

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

The Public Works Committee conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 31, 2015, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Chairperson Chris Riley
 Councilmember Jill Johns
 Councilmember Melody Shryock

Also Present: Public Works Superintendent Grant Riemer
 City Engineer Bruce Westby
 Civil Engineer II Leonard Linton
 Asst City Administrator/Economic Development Manager Patrick Brama

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 Shryock, to approve the agenda, as presented.

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

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve January 20, 2015, Meeting Minutes

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

Regular Meeting Minutes dated January 20, 2015

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

5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

5.01: Consider Options for Addressing Stormwater Drainage Issues in Low Lying, Land Locked Areas

Civil Engineer II Linton reviewed the staff report and identified the 2014 areas of flooding concern. He identified the wetlands within the City, noting that approximately 20 to 25 percent of the City is wetland. He identified areas of flooding concern from previous years beginning in 1985 and moving forward to 2011 for comparison purposes. He explained the staff report focused on three primary areas of concern, and that the staff report lists these in order of priority based on magnitude and severity of property and structure impacts.

The Gibbon Street area, rated the highest priority in the staff report, was discussed in detail first. Civil Engineer II Linton reviewed several potential routes of relief for this land-locked wetland, including relative elevation differences and any easements that existed along the routes. He discussed that ditch 66 was cleaned a few years prior and that weirs had been installed. He explained that vegetation management can occur within a wetland but the elevation cannot be changed. He noted that similar plans are available for discussion along the other two areas addressed within the case, but that residents from Gibbon Street are in attendance.

Chairperson Riley questioned if there is a good or easy answer.

Civil Engineer II Linton stated that while there is no easy answer there are potential solutions. He stated that the potential routes are where solutions could occur.

City Engineer Westby stated that there could be a combination of ditches and pipes in the routes.

Councilmember Johns stated that it appears the southern route would make the most sense.

Chairperson Riley questioned if the route would simply push the problem down the line.

Civil Engineer II Linton replied that if the water were to be routed into the ditch he believed that it would continue to flow to Trott Brook.

Frank Miske, 17421 Gibbon Street NW, stated that water even reaches high levels at certain times and could also be a concern for overflowing. He stated that the issues on Gibbon Street did not occur until the Iguana Street area was developed. He suggested instead that perhaps the Iguana Street area be routed in the other direction rather than routing their water towards Gibbon Street.

Cassandra Miske, 17421 Gibbon Street NW, confirmed that there is a culvert that drains into the ditch in their yard. She stated that it appears that their yard is the end spot for drainage and that is why she believes they have flooding of their yard. She questioned if the capacity of the ponds in the area could be increased.

Amber Pederson, 17441 Gibbon Street NW, was also present and confirmed that there is a culvert on her property as well.

Civil Engineer II Linton stated would cause the basements in that area to flood as the wetland elevation is currently equal to that of the basements in the area. He stated that this development was platted in 1979, before the creation of the Lower Rum River Water Management Organization (LRRWMO) and before the existing regulations of the City were in existence. He stated that if the development were to come in now the homes would look a lot different as the lowest floor elevation would need to be two feet above the wetland.

Mr. Miske stated that the home at 17540 Gibbon Street regularly has standing water in the home.

Mrs. Miske stated that in previous meetings there was discussion of an infiltration basin.

City Engineer Westby stated that an infiltration basin would not provide much benefit in this situation given the high groundwater level.

Chairperson Riley stated that it is helpful that the homeowners are open to working with the City.

City Engineer Westby stated that this case has identified the three worst flooding areas within the City, acknowledging that the Gibbon Street area is the worst. He stated that staff can focus on Gibbon Street at this time and look at possible solutions in more detail, looking also into the Iguana Street area, to determine the options. He estimated that the solution mentioned could very well exceed a six-figure cost.

Mr. Miske acknowledged that a six-figure cost would be prohibitive and questioned what they are supposed to do in the long-term as their home is flooding.

Councilmember Shryock questioned if the homeowner is eligible for flood insurance and whether that helps.

Mrs. Miske stated that they are not actually located in the floodplain.

City Engineer Westby stated that residents of Ramsey are eligible for flood insurance since the City is enrolled in the National Flood Insurance Program. He stated that there are things that the homeowners could also do to help such as larger pumps and drain tile systems or back up pumps.

Councilmember Shryock questioned if the homeowners could dig deeper in their backyard to provide an area for the water to go.

Civil Engineer II Linton stated that three properties in addition to the homeowners present tonight have submitted flood reports to the City.

Mr. Miske stated that the home at 17540 Gibbon Street is not occupied so they would not have filed a report. He noted that some of the other homeowners did not want to submit a report.

Councilmember Johns confirmed that a retention pond would be investigated as a possible solution.

Mr. Miske stated that the cheaper solution may be to demolish the existing homes and rebuild.

City Engineer Westby stated that this item will be brought back on May 19th.

Civil Engineer II Linton provided a brief overview of the other two areas of flooding concern identified within the case, noting that the issues are less severe and the potential solutions would be costly.

City Engineer Westby stated that staff has spoken with neighboring cities but they do not have the same problems because they have more relief and elevation differential.

5.02: Consider the Surface Water Management Plan Update

Civil Engineer II Linton reviewed the staff report and briefly summarized the results of the pipe and pond summary.

City Engineer Westby stated that City Administrator Ulrich could not attend this evening but had asked if there were any cost implications related to the updating of the Surface Water Management Plan. He stated there are no new mandates that will increase costs significantly, but incorporating the Atlas 14 stormwater data will have an impact on future costs as projects will be designed to a higher standard.

Motion by Councilmember Johns, seconded by Councilmember Shryock, to approve the updated Surface Water Management Plan and forward it to the City Council for approval.

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

5.03: Consider Use of Sunwood Drive as Official Detour Route During Highway 10 and Armstrong Boulevard Interchange Construction

City Engineer Westby reviewed the staff report and stated that bids on the Armstrong Interchange project were opened today and that construction will likely begin in early May and take one year to complete since Armstrong Boulevard will be closed between Sunwood Drive and Riverdale Drive. He reviewed the detour plan as bid with the project, which identifies Bunker Lake Boulevard as the official detour route between Armstrong Boulevard and Ramsey Boulevard. He stated the purpose of this case is to determine if there is interest in requesting that the official detour be changed from Bunker Lake Boulevard to Sunwood Drive. He explained that usually the County prefers to use County Roads for detours. He stated that staff asked the County if they would consider changing the detour route and were advised that they might consider such a request if submitted in writing. He noted that if approved by the County there may be additional conditions, such as a damage claim waiver. He stated that there would not be

an impact to project costs as the signage would simply be placed in a different area. He stated that while some additional traffic would be generated along Sunwood Drive if chosen as the official detour, especially early in the project, some people will still choose to take Bunker Lake Boulevard if they find Sunwood Drive is not as convenient or timely. He stated that staff does not have a recommendation as they believe the vast majority of drivers will select their construction detour routes based on needs and preferences and not on signage, and given the low volume of pedestrian traffic crossing Sunwood Drive.

Councilmember Johns stated that it would not hurt to have additional drivers going past the businesses on Sunwood Drive.

Councilmember Shryock stated that her concern would be that some drivers are not familiar with roundabouts. She did believe that there may be a short-term benefit to the businesses but was concerned with possible safety issues.

Chairperson Riley agreed with the comments made by Councilmember Shryock, noting that he would not want to push that amount of traffic down Sunwood Drive because of safety concerns.

Motion by Councilmember Shryock, seconded by Chairperson Riley, to recommend leaving the official detour route along Bunker Lake Boulevard.

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

5.04: Business Signage for Armstrong Interchange Detour

Public Works Superintendent Riemer reviewed the staff report and displayed examples of signs used during construction to identify local businesses. He advised that the banner type sign would have a time limitation, additional cost, and would require additional approval from the Council to be located in the right-of-way.

Councilmember Johns stated that she likes the white sign with the business names.

Councilmember Shryock agreed that she prefers the white sign. She suggested installing the sign right away.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer confirmed that the white sign could be made in house and could be produced in one to two days. He identified the most effective placement of the business signs.

City Engineer Westby questioned if another sign should be placed at Ramsey Boulevard.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer confirmed that an additional sign could be placed at Highway 10 and Ramsey Boulevard.

Chairperson Riley believed that this should be communicated to the businesses to show that the City is being supportive during the period of construction.

City Engineer Westby stated that the *Ramsey Resident* will soon be published and will include an article on the interchange. He advised that there will be a website for the interchange project and noted that link will be mentioned in the article. He stated that a statement can be added noting that the City is going above and beyond with the business signage.

Motion by Councilmember Johns, seconded by Councilmember Shryock, to recommend that the City Council approve Alternative #2, City to fabricate and install local business access signs.

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

5.05: Consider Street and Pedestrian Facility Lighting Plans – Center Street and Riverdale Drive

City Engineer Westby reviewed the staff report, which includes lighting plans for the Center Street and Riverdale Drive projects. He reviewed the purpose of the lighting improvements and the proposed lighting plans for the Center Street project noting that TOD grant funds are proposed to fund the lighting improvements which will match the lights throughout the COR.

Councilmember Johns questioned the spacing on the lights.

City Engineer Westby stated that the lights along Center Street would be roughly 80 to 90 feet apart, similar to the spacing of lights along Sunwood Drive.

Councilmember Johns preferred that the lights be aligned directly across from each other as shown in the layout dated 2/24/15.

Councilmember Shryock stated that most other intersections have four lights and questioned why only two lights are proposed for the intersection of Center Street and 145th Avenue.

City Engineer Westby stated that it is currently unknown whether 145th Avenue will ultimately be extended to the west, and he noted that this intersection will not be as busy as the intersections along Sunwood Drive.

Councilmember Shryock questioned if lighting will be continued on the two one-way roadways along Ramsey Parkway in the future.

City Engineer Westby stated that he is not aware of any plans to light Ramsey Parkway at this time, but noted that the trail in the island between the two one-way roads is lit.

Councilmember Shryock stated that perhaps an additional light should be placed in the area where the trail crosses Center Street at Ramsey Parkway.

City Engineer Westby confirmed that an additional light could be added at the crossing if that is the direction of the Committee.

He then discussed the purpose and proposed lighting plans for the Riverdale Drive project which includes 27 street lights and 27 pedestrian trail lights to ensure there are no long stretches of dark spots along the trails. He advised that the cost for this project would be funded through the street lighting fund.

Chairperson Riley stated he would support the least number of lights that gets the job done, which appears to be what staff has proposed.

Motion by Chairperson Riley, seconded by Councilmember Johns, to recommend that the City Council approve the Public Works Committee's preferred lighting system for Center Street including opposing lights between Sunwood Drive and 145th Avenue, tall street lights at each corner of the intersection of Center Street and 145th Avenue, and adding a light for the Center Street pedestrian crossing at Ramsey Parkway, and as proposed by staff for Riverdale Drive.

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

5.06: Request Installation of Priority Street Light at Nowthen Boulevard and Iodine Street

Public Works Superintendent Riemer reviewed the staff report and stated that a streetlight is proposed for the intersection to provide a safety benefit, as there is currently only a pedestrian light.

Motion by Councilmember Shryock, seconded by Councilmember Johns, to recommend that the City Council approve installation of a LED priority street light on the north side of Nowthen Boulevard near Iodine Street to the existing pole.

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

6. COMMITTEE / STAFF INPUT

Public Works Superintendent Riemer provided an update on street sweeping, noting that staff is ahead of schedule because of the warm weather. He advised that spring flushing will begin April 6th and will be a three-week process. He also provided an update on spray patching which was also completed.

Chairperson Riley referenced the trail in front of Stoney River and asked for additional information.

City Engineer Westby provided additional information, acknowledging that a marked crosswalk for TH 47 does not exist for this trail, that MnDOT wants to investigate trail gaps around this intersection before approving a crosswalk design, and that “Trail Closed” signs are in place.

Chairperson Riley referenced the woods near Stoney River along 47 and stated that there are a number of trees down most likely from a storm and questioned if there is anything that can be done. He stated that perhaps the City could assist in that cleanup effort.

Civil Engineer II Linton stated that he can provide exhibits if any Councilmembers want to go out to Gibbon Street to review the drainage issues discussed earlier.

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 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Grant Riemer
Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.