DULUTH - Homeless encampments in Duluth won't be subject to misdemeanor criminal charges in an end to weeks of heated debate.

During a marathon seven-hour meeting, city councilors on Monday chose to tone down Mayor Roger Reinert's proposal to criminalize camping on city property, but approved nearly a dozen other ordinances that city officials say will address some of the worst illegal problems.

“This amendment takes the criminal penalty out while also maintaining the ability to have common nuisances rendered places,” Council President Rick Randorf said. Several councilors proposed changing Reinert's plan. The revised ordinance limits misdemeanor ESMO for camping on city prop- erty and removes the misconduct language. Passed 6-4.

Other approved controversial ordinances involve crim- inalizing graffiti, noise distur- bances and blocking sidewalks and streets without a permit. Reinert has said Duluth is the only regional center in the state without the ability to charge misdemeanors.

In his turn to persuade oth- ers to oppose the camping ordin- ance, Councilor Mike Mayou shared a letter from a founder of a Rochester home- less shelter. It called Duluth “shaming camping to the root of the state” for its teamwork with homeless advocates, ask- ing that it not turn adversarial.

Around the state, “others are looking to us,” Mayou said, to see what Duluth can do. Tuesday morning, occu- pants of what began as a pro- Palestinians tent camp out- side City Hall were notified they had a week to vacate. See CAMP on A10.

Officer who led Vietnam War massacre at My Lai has died.

By JAY BOLLINGSTONOO • jaybolling@startribune.com

A for winning the Olympic gold medal in the women's team event at the Paris Games on Tuesday, St. Paul's Suni Lee turned to the world's most decorated gymnast, Simone Biles, and started pointing to what she felt they could film with their new medals. Lee clapped gleefully as she shared her idea with Biles.

Biles, who returned to competition earlier this year after undergoing treatment for anxiety and depression, praised Lee's boldness.

“I think it’s fantastic,” Biles said. “I think it’s really cool to see two athletes who are so close and so big and so intimidating, to see them just kind of distance themselves. I think it’s so cool, to have the best of the best come together and just have fun with each other.”

Lee and Biles planned to use their second- and third-place Olympic medals to shoot a TikTok video. Lee got permission from her coach, Aimee Boorman, and Biles has been a TikTok sensation since she won gold at the Tokyo Olympics last year.

By JEFF DAVY • jeff.davy@startribune.com

A report issued by the law firm that Homeopie County Medical Mary Londregan hired to help prosecute Minne- sota state trooper for mur- derDetailing shooting-infamous Ricky Cobbs trial in Duluth — called little evidence to counter defense experts’ claims that the shoot- ing was justified.

More, the trial details how Lon- dregan’s defense will build a use-of-force argument through statements and interviews from the other two officers on the scene, Brett Solie and Garrett Erickson, along with senior members of the State Patrol which had convened in Duluth and were willing to testify that they didn’t see, suggest, or influence, their decision to shoot Cobbs.

The Gibbons defense team will also likely present expert witnesses from the medical community to explain the specifics of the use of force in this case.

The trial will begin in the fall, with a hearing in the trial set for Oct. 31 before Judge F. Christopher Strandberg in the St. Louis County Courthouse. The trial is expected to last two to three weeks.

By JAY BOLLINGSTONOO • jaybolling@startribune.com

Duluth won’t criminalize camps.

City Council softens mayor’s proposal, but OKs cracking down on graffiti, blocking streets.

GAINESVILLE, FLA. – William Calley died April 28, after his 1971 conviction.

Calley's death was “failure for agency.”

The U.S. women’s gymnastics team, under pressure after winning the gold medal three years ago, the U.S. gymnastics team will travel to the Paris Games on Tuesday, St. Paul's Suni Lee turned to the world's most decorated gymnast, Simone Biles, and started pointing to what she felt they could film with their new medals. Lee clapped gleefully as she shared her idea with Biles.

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