

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

The Public Works Committee conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, October 15, 2013 at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Chairperson Randy Backous
 Councilmember Mark Kuzma
 Councilmember Chris Riley

Also Present: City Administrator Kurtis Ulrich
 Public Works Superintendent Grant Riemer
 City Engineer Bruce Westby

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Backous called the regular meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 7:37 p.m.

2. CITIZEN INPUT

There was none.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Kuzma, seconded by Councilmember Riley, to approve the agenda, as presented.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Backous, Councilmembers Kuzma and Riley. Voting No: None.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve September 17, 2013, Meeting Minutes

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Kuzma, to approve the following minutes:

Regular Meeting Minutes dated September 17, 2013

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Backous, Councilmembers Riley and Kuzma. Voting No: None.

5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

5.01: Consider Stop Sign Request for Potassium Street and 143rd Circle

Public Works Superintendent Riemer reviewed the staff report and petitioned request from residents living near the intersection of Potassium Street and 143rd Circle for a stop sign at that intersection. He explained City policy requires five signatures from property owners within 500 feet of the traffic control modification and the petition as submitted did meet that criterion. Public Works Superintendent Riemer presented statistics relating to traffic counts, accident history, and warrants for stop signs. He stated staff feels this intersection does not warrant a stop sign at this time based on documented traffic volumes and accident history. Staff recommends the Public Works Committee deny the request for the installation of a stop sign at the intersection of Potassium Street and 143rd Circle.

Councilmember Riley agreed that if a stop sign is installed, it should be in the Circle, noting that is the flow of traffic. However, that is not what residents are requesting.

Chairperson Backous referenced the traffic study and used a map to point out the location of this request. He noted that drivers need to assure the road is clear before exiting the cul-de-sac.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer agreed but noted that when traveling at 30 mph, drivers do not want to make that stop.

Councilmember Kuzma asked about the cost.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer stated the stop sign and installation is about \$200. He explained that the warrant for a three-way stop is 500 cars per hour for an eight-hour period, which is heavy traffic. He reviewed the locations of other stop signs in this area that were installed years ago at the direction of the Council.

The Public Works Committee discussed the flow of traffic, open viewsheds, and other potential locations for stop signs.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Kuzma, to recommend that the City Council deny the request for the installation of a stop sign at the intersection of Potassium Street and 143rd Circle as it does not meet warrants.

Further discussion: The Public Works Committee agreed with the suggestion of Chairperson Backous that this is a speeding problem, not a stop sign problem, and to ask the Police Department to do additional patrol during peak hours.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Backous, Councilmembers Riley and Kuzma. Voting No: None.

The Public Works Committee discussed its support for a policy addressing these types of situations (stop sign requests that do not meet warrants) to have staff ask the Police Department to conduct additional patrols.

5.02: Clarify Policy for Traffic Control on Modified Intersections

Public Works Superintendent Riemer reviewed the staff report and explained the purpose of this case is to clarify City policy for the installation of traffic control devices on an intersection that has been modified by adjacent development. It was noted that with the Seasons of Ramsey townhome development nearing completing, traffic patterns will be changed at two existing intersections: Town Center Drive and 147th Lane on the west; and, Rhinestone street and 147th Lane on the east.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer presented three alternatives for consideration:

Alternative #1: Follow the traffic engineer's plan for development (if available).

Alternative #2: Staff initiate the traffic study and follow the warrant recommendations in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

Alternative #3: Wait for residents to request traffic control and follow the City's current policy.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer stated the current Policy is to require a petition from the surrounding area before the City initiates a traffic study. He requested direction on what criteria should be used under these circumstances. Public Works Superintendent Riemer stated staff supports Alternative #1 with Alternative #2 as a fall back alternative.

Councilmember Kuzma supported staff's recommendation, noting the results can then be determined and a solution refined, if needed.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer stated after a development has been in existence for a year and the houses are filled, stop signs or better traffic control might be needed.

Councilmember Riley stated he relies on staff's expert recommendation and then if changes are warranted, it can be considered. He stated staff should follow established policies so it does not have to come before the Public Works Committee each time.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Kuzma, to recommend that the City Council clarify Policy for traffic control on modified intersections by approving Alternative #1: Follow the traffic engineer's plan for development (if available); and, Alternative #2: Staff initiate the traffic study and follow the warrant recommendations in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) as a fall back alternative.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Backous, Councilmembers Riley and Kuzma. Voting No: None.

6. COMMITTEE / STAFF INPUT

Public Works Superintendent Riemer reported that the east side of Dysprosium Street is completed and the grass is fairly well rooted. Letters were sent to Dysprosium Street residents about taking over maintenance of the boulevards.

Chairperson Backous asked staff to address the condition of high weeds on the corner lot.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer stated that he will pass that address on to Code Enforcement for follow up. He reported the 11-foot Class V path crossing at Alpine Street for the neighborhood from the north is now completed. He stated the project on Armstrong Boulevard from Alpine Drive to 161st Avenue is under review by Anoka County but they have not yet responded on the traffic light. Public Works Superintendent Riemer reported the final asphalt lifts in Ramsey Town Center 8th and 10th Addition are completed, the boulevards are being restored, and trees will be planted. Public Works Superintendent Riemer stated hydrant flushing will continue for the next two weeks. He stated they are low on staffing and interviewed possible seasonal workers and plow drivers that may be hired.

City Engineer Westby stated staff notified the owner of the 9th Addition, but did not hear back.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer reported on the type of comments he receives through the CRM system that are then followed up by staff. He stated the GPS systems will be moved into the plow trucks and he thinks efficiencies will be realized.

Councilmember Kuzma asked if the system includes an application for a smart phone.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer stated that is not yet available but he does receive e-mailed notifications.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember Kuzma, seconded by Councilmember Riley to adjourn the Public Works Committee meeting.

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Grant Riemer
Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Carla Wirth
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.