

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

The Public Works Committee conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, July 19, 2011 at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Chairperson Colin McGlone
 Councilmember David Elvig
 Councilmember Randy Backous

Also Present: City Administrator Kurtis G. Ulrich
 Mayor Bob Ramsey
 Public Works Director Brian Olson
 City Engineer Tim Himmer
 Street Supervisor Grant Reimer
 Parks Supervisor Riverblood
 Civil Engineer Leonard Linton
 Councilmember Jeff Wise
 Councilmember Tossey arrived 5:50 pm

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson McGlone called the regular meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 5:30 p.m.

CITIZEN INPUT

none

APPROVE AGENDA

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

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

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Councilmember Backous, seconded by Councilmember Elvig, to approve the minutes from the June 21, 2011 Public Works Meeting.

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

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Case #5.1 Consider Stormwater Solutions for Woodland Green Pond

Public Works Director Olson reviewed in the staff report that the residents, Jason and Ruth Obermaier, 5220 156th Lane NW have contacted the City about water standing in their back yard.

Chairperson McGlone asked if the existing sanitary and sewer can handle the flow.

Councilmember Elvig asked is this problem the drain field or the drainage of the entire area.

Councilmember Elvig also stated that his opinion is to get them hooked up to the City sewer system.

Councilmember Backous thought this might be the most logical solution.

Public Works Director Olson responded that the homeowners may not want a monthly sewer bill and asked Mr. Obermaier how often this has been an issue for this neighborhood.

Mr. Obermaier responded most years throughout the summer it's fine, it has flooded for a week or two but it has never gotten this high.

Mayor Ramsey clarified the discussion that if they connect to sanitary sewer it is not going to take the water away it is only going to take their drain field out.

Mr. Obermaier has a concern with the open ditch in the park area and he would like to see something done with the drainage also.

Paul Moravetz, 15611 Barium Street was present to state that the water is getting close to the drain field too.

Chairperson McGlone doesn't think it feasible that they are never going to have water in there.

Councilmember Backous stated it is a 100 year event and asked if they have a water problem more often.

They responded that it has been more of a problem when they did the system west of 47.

Councilmember Backous stated that it seems they have a water problem more often and the sewer system is going to fix that.

Chairperson McGlone wants to be clear; he thought we were going to put a pipe in for a stormwater.

Chairperson McGlone would like to look at the whole situation and asked can we keep the water down so staff can take a look at it and come back with something.

Public Works Director Olson responded we are doing all that we can and we have a seasonal working on it.

Public Works Director Olson stated what staff is asking for is whether or not if there is consensus to move forward with any of the three options stated in the case or if the fourth option is more desirable. Staff can bring this back at a future date with costs and see if the property owner is willing to obtain this option to get sewer to his house.

Commissioner Backous would like to see the drainage problem fixed in that whole area and doesn't feel we have enough information to make a recommendation.

City Engineer Himmer wanted to point out when we develop these easements and these ponds we do it for that 100 year events. When you get those back to back events that we just got hit with, the soils are becoming more saturated so it doesn't infiltrate quite as quick and he doesn't know if it is necessarily a drainage issue city wide.

Chairperson McGlone would like to first work with the affected property, install a new system first or whatever that takes, fix that first and fix that 75 foot drainage and utility easement.

The consensus of the Committee is to move forward with relocating or hooking up to sewer and in the meantime work with the homeowner to extend the easement back as far as we can.

Case #5.2: Sidewalk Snowplowing Policy

Street Supervisor Riemer reviewed the staff report.

Staff is looking for direction if residents should be responsible for their own sidewalks.

Councilmember Backous stated it is a 50/50 issue to him and doesn't like leaving it up to residents because you are going to have sections that are not going to get done.

Councilmember McGlone stated it is an amenity for our residents to have trails and sidewalks and is an advocate for the residents to maintain their sidewalks.

Street Supervisor Riemer asked for direction on the issue of large span neighborhoods that are being developed.

Councilmember Elvig responded that he doesn't know how important those sidewalks are until the neighborhood starts to fill up.

Public Works Director Olson asked when creating a policy a development has to be 75 percent filled before we start enforcing and /or maintaining the sidewalks in the winter.

City Administrator Ulrich added for the transition policy is to stop the service first and tell people they are responsible for shoveling their sidewalk if they want to but we will not enforce it. Stopping that service will create some neighborhood pure pressure to shovel those walks, then phase in heavy handed implementation and maybe two to three years down the line see how it works.

Consensus of the Committee is for townhome developments to maintain their own sidewalks.

Case #5.3: RFP for Parking Ramp and Parking Lot Snow Removal at the Municipal Center

Street Supervisor Remer is asking for going out for RFP's for snow removal of the parking ramp and the three parking lots at the municipal center. City maintenance staff would still do the sidewalks around the municipal center.

Street Supervisor Riemer also wanted the Committee to know that as part of the contract the parking ramp would need to be done by 5am for the bus service.

Motion by Councilmember Elvig, second by Chairperson McGlone to recommend RFP for contracted snow removal services for municipal parking ramp and parking lot at the municipal center.

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

Case #5.4: Review Dirt Road Elimination Policy

Public Works Street Supervisor Riemer reviewed the staff report and stated that we are down to about 1.5 miles of dirt road. Of the two that require the most maintenance is Xenolith Street on the north end of town and Beatty Avenue on the south end of town, both have bad drainage and gets numerous request for grading and maintenance in these areas. He stated if we were to continue with the policy these would be the two areas he would like to see concentrated on if possible. He also explained it takes about 3.5 hours to do all the dirt roads in our system. Staff is asking for prioritizing the streets if we were to continue with this program

Councilmember Elvig wants clarification that the policy is if they want to petition the City would put 50% in to create incentive and asked if any of these people have come forward.

Councilmember McGlone stated asked if we were going to go ahead and initiate a road project are these already listed in our CIP. If we are talking policy perhaps as part of our policy is to add these to our CIP and may have a different funding in the future.

Councilmember Backous asked does that require a letter to those residents,

Street Supervisor Riemer stated that staff just wanted to make the Committee aware that those roads are out there and is asking if there is any priority.

City Administrator Ulrich summarized from the discussion that the letter referred to would just be a reminder to those residents that the City does have a dirt road policy and we will pay half, this is the existing policy, if there is any urgency or incentive to that then a petition would need to be brought forward.

Chairperson McGlone would like to see these projects put on the CIP.

Street Supervisor Reimer stated right now it is coming out of the street overlay and sealcoat projects.

Public Works Director Olson stated there is so much to discuss in regards to the street reconstruction issue that is whether we contribute anything, whether still require assessments or a portion of, whether we pick up the first paving. If we do that we have to think about other things. He does feel that it would be a good idea to notify people that we are coming to a close on our gravel and dirt roads and this program is currently out there.

Staff is asking to eliminate dirt roads when development opportunities present itself.

Consensus of Committee is to continue in this direction.

Case #5.5: Update on Anoka County Access Spacing Guidelines that Determine Locations for Hard Channelization

Public Works Director Olson reviewed the staff report and opened it up for discussion.

Chairperson McGlone asked if we are currently working with Anoka and other communities to address these things with the County.

Public Works Director Olson responded not over our change spacing guidelines. The last time this was discussed staff was asked to look into two specific areas. One was Bunker Lake Boulevard and Highway 47 and as a result of the joint meeting with the City of Anoka, they agreed to take the lead on this. The other area was Sunfish Lake Boulevard near Highway 10. Staff has met with the property owners and we agreed to contribute to the cost, because there was uncertainty to what the solution was, there was uncertainty that we could contribute to a certain amount. This prompted the property owners to go to Anoka County and the County Engineers have agreed to send a memo defining their stands on the project and staff is still waiting for that memo.

COMMITTEE INPUT

Public Works Director Olson gave an update on the following projects:

Updates on Street Maintenance Program is on tonight's Special City Council Meeting.
Update on Bunker Lake Blvd and 83 signalization continues and they are running sewer on the west side of Armstrong Boulevard.

Design of the county job on Bunker Lake Boulevard from Sunfish Lake Boulevard to Germanium Street is on hold for now

Dysprosium project is ready to begin later this week. City Engineer Himmer stated he is still hearing comments.

Alpine Drive overlay and trail getting near completion.

Parking ramp expansion will be going to City Council in August

Chameleon project awarded.

Sunfish and Alpine is still under construction

Public Works Director Olson wanted to update the Committee about the Highway Safety Improvement Program. He stated the County has put in a grant application for Bunker Lake Boulevard and Sunwood Drive signalization for \$500,000 and we would need to fill the funding gap for that project

August Public Works Committee meeting rescheduled to Monday, August 15th.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Olson
Public Works Director

Drafted by Mary Jo Warner
City of Ramsey Public Works Secretary