

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
CITY OF RAMSEY
ANOKA COUNTY
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

The Public Works Committee conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 15, 2011 at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Chairperson Colin McGlone
 Councilmember Jason Tossey
 Councilmember David Elvig
 Mayor Bob Ramsey

Also Present: City Administrator Kurtis G. Ulrich
 Public Works Director Brian Olson
 City Engineer Tim Himmer
 Fire Chief Dean Kapler
 Parks Supervisor Mark Riverblood
 Councilmember Jeffrey Wise
 Councilmember Randy Backous
 Councilmember David Jeffrey

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson McGlone called the regular meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 5:32 p.m.

CITIZEN INPUT

There was none.

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Elvig, seconded by Mayor Ramsey, to approve the agenda, as presented.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson McGlone and Councilmembers Elvig, Mayor Ramsey, and Councilmember Tossey. Voting No: None.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Councilmember Elvig, seconded by Chairperson McGlone, to approve the minutes from the February 15, 2011 Public Works Meeting.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson McGlone and Councilmembers Elvig and Tossey and Mayor Ramsey. Voting No: None.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Case #1: Consider Agreement with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency regarding Ambient Groundwater Quality Monitoring Wells

Public Works Director Olson reviewed the staff report and listed the elements that the Agency will be looking for. He explained the Agency is testing not just because they think the water is contaminated, but will be testing sites that have not yet been tested to establish a base line report.

Ms. Becca Reason, MPCA, explained this is a program to establish a baseline and water quality level across the state. She noted they will be putting wells in across the metro this year.

Public Works Director Olson mentioned there have been issues in groundwater in communities adjacent to Ramsey. It would be good to know if there are trace elements of contaminants. There are trace amounts of arsenic in Ramsey's drinking water wells that are less than the recommended limit. There are no concerns at this point, though any learning that can happen now can help prepare for the future.

Councilmember McGlone questioned whether the MPCA would be responsible for capping the wells when it became necessary. He asked if there is an end date.

Ms. Reason responded there is no established end date. The plan is to put the wells in and leave in for as long as possible. Some of the project depends on funding.

Public Works Director Olson noted the State of Minnesota requires the wells to be capped.

Ms. Reason explained the project is funded through the Cleanwater Land and Legacy Act.

Councilmember Elvig asked what the infrastructure was.

Ms. Reason indicated the wells will go 7 feet below groundwater. There will be a 10 foot screen which is 2 feet in diameter. After the screen, it is PVC. The finished product above grade is 2 feet high, 6 inches in diameter, and will have a cover. She added the MPCA will put a lock on it.

Chairperson McGlone noted since Ramsey has the landfill, there are already 200 wells. The MPCA is already monitoring Ramsey and he questioned whether there is any overlap.

Ms. Reason explained the Agency did look at the landfill and the functions in relation to it. This program is somewhat different since they are concentrating on shallow groundwater. The inspection process is a different. She noted the wells will not be close to the landfill for testing water. Locations were chosen based on land use area.

Chairperson McGlone established that there is no cost to the City.

Public Works Director Olson confirmed there is no cost.

Councilmember Elvig clarified the testing is only for water quality, for the record.

Ms. Reason confirmed that is the case.

Councilmember Elvig mentioned Ramsey's water table is going down and others are using it. He asked if the MPCA can work with the City to solve other issues.

Ms. Reason responded these types of issues would be handled by another department at the MPCA.

Motion by Councilmember Elvig, seconded by Mayor Ramsey, to recommend that the City Council approve of the access agreement subject to the review and approval by the City Attorney.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson McGlone and Councilmembers Elvig, Mayor Ramsey, and Councilmember Tossey. Voting No: None.

Case #2: Consider Policy for the Disposition of Surplus Wood and Tree Waste

Parks Supervisor Riverblood reviewed the staff report.

Councilmember Elvig raised the issue of the City being responsible for spreading bugs or diseases to others' property.

Parks Supervisor Riverblood explained the policy states the City is not responsible for diseased trees or other issues.

Councilmember Elvig noted he spoke with Police Chief Kapler in regard to Happy Days. There will be a bonfire at the Happy Days festival this year. He suggested the diseased trees be kept separate and used for the bonfire.

Parks Supervisor Riverblood commented the wood does belong to the City until it is declared for sale.

Chairperson McGlone inquired if a previous policy is being ratified.

Parks Supervisor Riverblood responded there is no policy in place. If the wood was in a resident's property, they could have it if they wished. If the property owner did not want it, Staff brought it back, and it was offered as first come, first served.

Chairperson McGlone noted the County owns the compost site, though they do not accept waste from commercial businesses. He proposed that perhaps the City could be exempt from that. He

noted there are certain liability issues if the City keeps the wood and asked if the City would accept wood from the public as well.

Parks Supervisor Riverblood answered the City would not accept wood from the public. This discussion and policy pertains to only waste the City generates. He said he will check with the compost site to ask if they will work with the City.

Public Works Director Olson added if there was a City-wide incident, such as a large storm, the Public Works Committee would be consulted on how to handle the wood. The City would not pick up private waste unless so directed.

Discussion took place on whether it is more feasible to give wood away, sell good quality wood, or pay to bring it to the compost site. It was noted that the security issues related to keeping the wood are huge and there are benefits to selling or giving it away.

Parks Supervisor Riverblood offered to check with the County on their compost site, and bring an update back to the Committee. He added the policy can be updated at any point.

Motion by Councilmember Elvig, seconded by Councilmember Tossey, to recommend that the City Council approve the Policy for the Disposition of Surplus Wood and Tree Waste, with the policy brought back to this Committee for updates annually.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson McGlone and Councilmembers Elvig, Tossey and Mayor Ramsey. Voting No: None.

Case #3: Consider Update on Retro Fitting of Public Works Lighting

Public Works Director Olson reviewed the staff report.

Motion by Councilmember Tossey, seconded by Councilmember Elvig to recommend that the City Council approve the project and contracting with AID Electric for installation of the fluorescent option and that the AID proposal be further modified to require disposal of all fixtures as described in the vehicle storage building.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson McGlone and Councilmembers Tossey and Elvig, and Mayor Ramsey. Voting No: None.

Case #4: Discuss Trail Construction in Conjunction with an Overlay to Alpine Drive near Alpine Park

City Engineer Himmer reviewed the staff report.

Councilmember Elvig gave his opinion that trails give a false sense of security and slows down progress. He pointed out the MSA funds are almost depleted with planned projects.

Chairperson McGlone stated he has advocated reducing the number of parks and connecting them. He asked if there was a way to tie those two ideas together and enhance the City's connectivity.

Public Works Director Olson indicated this program will help identify the logical connections and where the City should spend money in the park programs. He added the department has a busy year, and Staff can only do so much.

Councilmember Elvig stated that Staff needs time to study the costs and get this surveyed. The information could then be given to the State and possibly result in funding, or a different plan on how to accomplish it. The connection between the cul-de-sacs could be some benefit to the north.

Public Works Director Olson noted the work has to be done on the west side. He suggested splitting the project into two projects as needed and as funding allows.

Motion by Chairperson McGlone, seconded by Councilmember Elvig, to recommend that the Staff split the project into two projects as needed, with the construction from Alpine to Ramsey Boulevard completed in 2011, and add the possible trail construction to the study for a project next year to connect the two parks with possible new funding.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson McGlone and Councilmembers Elvig and Tossey and Mayor Ramsey. Voting No: None.

COMMITTEE INPUT

Review CSAH5 – Nowthen Boulevard Reclaim and Overlay

City Engineer Himmer stated Anoka County would like to complete this overlay this year. The County received federal funds for this project. He explained every public street intersection will have a bypass installed. He noted he has a set of plans and he invited Committee members to look at it as they have time.

Councilmember Elvig raised concerns with the school.

City Engineer Himmer responded he did bring the school to the attention of the County. Though the school has crossing guards, this could end up being a safety issue. He said the City will continue to work with the County. He explained the County policy is they do not work on trails; the City pays for trails.

Councilmember Elvig noted the Met Council has money set aside for trails.

City Engineer Himmer indicated the Met Council works with trails when they are part of a regional system, which this is not.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember Tossey, seconded by Councilmember Elvig to adjourn the Public Works Meeting.

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Olson
Public Works Director

Drafted by Chris Moksnes
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.