

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

The Public Works Committee conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, June 16, 2015, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present:     Chairperson Chris Riley  
                            Councilmember Jill Johns  
                            Councilmember Melody Shryock (arrived 6:05)

Also Present:         City Administrator Kurtis Ulrich  
                            Public Works Superintendent Grant Riemer  
                            City Engineer Bruce Westby  
                            Civil Engineer II Leonard Linton  
                            Alternate Councilmember Mark Kuzma

**1.     CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Riley called the regular meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 6:00 p.m.

**2.     CITIZEN INPUT**

There was none.

**3.     APPROVE AGENDA**

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

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

**4.     APPROVE MINUTES**

**4.01: Approve May 19, 2015, Meeting Minutes**

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

Regular Meeting Minutes dated May 19, 2015

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

## **5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

### **5.01: Consider Drainage Options for 173rd Avenue and Gibbon Street Area**

Civil Engineer II Linton reviewed the staff report and each of the options, noting that after the case was published, he realized it could be possible to create a cross section through the property as explained in Option 4. He said the wetland cannot be drained in an effort to make the water level lower than the home. He explained that while this may provide some relief, water seeks its own relief. The water, in this case, rose above the ground.

Chairperson Riley asked why it would not work to dig a hole.

Civil Engineer II Linton noted the natural level of the wetlands is expressed through the wetlands. If a hole was dug, the water level would be the same elevation as is expressed in the wetlands; it would not drop down. He stated it could provide more storage area. He related the action of the water and a hole to a cup and a serving bowl. Four inches of water in a little cup would fill it up, while the water level would be much lower in the serving bowl. The water is more spread out and shallow.

Councilmember Shryock arrived at 6:05 p.m.

Councilmember Johns inquired if the water will always be an issue in this area.

Civil Engineer II Linton responded in the affirmative.

Councilmember Johns asked how much water could be drained with piping added.

Civil Engineer II Linton answered he could not be sure. The existing elevations will remain and make water drainage difficult.

Chairperson Riley inquired whether the water table has risen over the course of time.

Civil Engineer II Linton responded it has changed.

City Engineer Westby noted the water level was very high in 2014. It does fluctuate. He said this issue will likely be a recurring problem without the pipe. He said the pipe may solve it and will at least provide relief.

Civil Engineer II Linton stated if there is a heavy rain, the water could back up before it runs off.

Councilmember Kuzma asked what the anticipated cost would be.

Civil Engineer II Linton answered the anticipated cost is \$250,000 to \$300,000. He pointed out this does not include easements, and cautioned that electrical issues or other problems could arise.

City Engineer Westby suggested staff can pursue this option further as far as costs and feasibility if the Committee approves. He said they would obtain permission from the Miskes and other residents to look at the elevations. He said the best option is Option 4.

Cassandra Miske, 17421 Gibbon St NW, stated when they removed drywall in their basement, they could tell there was water damage in deeper layers. She commented Option 4 does look good. She said she is interested in anything that might help because she does not want to keep replacing doorjambs and more all the time. She mentioned that the house next door that is in foreclosure does not have any inhabitants. She said she talked with the owners and found the bank did not disclose the flooding. However, the bank did discuss septic issues.

Chairperson Riley commented since staff has to do more research on this option, and get more elevations, this seems to be the beginning of costs.

Ms. Miske inquired about the availability of grants that had been mentioned.

City Engineer Westby answered staff has looked into this online to see if any grants were available for this kind of project. Some grants are available for septic systems, but not for local flooding issues. He said staff can look into this further.

Chairperson Riley asked whether Anoka County is helpful in these situations.

Civil Engineer II Linton responded staff would need to get a permit and could discuss this with them. He explained the county ditch system was first dug around 1900. This was before stormwater retention was thought of. The county does monitor and inspect. They make sure the culverts are operational.

Councilmember Kuzma asked if assessments are a consideration with the new street policy. He also questioned what the funding source is.

City Engineer Westby explained the City can assess for land enhancements. Otherwise, the stormwater sewer fund may be the next option.

Chairperson Riley expressed concern that there are more situations like this. When this problem gets fixed, there could be another similar problem right behind it, and so on.

City Engineer Westby noted this is the worst area that staff is aware of.

Motion by Councilmember Johns, seconded by Councilmember Shryock, to recommend that the City Council consider ordering a feasibility study for Gibbon Street - 173rd Avenue Drainage concerns.

Further discussion: City Administrator Ulrich stated the study should include an analysis, determining specific costs and looking at policy.

Motion amended by Councilmember Johns, seconded by Councilmember Shryock, to recommend that the City Council consider ordering a feasibility study that will include an analysis, determination of specific costs and how this works with policy, for Gibbon Street - 173rd Avenue Drainage concerns.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Councilmembers Johns and Shryock. Voting No: None.

### **5.02: Consider Recommendation for Zeolite Street Storm Sewer Extension to Lake Ramsey**

City Engineer Westby reviewed the staff report and noted the construction costs are preliminarily estimated at \$175,000. Project costs would be paid from the Storm Water Utility Fund. He stated this project is included in the City's 5-year Street Maintenance Program.

Councilmember Shryock asked if there were intentions to develop this triangle at some point.

Chairperson Riley informed when the City functioned as a developer, it was under consideration to develop this plot. However, the City stood to lose approximately \$500,000.

City Administrator Ulrich explained the large cost was due to the land being very low and needing a lot of fill. He said utilities would have been an issue as well.

Councilmember Kuzma asked if concrete was put in instead of plywood, and the land was developed in the future, what would the cost be then to put in a better closure.

City Engineer Westby responded it could be \$10,000 to \$15,000 as a rough estimate. This is assuming there would not be much work to do with Bunker Lake Boulevard.

Chairperson Riley noted it has been repaired once, and it didn't affect Bunker Lake Boulevard, so it shouldn't a second time. He agreed with Councilmember Kuzma to use concrete or plywood until a developer comes through. Then it would be the developer's cost to repair. He commented he was unsure why it was being discussed now versus when it is necessary.

City Engineer Westby stated staff sees this as more of a safety improvement, and it is already in the CIP. If there is no intention to develop that triangular section, then staff can come back with more specific costs.

Councilmember Shryock inquired if there is any potential issue with the triangular section needing to hold more water. If there is no intention to develop in the near future, she said she approves of the idea of plugging the northern portion of the pipe.

Civil Engineer II Linton stated there is a catch basin on the north side of Bunker Lake Boulevard. If someone pulled the grate off, they could get in there. Either redevelopment of the triangle part, or starting to build more in the Ninth Division would be reason to revisit and consider putting a more permanent fix in there.

City Engineer Westby pointed out at some point the City will be required to reconstruct Bunker Lake Boulevard as well as Zeolite Street, and it may be more feasible to look at costs and options then.

Chairperson Riley stated this should wait until there is a reason.

Councilmember Shryock asked if there would be an option at that point to have a straight pipe and possibly save costs with that.

City Engineer Westby explained it is a straight pipe, and it would need to go as planned. It is a big pipe and this is what would work best.

City Engineer Westby stated no motion needed. Staff has the guidance they need.

### **5.03: Consider Street Width Recommendation for Andrie Street and 164th Lane Reconstruction Project**

City Engineer Westby reviewed the staff report and noted bonds can be used to widen the bike lane. Staff is at the point where they would like to go to Council and request authorization. The feasibility study needs to be updated and presented to the Council.

Councilmember Shryock asked whether it will be a striped bike lane, or if the road will just be widened.

City Engineer Westby stated these are municipal state aid streets, so the MSA Standards must be followed. The bike lane would be striped. It will be a 5 foot lane. Since it is a designated bike lane, and an MSA street, this will help with the funding.

Councilmember Kuzma questioned if the road is widened, will there be no parking on one side, and bike lane on the other.

City Engineer Westby said there would be parking on one side, and a bike lane on the other.

Councilmember Kuzma asked if it could be made wider if there was no parking.

City Engineer Westby stated the road could be made narrower, but a variance would need to be requested from State Aid to eliminate parking on one side of the street. The only way MSA would approve is if there are certain trees that should be saved.

Councilmember Kuzma noted there is a strip of trees the citizens are concerned about if the road is widened too much. He commented that road does need to be fixed.

Chairperson Riley confirmed the City Engineer will request approval for parking on one side and bike lane on the other. He stated he preferred to restrict parking for a stretch of the road, but not the whole road. He also would like to avoid losing trees.

Councilmember Shryock agreed the residents would like to keep the trees in that area. She suggested where the trees are that should be saved, no parking signs could be added.

Civil Engineer II Linton stated he worked on the original Andrie Street feasibility study, and there is room to narrow it from its existing configuration. The option at that time was to put the sidewalk in and the study focused on narrowing the road for that. He offered to conduct more research.

Chairperson Riley asked for clarification on how the width added up to 36 feet. He said he would prefer to narrow the street or have the no parking signs in the areas relative to saving trees.

City Engineer Westby suggested staff look at this item by mid-June or July to research the answers. He said since the original recommendation stands with looking at parking on one side in select areas as an amendment, no motion is needed.

**5.04: Recommend Revising Street Names from (East) Town Center Drive to Center Street, and from East/West Ramsey Parkway to Ramsey Parkway**

City Engineer Westby reviewed the staff report.

Councilmember Johns commented it would be good to simplify. Since the directional words in the names are not carried out throughout the City, this section of the City should be simplified.

Chairperson Riley inquired what the name would be of the west side of the horseshoe. He said he is not sure the street will ever be constructed as originally planned.

City Engineer Westby explained the Parkway continues to the south of Lake Ramsey. East Ramsey Parkway will go through that horseshoe and connect. He confirmed that road will not likely be built.

Councilmember Shryock questioned why the signs have Street in the names, and the maps have Drive.

City Administrator Ulrich answered it had to do with when the City was trying to rebrand, and the temporary name of the area was name of Town Center. Now staff would like to drop the word Town.

Chairperson Riley pointed out half the signs have Center Street, so this won't be a large project.

Civil Engineer II Linton raised the issue of possible legal document costs for the address change on mortgages.

City Engineer Westby stated staff will research that.

Councilmember Shryock asked if the City can decide to change the name of streets or whether public input necessary.

City Administrator Ulrich responded the City can make these changes based on Council direction.

Motion by Councilmember Johns, seconded by Chairperson Riley, to recommend that the City Council rename (East) Town Center Drive to Center Street, and renaming East/West Ramsey Parkway to Ramsey Parkway.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Councilmembers Johns and Shryock. Voting No: None.

#### **COMMITTEE / STAFF INPUT**

##### **6.01: Minnesota Department of Health Variance on Fluoride Concentration in Drinking Water**

Public Works Superintendent Riemer reviewed the staff report, stating this is for information only.

City Engineer Westby informed eastbound Highway 10 will be closed from 10:00 p.m. to approximately 2:00 a.m. Traffic barriers will be switched from one side to the other. Traffic will be rerouted. When this procedure was in place last week, the City did not receive complaints. He said he didn't anticipate any issues. This is the last time the traffic will need to be redirected in this area.

City Engineer Westby stated the traffic signal was turned on at CSAH 5 and Alpine Drive that morning and was operating fine.

City Engineer Westby noted staff has been working with a property owner at 14520 Sunfish Lake Drive. There is a swale in the back of the property. It was erected per the DNR's request. For a number of years, no water stood in the ditch. Now, years later, there is standing water. Staff is considering several options. One is to put a treatment structure at the end of Sunfish Lake Drive. The homeowner would like to contact the DNR and see if they can take it out of commission.

Civil Engineer II Linton explained the lake level was at one of its lowest when the homeowners moved in. The lake level has risen over the years and is manifested in that swale, which is on their property. The wetland vegetation is starting to come back. When the swale was high and dry, the homeowner was able to mow it and maintain it. If there is a lot of precipitation, the

water backs up and has nowhere to go. He informed the Committee that Staff is working through this with him.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Councilmember Johns, seconded by Councilmember Shryock to adjourn the Public Works Committee meeting.

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



---

Grant Riemer  
Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Chris Moksnes  
*TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*