

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

The Public Works Committee conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, June 21, 2011 at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Chairperson Colin McGlone
 Councilmember David Elvig
 Councilmember Jason Tossey

Also Present: City Administrator Kurtis G. Ulrich
 Public Works Director Brian Olson
 City Engineer Tim Himmer
 Councilmember Bob Ramsey
 Councilmember Randy Backous
 Street Supervisor Grant Reimer
 Deputy City Administrator Heidi Nelson
 Development Manager Darren Lazan

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson McGlone called the regular meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 6:37 p.m.

CITIZEN INPUT

John Ewert, 5414 151st Avenue, stated the repair from construction work in his yard is unacceptable. He noted his yard has rocks, clay and hard soil. He mentioned it is a City Ordinance that all contractors have to replace with black dirt and asked why the contractors did not follow the Ordinance.

Bob Hartman, 5475 151st Avenue, asked about the code and the specifications. He said this was the worst job he'd ever seen. He showed tree branches and a huge rock found in his yard.

City Engineer Himmer explained the code and the specifications. He addressed Mr. Ewert who spoke previously regarding the seeding issue and explained a hydroseed option was available. He noted Rum River was scheduled to complete the work, and they used a subcontractor for the landscaping. He stated he would find out who the subcontractor was.

Gary Solmanson, 5520 152nd Ave. NW, stated the gravel on the boulevard is coarser than that on the street. He was told the topsoil came from the immediate area but he knew it hadn't due to the size of the rocks. There was a clay binder in the mix, and he knows there is no clay in the area.

City Engineer Himmer responded there was very minimal import for the soil, and it was in the order to have the topsoil come from the area.

James Sandness, 15100 St. Francis Boulevard, stated he manicures his lawn and wants black dirt hauled in soon so he can re-landscape his yard. He said the Class 5 that was put in his yard isn't any better than the topsoil that was used. He asked for a timeframe when the black dirt will come and offered to spread the dirt himself, and seed the lawn.

Public Works Director Olson explained there are a wide variety of lawns in the City. He asked what the requests were from the residents and suggested this area be treated a little different than others. Public Works Director Olson stated there seems to be a disconnect from what the residents want, and what the City can provide. He suggested the City staff work with the property owners to bring in black dirt and keep in communication about the issue.

City Engineer Himmer suggested Staff request the contractor be present for a meeting in the next few days. He said there may be a compromise that could be reached.

Councilmember Elvig stated he has the same condition in his yard and the same contractor completed the work in his yard. He noted he is waiting to see what the City can do to correct his yard.

Councilmember Tossey mentioned he lives in an emerging development. He said the builder mentions the MnDOT spec often and he does not believe what has been done to the yards on 151st Avenue is up to spec.

Councilmember McGlone noted he visited the yards in question recently and agrees with a lot of what has been said. He confirmed the issues and questions will be addressed by the City. He added that as a contractor, he hears what others say in the industry. It is known that Ramsey is difficult to work in because it has higher specs than other cities in the area.

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Elvig, seconded by Chairperson McGlone to approve the agenda, as presented.

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

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Councilmember Elvig, seconded by Councilmember Tossey, to approve the minutes from the May 17, 2011 Public Works Meeting.

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

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Case #1: Consider Using Pavement Reinforcement Systems on Overlay Projects

Street Supervisor Reimer reviewed the staff report. He pointed out the overlay project on Alpine Drive could be well over \$200,000 of additional costs and explained the type of product that could be used by this new company.

Public Works Director Olson suggested Mr. Reimer request a test strip of 200 feet or so, noting it could be tested against the regular overlay on Alpine Drive.

Street Supervisor Reimer stated the first roll is free. He explained the company may be willing to try this on Alpine Drive as a test. He also mentioned a representative would be able to give a presentation to the Committee if there was a desire.

Consensus was reached to have a representative give a presentation to the Public Works Committee.

Case #2: Consider Policy on Turf Establishment Related to City Improvement Projects

City Engineer Himmer reviewed the staff report and suggested a policy be drafted defining topsoil.

Chairperson McGlone stated his understanding was that the City returns yards to the condition they were in when the project began or better. He agreed a standard should be arrived at for topsoil.

Public Works Director Olson reminded that the City did a lot of sodding for a time but if some of it died in a resident's yard, there was a problem. There is no simple solution. He suggested the best the City can do is maintain consistency with the grade of topsoil.

City Engineer Himmer explained this policy was developed in the days of salvaging and using on-site material again but those days are over. He indicated that importing is accounted for on all jobs, and a MnDOT spec that is middle-of-the-road is chosen. He said it sounds like importing is required.

Councilmember Elvig inquired about hydroseeding.

City Engineer Himmer replied it is a little more expensive, but could be an option.

Chairperson McGlone raised the issue of using a different grass seed than what the resident has.

Public Works Director Olson responded the City has to choose one seed mixture because it is not cost efficient to have all seed mixtures on hand.

Chairperson McGlone suggested the residents be informed of the seed mixture and they can opt out of using the City's mixture if they choose.

Case #3: Consider Policy for Importing Material into the COR

City Engineer Himmer reviewed the staff report.

Chairperson McGlone suggested a number of placement options for material should be developed. Since the majority of the planning is done, there may be opportunities to place materials. He mentioned since most of the grading is done, the opportunities to obtain fill are numerous.

Discussion took place on the potential depth of the lake that is planned and the amount of fill that may be needed.

Mayor Ramsey noted the lake is moving south.

Development Manager Lazan responded this will not change the amount of fill that is needed.

Public Works Director Olson noted the grading is low in the northwest corner. This cannot be filled until the WMO permit is approved. The school is offering some material, but the City cannot place it where it's needed until it is through the WMO process, which could take a year. He explained the wetland in the northwest corner is widening and a new permit is needed for the mitigation.

City Engineer Himmer indicated there are six to eight weeks of work to prepare the permit to go forward with the WMO process.

Mayor Ramsey pointed out the potential State government shut down could delay the process more.

Chairperson McGlone suggested the school be contacted to learn their intentions of what they plan to do with the stockpiles of materials. If the City could import it, it needs to be placed where it wouldn't need to be moved again.

Councilmember Tossey stated he is not in favor of purchasing fill at this point. He said he agrees with Chairperson McGlone in checking with the school.

Development Manager Lazan gave his opinion that the City should take the material as it becomes available, since the ultimate design is unknown at this point.

Motion by Chairperson McGlone, seconded by Councilmember Tossey, to recommend the HRA check with the school for their plans on material and to move forward with the WMO process.

Further discussion: Councilmember Elvig questioned how many dumptruck loaders there are. Street Supervisor Reimer explained it would take a long time to use the City's equipment for

moving material. Councilmember Elvig asked if more trucks could be rented. Street Supervisor Reimer responded that personnel cannot be taken off their jobs to run more trucks. Chairperson McGlone offered to make some calls to explore other options, noting the math will have to be considered carefully.

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

Case #4: Review Summary of Proposals for Professional Engineering Services and Development of a Consulting Pool

City Engineer Himmer reviewed the staff report. He explained there are more qualified individuals than slots. There were some strong candidates that could cover multiple specialties. To choose a candidate that has only one specialty is not beneficial, noting it would reduce the pool by five.

Public Works Director Olson suggested using five qualified consulting firms so there is adequate coverage in all technical categories. He agreed that choosing a candidate that is specialized would not be helpful. He said he considered three to four candidates in each discipline.

Councilmember Elvig suggested Public Works Director Olson and City Engineer Himmer meet to discuss their preferences. He stated interviews will be conducted with several candidates they agree on and a recommendation could then be brought to the Council.

Chairperson McGlone requested that he be informed of the interviews and he will try to attend.

City Engineer Himmer stated the recommendation will be made at the July 12 Council meeting.

COMMITTEE INPUT

Chairperson McGlone stated Councilmember Tossey will relinquish his role on the Public Works Committee to Councilmember Backous.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Olson
Public Works Director

Drafted by Chris Moksnes
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.