

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

The Public Works Committee conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2017, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Chairperson Chris Riley
 Councilmember Jill Johns
 Councilmember Mark Kuzma

Absent: None

Also Present: Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Mark Riverblood
 Public Works Superintendent Grant Riemer
 City Engineer Bruce Westby

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Riley called the regular meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 5:30 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 November 15, 2016, Meeting Minutes

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

Regular Meeting Minutes dated Tuesday, November 15, 2016

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

5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

5.01: Finalize the Landscape Renovation for the Center Median in the Sweet Bay Ridge Development

Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood reviewed the staff report and recommendation to the City Council reaffirming the proposed landscape renovation.

Chairperson Riley requested clarification and discussion regarding repair of the irrigation system.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated the irrigation system's missing sprinkler heads would be replaced and solar powered controllers would be installed. He confirmed staff's position that an improved irrigation system is a necessary component of the median landscaping renovation project.

Councilmember Kuzma asked whether the median area is ready for reconstruction. Chairperson Riley confirmed this.

Brent Garland, 7574 163rd Avenue NW, stated he wanted to get more information on behalf of his neighbors on the project, as well as clarification about where funding would come from. He added residents are opposed to a neighborhood association.

Chairperson Riley stated the Public Works Committee's recommendation to the City Council is that the total project cost of \$15,650, as well as additional annual maintenance cost, would be covered by City funds.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated the project has been under discussion for two years, and offered to provide previous meeting minutes for Mr. Garland's review. He added various other solutions have been reviewed, including complete removal of the median. He noted renovation is the only cost effective option.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer stated the landscape project's annual maintenance costs will be covered under the Public Works Maintenance Fund.

Councilmember Kuzma stated the landscaping needs to be maintained for safety reasons, as kids cut across the median to cross the street.

Mr. Garland stated the median has plants but it is not overgrown. He expressed concern that neighborhood residents are not getting the facts about the project.

Chairperson Riley stated City staff have made multiple efforts to raise neighborhood awareness of the project, but there has been little interest or response.

Mr. Garland stated he has heard from neighbors that the project cost will be covered by assessments.

Chairperson Riley stated assessments were never discussed as an option.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer stated neighborhood residents have received 2 letters from City staff, most recently on September 29, 2016, which clearly outline project details, timeline and cost. He added a request for partial funding has been submitted to the neighboring developer, Lennar Homes, and is under consideration.

Councilmember Kuzma requested clarification regarding the proposed project timeline.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated staff recommends that project approval be considered by the City Council at their next meeting, as spring construction schedules are filling up.

Chairperson Riley thanked Mr. Garland for his attendance and input.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated additional project information is available on the City's website under Documents/Public Works Agenda's/2016 and 2017.

Motion by Councilmember Johns, seconded by Councilmember Kuzma, to recommend City Council approval of a landscape renovation plan for Sweet Bay Ridge Development center medians.

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

5.02: Request for Rate Change at Electrical Vehicle Charging Station

Public Works Superintendent Riemer reviewed the staff report and rate change proposal. He added this proposal is the result of feedback from a resident who indicated she would use the charging station more if it would stop charging a fee for use of the station, when her battery is fully charged. He noted the charging station currently charges \$1/hour and continues to charge \$1/hour until the car is unplugged from the station. Public Works Superintendent Riemer stated staff recommends a rate reduction at the electrical vehicle charging station. He added the rate can be easily adjusted. He noted that only one resident comment has been received by City staff to date and requested input from the Committee.

Councilmember Kuzma stated he would recommend a reduction of .20 per hour, to .80 per hour.

Councilmember Johns stated the charging station generated an income of \$19.87, which is minimal.

Councilmember Kuzma asked whether City staff had considered removing the charging station.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer stated electric car charging stations are viewed as important urban amenities. He added it is a positive and interesting feature, and can be used in marketing the COR.

Motion by Councilmember Kuzma, seconded by Councilmember Johns, to reduce the electric vehicle charging station's per/hour pricing from \$1.00/hour to \$.80 cents/hour, but retain the policy of charging for every hour that a vehicle is plugged into the station.

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

5.03: Consider Recommendation to City Council to Accept Draft Feasibility Report for Sunwood Drive Reconstruction, Improvement Project #17-00

City Engineer Westby reviewed the staff report and summarized the draft Feasibility Report for the Sunwood Drive Reconstruction project including existing conditions, proposed improvements, estimated costs, and proposed funding program. City Engineer Westby also reviewed staff's conclusions and recommendations for the project which included using a 10-ton pavement design, excluding improvements to the trail north of Sunwood Drive, requiring private property owners to protect, relocate and repair their own private irrigation systems, and to order an assessment appraisal consultation report with this project. City Engineer Westby said staff is trying to conduct meetings with assessable property owners before the February 14, 2017, Public Hearing. He stated proposed assessment amounts have not yet been determined as this is the first application of the City's Special Assessments Policy for industrial properties so staff wanted to discuss available options with the Public Works Committee first. He reviewed a draft rough comparison between two optional assessment methods, the "adjusted front footage" method and the "area" method, which shows the adjusted front footage method results in less variable assessments (\$9K - \$40K), whereas applying the area method results in assessments that are much more variable (\$3K - \$42K). City Engineer Westby requested Committee feedback and comments on the application of assessments for this project.

Chairperson Riley stated the depth of the assessable properties could be equalized to put assessments more in proportion if the area method is used.

City Engineer Westby stated this would significantly increase assessments on shallower parcels.

Councilmember Kuzma stated he would support this method.

Councilmember Kuzma requested clarification regarding the road's maintenance history.

City Engineer Westby stated this road carries about 3,500 ADT and has higher volumes of truck traffic.

Chairperson Riley stressed the importance of a quick project since this is a high-traffic area. He requested clarification regarding the recommended 4 inches of pavement, which seems light.

City Engineer Westby stated the pavement corings indicated that 4-5 inches of pavement currently exists over about 5 inches of class 5, which meets a 10 ton design, and that the proposed pavement section includes 5 inches of stabilized reclaim material, which is stronger than standard class 5 aggregate base based on a higher granular equivalency factor, with 4 inches of new bituminous pavement placed on top, which also meets a 10 ton design.

Chairperson Riley stated he would recommend a pavement core requirement be bid with the project, as well as regular inspections during paving.

City Engineer Westby stated this can likely be done at little to no increase in project costs.

Councilmember Johns asked how many pavement corings are typically completed.

City Engineer Westby stated borings are currently only completed on State Aid streets at variable intervals typically around 1,000 feet.

Councilmember Kuzma asked whether the City keeps accurate records of street construction.

City Engineer Westby confirmed the City does maintain record drawings of newer street and utility projects, but added staff is working on scanning all older City records which are stored in boxes in numerous areas around City Hall so older records are not easy to locate or retrieve.

City Engineer Westby thanked the Committee for their input. He added the Feasibility Report and preliminary assessments will be reviewed by the City Council at their January 24, 2017, regular meeting.

Motion by Chairperson Riley, seconded by Councilmember Johns, to recommend that the City Council accept the recommendations outlined in the draft Feasibility Report for Sunwood Drive Reconstruction, City Improvement Project #17-00.

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

5.04: Consider Recommendation to City Council to Accept Draft Feasibility Report for Alpine Drive Reconstruction, Improvement Project #17-01

City Engineer Westby reviewed the staff report and summarized the draft Feasibility Report for this proposed project including existing conditions, proposed improvements, estimated costs, and proposed funding program. City Engineer Westby also reviewed staff's conclusions and recommendations for the project which included using a 10-ton pavement design, excluding improvements to the trail south of Alpine Drive, and requiring private property owners to protect, relocate and repair their own private irrigation systems. He added the road's aggregate base was constructed of recycled crushed concrete that was graded such that it became rehydrated over the years creating a weak concrete slab which cracked at semi-regular intervals causing the tenting that occurs in cold weather months.

Chairperson Riley stated the Feasibility Report does not include a clear depiction of the issues associated with the recycled crushed concrete aggregate base layer.

City Engineer Westby agreed to add that information to the Feasibility Report.

Chairperson Riley asked if there is any indication of who built the roadway using recycled concrete.

City Engineer Westby stated he has not found any record of that, but that it was probably done as a cost savings measure, utilizing crushed recycled concrete that was readily available.

City Engineer Westby stated there are no proposed assessments for the project as the existing residential properties on the west end of the project have primary driveway access onto Armstrong Boulevard, with some secondary accesses onto Alpine Drive.

Motion by Councilmember Kuzma, seconded by Councilmember Johns, to recommend that the City Council accept the recommendations outlined in the draft Feasibility Report for Alpine Drive Reconstruction, City Improvement Project #17-01.

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

5.05: Consider Recommendation to City Council to Accept Draft Feasibility Report for Rivers Bend Street Reconstructions, Improvement Project #17-02

City Engineer Westby reviewed the staff report for the Rivers Bend Street Reconstructions project. City Engineer Westby then reviewed staff's recommendations for the project which included completing the proposed improvements in 2018 (or later) in conjunction with a nearby street reconstruction project such as the Stanhope Terrace Street Reconstruction project scheduled for 2018 construction. He added potential assessments have yet to be discussed with neighborhood residents, and noted there will be further review when the project is re-introduced.

Motion by Councilmember Kuzma, seconded by Councilmember Johns, to table the Draft Feasibility Report for Rivers Bend Street Reconstructions, Improvement Project #17-02, for further consideration of construction in 2018 with a nearby street reconstruction project.

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

Councilmember Kuzma asked for an update on unpaved roads within The COR development.

City Engineer Westby stated several roads in The COR were left without a wear course when development ceased and are deteriorating quickly despite minimal traffic. Staff will address these necessary improvements within in the CIP.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer stated the RTC 9th Addition development north of the COR is still developing and includes several private streets that do not have a wear course of pavement. He added City staff tried to contact the developer regarding possible collaboration with the City, but have not received a response.

Chairperson Riley requested that this issue be reviewed at the Public Works Committee's next meeting.

6. COMMITTEE / STAFF INPUT

6.01: Updates on Corridor Studies for Trunk Highway 47, County State Aid Highway 5, and County State Aid Highway 83

City Engineer Westby provided status updates on the proposed Corridor Studies for State Trunk Highway 47, County State Aid Highway 5, and County State Aid Highway 83. He stated MnDOT representatives said they may be able to complete an Access Management Study or a Road Safety Audit on Highway 47. He also said a meeting is being planned with the new Assistant County Engineer to discuss Anoka County's ability to partner with the City in completing corridor studies on CSAH 5 and CSAH 83.

Councilmember Johns stated these studies may coincide with the City of Champlin's proposed study of Highway 169.

6.02: Review 2017 Capital Improvement Program Projects

City Engineer Westby stated the Mississippi River Trail project is graded and based, and will be paved when the weather warms up.

City Engineer Westby stated striping improvements to Sunwood Drive are under consideration, including revisions to the left-turn lane striping at the west entrance to Residence at The COR, and revisions to the striping at the entrance to the new Casey's store. He added the roadway was patched in 2016.

City Engineer Westby stated the City is considering the construction of a regional infiltration basin for development within The COR, noting that many properties in The COR do not have capacity to accommodate on-site infiltration.

Chairperson Riley expressed concern that an infiltration basin is not a good use of street frontage.

Councilmember Kuzma asked whether the sale of stormwater credits to the City of Anoka could be considered.

City Engineer Westby stated the basin is currently proposed to be located north of the BNSF railway just west of Ramsey Boulevard. He also said he would look into options for selling infiltration credits to Anoka though this may not be feasible given Ramsey's needs.

City Engineer Westby reviewed the proposed Riverdale Drive extension to Ramsey Boulevard, for which the City is acquiring 5.3 acres of right-of-way from Anoka County Parks.

Chairperson Riley asked why the trail and roadway were not side by side.

City Engineer Westby stated the trail runs through open space landscaped with drought-resistant plants and grasses, as originally laid out in the Park Master Plan. City Engineer Westby stated lighting is also being considered for the Riverdale corridor, although costs and funding sources have yet to be determined.

City Engineer Westby stated he would provide an update on proposed 2017 water tower improvements at the Committee's next meeting.

6.03: Staff Updates on Improvement Projects and Items of Interest

City Engineer Westby reviewed improvement projects, including the Hanson Boulevard Railroad Overpass, the CSAH 78 expansion, and the Foley Boulevard grade separation projects in Coon Rapids. He also noted MnDOT will be constructing a cable median barrier project along Highway 10 through the City of Ramsey for 2018 (from Thurston Avenue in Anoka to Highway 101 in Elk River).

6.04: Review Future Topics Calendar

Chairperson Riley requested clarification regarding the cost of the proposed well siting study.

City Engineer Westby stated the cost estimate for the proposed study is \$75,000.

Councilmember Johns asked whether agenda items for the Committee's February meeting will be moved to the March agenda.

City Engineer Westby confirmed this.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Grant Riemer
Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Mary Mullen
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.