

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

The Public Works Committee conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Chairperson Chris Riley
 Councilmember Jill Johns

Member Absent: Councilmember Melody Shryock (Excused)

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

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 Chairperson Riley, to approve the agenda, as presented.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley and Councilmember Johns. Voting No: None. Absent: Councilmember Shryock.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve November 18, 2014, Meeting Minutes

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

Regular Meeting Minutes dated November 18, 2014

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley and Councilmember Johns. Voting No: None. Absent: Councilmember Shryock.

5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

5.01: Nominate Chair and Vice-Chair for the Public Works Committee

Councilmember Johns nominated Councilmember Chris Riley for Chairperson.

Motion by Councilmember Johns, seconded by Chairperson Riley, to nominate Councilmember Riley as Chair of the Public Works Committee.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley and Councilmember Johns. Voting No: None. Absent: Councilmember Shryock.

Motion by Chairperson Riley, seconded by Councilmember Johns, to nominate Councilmember Johns as Vice-Chair of the Public Works Committee.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley and Councilmember Johns. Voting No: None. Absent: Councilmember Shryock.

5.02: Consider Planning Commission Recommendation to Reconstruct a Temporary Cul-De-Sac on Feldspar Street in the Brookfield Subdivision

City Planner Chris Anderson reviewed the staff report and explained this item came to the attention of the City through an application in progress to replat an existing outlot into one single family buildable lot. He noted there was a public meeting on January 8, 2015 where one resident expressed concerns on the existing conditions of the cul-de-sac. The Planning Commission had also expressed concern with the temporary cul-de-sac and its original construction. He explained because there are signs of deterioration, and the current configuration of curb and gutter is an issue with maintenance, the Planning Commission recommended the city make upgrades to bring the cul-de-sac up to design standards. The reconstruction of the cul-de-sac will be within its existing footprint. He noted this is the second request of this type of which the city has reviewed. He stated based on prior requests, it is evident that the use of an outlot and temporary easement is not the right tool to address turn around space at a dead end. Staff is working on a new policy that could accommodate a right of way and would require the roadway to be built to correct standards.

A resident in the audience noted this is larger than the proposed size.

Chairperson Riley explained the lot would not have been that large if it were built to the new standards right away. He questioned if this could be a dead end street and if the “wings” could be removed.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer responded they cannot be removed due to problems with school buses, garbage trucks and plowing.

Councilmember Johns confirmed whether the reduced size will work.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer answered staff can work with it.

A resident in the audience asked if the current homeowners would object to any of the changes.

Chairperson Riley replied they do not expect any objections since this would be an improvement.

Councilmember Johns questioned if changes will need to be made to the sidewalk coming down from the north.

City Planner Chris Anderson noted the sidewalk terminates at the extension and there is no intention to extend it at this time.

Councilmember Riley commended City Planner Westby's cost estimate and confirmed if he was comfortable with the cost.

City Planner Westby answered he is satisfied.

Motion by Councilmember Johns, seconded by Chairperson Riley, to recommend to the City Council that the City upgrade the temporary cul-de-sac to current construction standards within its existing footprint.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley and Councilmember Johns. Voting No: None. Absent: Councilmember Shryock.

5.03: Consider City of Anoka Request to Extend Sewer and Water to Serve Two City-owned Parcels

City Engineer Westby reviewed the staff report and pointed out all costs will be assumed by the City of Anoka per this agreement. Each city will have the ability to maintain their own lines. He said it is prudent that this item moves forward quickly. It will be brought forward to the City Council on January 27th.

City Administrator Ulrich commented this utility extension to this site makes this site developable. Once the City of Ramsey provides utilities, the City doesn't have any control from a zoning perspective of how it gets developed. He stated the City of Anoka had mentioned in staff discussions that the Counseling Center currently located on Ferry Street could be a potential user of this parcel. He noted cities prefer to be cooperative and provide help when possible and then reciprocate when feasible. This item is brought forth for information. He noted this doesn't necessarily impact infrastructure.

Chairperson Riley clarified if the pipes would be able to handle whatever type of business this was used for.

City Engineer Westby answered an eight inch main is planned and would be sufficient for this parcel.

Councilmember Johns inquired whether this type of request arises frequently.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer responded it doesn't happen very frequently with the City of Ramsey. He said it is not unusual, and he knows of other cities that work together often.

Civil Engineer II Linton explained the trailer court that was there was on well and septic. This is not feasible for a development, and that is the reason for the request of city sewer and water.

Motion by Councilmember Johns, seconded by Chairperson Riley, to recommend that the City Council approve the draft JPA as it is written.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley and Councilmember Johns. Voting No: None. Absent: Councilmember Shryock.

5.04: Update on 2015 Jarvis Street Reconstruction Plans and Estimated Costs

City Engineer Westby reviewed the staff report and commented this is a case that was first presented on September 16, 2014. He noted the Elk River City Council has now approved a design that has a 36-foot wide street and two 12 foot-wide through lanes and two 6 foot wide on-road bike lanes. This brings the portion of the City of Ramsey's cost to \$920,305.50. With the changes, it is hopeful the Jarvis Street railroad crossing will be quiet zone eligible by January of 2016. Staff does support the design as proposed. He explained Elk River agreed to pay for the City of Ramsey's share of the costs with an interest-free payback time of three years.

Chairperson Riley asked if there are any concerns with the on road trail.

City Engineer Westby responded there are no major concerns with the proposal. There are repeat users of the trail, and they will know what to expect.

Councilmember Johns clarified this project is being moved up on the City of Ramsey's schedule to accommodate the City of Elk River's schedule.

City Engineer Westby confirmed that to be the case. He stated it does work well with the financial and construction schedule for the City of Ramsey.

City Administrator Ulrich mentioned he is pleased with the railroad quiet zone implementation. This will complete the quiet zones in the City.

Councilmember Johns inquired whether the City of Elk River is overseeing the project.

City Engineer Westby responded the City of Elk River is overseeing the project. They have been pulling the necessary permits.

Motion by Chairperson Riley, seconded by Councilmember Johns, to recommend that the City Council approve the City of Elk River's revised cost-share proposal.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley and Councilmember Johns. Voting No: None. Absent: Councilmember Shryock.

6. COMMITTEE / STAFF INPUT

6.01: Update on Water Supply Planning Efforts

City Engineer Westby reviewed the staff report. He also reviewed a PowerPoint presentation. He noted the City has a design capacity of 10.73 million gallons per day. The average daily consumption is 1.72 MGD. The highest has been 5.16 MGD. The city does have emergency capacity of 1.2 million gallons per day. He pointed out there is a storage capacity of 4 million gallons. Based on this, there should be sufficient capacity for years to come. He said no new wells are included in the 5-year CIP. He explained the staff has been informed that ground water can continue to be used for water supply needs and new wells may be allowable if staff can show that it is not cost effective to utilize surface water. He said cities around the metro are drilling new wells to meet their needs, but they are also being asked to consider surface water supply in place of, or in addition to, ground water supply.

City Engineer Westby noted the City has regional water supply partnerships with the Anoka County Municipal Wellhead Protection Group, the Anoka County Water Resources Management Task Force and the Northwest Metro Water Supply Work Group. Staff is planning to request Council authorization to formally joining the Anoka county Municipal Wellhead Protection Group. This group is composed of eight cities in the northern metro area. He explained the Anoka County Water Resources Management Task Force includes a group of representatives from across Anoka County, which meets regularly. The Northwest Metro Water Supply Group has been one of the stronger groups their goal is to provide guidance for local water supply systems and future regional investments, as far as alternatives to groundwater supply in the northwest area. He mentioned St. Cloud has tapped into the Mississippi River for water supply. He stated Staff believes the Ramsey area could be a good spot for a regional water treatment plant. The City of Ramsey is working to keep on top of the situation so that when improvements are needed, there will be direction and good partnering opportunities with other cities.

Chairperson Riley asked City Administrator Ulrich if he is in agreement with the status of the water supply efforts.

City Administrator Ulrich said he agrees. He added there was some indication from the DNR that if we wanted to consider another well, they may not approve. The DNR encouraged Staff to look at alternatives. He explained groundwater cannot be mixed with river water due to temperature and chemical differences. Either a groundwater system should be used exclusively, or surface water sources exclusively used. This effort must be regional or statewide in order to make it cost effective. It is not feasible for the City of Ramsey to spend large dollar amounts to build a large system to work with surface water. It may be better to apply for permits and see if

they are approved. He said the City is taking a very cooperative approach. He noted the City's growth demand is modest and progress is being made.

Chairperson Riley stated he appreciated the information because he understood that wells were not an option at all. He said he appreciated knowing there is a chance. While other cities are drilling new wells, he was wondering why the City of Ramsey was told not to. He commented it is good to understand the situation.

City Engineer Westby noted the groundwater option is almost as expensive as treatment for surface water because of the expense of pipes, and the cost of treating the water. He stated he would look into this option further.

Chairperson Riley asked if the City of Ramsey sits on one aquifer.

Civil Engineer II Linton explained Wisconsin and Iowa is all on one rock, and uses the name of The Tunnel City. He said what staff has experienced in drilling previous wells, is the rock that water is pulled from gets thinner while traveling north. There is less water to draw from as you go north. The geology changes as you go north from the city of Ramsey. This is why the DNR is encouraging the City of Ramsey to look at other options.

Chairperson Riley pointed out City Engineer Westby had mentioned St. Cloud draws from the Mississippi, and so does Minneapolis. He asked if there were any other cities that did the same.

City Engineer Westby replied he didn't think any other cities pulled from the Mississippi until around Minneapolis.

6.02: Historical Background on High Water Issues in Ramsey

Civil Engineer II Linton explained this is an informational presentation. He stated the City of Ramsey is located on the Anoka Sand Plain and the soils are generally sandy which runs away quickly with moisture. Approximately 20% of the surface area in Ramsey is wetlands. Some are isolated pockets, and some connected by channels. Water levels generally stay the same, but depending on rainfall the levels can fluctuate. Where the drainage is not sufficient is where there will be overflowing, for the most part. He reviewed the staff report and explained the requirements of drainage construction. Most of the high water concerns have been from older developments that were built prior to storm water management standards were put in place.

Cassandra Miske, 17421 Gibbons Street NW, stated she lived in Ramsey in 2011 and there was more water in 2014. She noted she had water in her basement for weeks in 2014. She questioned what the percentage is of people that actually report flooding to the City.

City Engineer Westby answered that is hard to know.

Ms. Miske asked if staff seeks to talk with neighbors of a resident that is affected by high water, and try to determine from that if there are more people affected.

Civil Engineer II Linton responded in the past, staff would talk to any neighbors that are outside when they go to inspect a situation that was called in. Most of the reports are from isolated homeowners.

Ms. Miske mentioned another neighbor of hers had flooding and now they are foreclosing. The house across the street usually has flooding issues, but this year they didn't. All the neighbors she talked to said they didn't have any issues until the neighboring area was built. The holding pond floods quickly and is pushed into Ms. Miske's neighborhood.

City Engineer Westby noted there is no record of what the standards were or what the high water levels in the area were when it was a township. The wetlands in the area by Ms. Miske's neighborhood were constructed when Ramsey was a township.

Chairperson Riley pointed out the terrain across Ramsey is very flat. If the high water issue can be solved in one area, the next area gets filled up.

City Engineer Westby stated it is difficult to prioritize the areas and determine how to route the water. He said neighboring communities only need several hundred feet of pipe and they can route to a creek or lake. This is not possible with the City of Ramsey being a flat area.

Ms. Miske commented they have been in the house and have been through flooding in prior years, and now they are invested. She said she didn't really want to leave at this point.

Civil Engineer II Linton stated he visited the property of Ms. Miske this past summer. He confirmed the wetlands are full and do overflow. He said staff is preparing a presentation and discussion at the next meeting. Since the neighboring area was built without consideration for wetlands and ponds for run off, staff will have to discuss how this can be corrected.

Other Staff Input/Updates:

Chairperson Riley asked for an update on CSAH 5 and Alpine Drive.

City Engineer Westby responded it will stay in the state it is currently until spring. The weather became a factor and didn't allow the project to be completed. The contractor had several projects going on at once in the City and this is one that could not be completed.

Chairperson Riley inquired about the stop signs on Iodine Street and 146th Lane.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer replied they were put in two weeks ago.

City Administrator Ulrich raised the issue of Highway 10 and Armstrong Boulevard. He noted a JPA needs to be written and signed between the County and the City. He said he is hopeful the item can be brought to the Council on February 10. He stated he has not yet heard back from Coburns on their preferred schedule for construction, so Staff is moving forward with the one-year timeline.

Chairperson Riley inquired on the status of adding chargers in the garage for electric cars.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer responded the station is in, and it needs to be activated.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Grant Riemer
Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Chris Moksnes
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.