report

Liquor Store Manager Jenn Seegert gave her the monthly liquor store report stating that IceBox Days starts this weekend with Boot Hockey and a Cribbage Tournament. New Year’s Eve did well

this year. Starting to get snow which helps with business from snowmobilers which didn't happen last winter. Installing new dishwasher and sink this Winter.

The Council reviewed the Operating Statement for the month of December, 2024 with a net profit of \$5,102.04 and a year to date profit of \$50,266.39 compared to 2023 with a net profit \$1,835.22 a year to date net profit of \$71,650.92.

Councilmember Lahmayer made a recommendation to accept the December 2024 Liquor Store Operating Statement; seconded by Councilmember Coulombe and carried unanimously.

BUILDINGS, STREETS AND GROUNDS

- Public Works Report

Public Works Supervisor Nick Hagen was unable to attend.

OTHER BUSINESS

- To review Vacation Petition for portions of Main Street.

The western portion of Main Street between blocks 1 and 2 is platted at 80 feet wide. Residents of Main Street – Block 1 Lots 1-12 and Block 2 Lots 5-11 are asking for a vacation of 10 feet of the platted road. Karina Joyce-Ham spoke about the issue stating that 60 feet of the road would remain. In looking at the actual survey of the area, the street right of way runs through some of the structures and most don't have a 10 foot setback from the road. Most roads in Ranier are 70 feet wide. Vacating the 10 feet would clean up the property titles. It also protects the 10 feet from future development. Gautreaux will start the review process with the County Departments. Need to check for utility easements. Have a Vacation Hearing in the next couple of months.

Also in the future want to restrict west Main Street from commercial traffic.

- To recommend approving Resolution #2025-01 To Adopt the Rainy River-Rainy Lake Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

Councilmember Jenn Lahmayer has been on the policy committee and Gautreaux on the steering committee with Koochiching Soil & Water Conservation District to develop the watershed management plan. County, state and federal agencies and subject matter experts collaborated on developing the plan. The comprehensive plan identified issues for future priorities and funding.

Councilmember Lahmayer made a recommendation to approve Resolution #2025-01 To Adopt the Rainy River-Rainy Lake Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan; seconded by Councilmember Coulombe and carried unanimously.

OPEN FORUM

Mayor Wagner spoke about the CN CUP meeting for the new depot site. Wagner gave a quick overview of the topics: traffic (Main Street, access parking lot off of Shelrude Place), lighting (dark sky lighting), noise, safety, alley vacation (want land exchange), resurface Shelrude Place, 10 foot retaining wall (want a vernacular surface). Positive headway was made with the architect.

Councilmember Coulombe made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Councilmember Lahmayer and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

THE COMMITTEE MEETING ADJOURNED @ 7:10 p.m.