

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

The Public Works Committee conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, June 20, 2017, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

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

Absent:                 Councilmember Melody Shryock

Also Present:         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 5:35 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 16, 2017, Meeting Minutes**

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

Regular Meeting Minutes dated May 16, 2017

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

## **5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

### **5.01: Pedestrian Crosswalk Applications in the City of Ramsey**

Public Works Superintendent Riemer gave a presentation with photos of a variety of crosswalks within the City of Ramsey. He added location, sight distances, traffic speeds, and pedestrian and traffic volumes all factor into the decision about whether to install a crosswalk, and what type of crosswalk to consider. Public Works Superintendent Riemer stated crosswalks in The COR are designated by a different color concrete than the roadway. He added some standard residential crosswalks have a recessed curb so pedestrians can see oncoming traffic even if cars are parked nearby.

Councilmember Kuzma what the textured metal plate is for.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer stated that is an ADA requirement so the crosswalk can be identified by disabled people.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer stated a solar-powered flashing crosswalk on Armstrong Boulevard was installed for the Game Fair, and originally had portable stop lights. He added crosswalks in the roundabout have a middle median which gives pedestrians a place to stop until it is safe to proceed. He noted a crosswalk with a solar-powered rectangular rapid flashing beacon on Armstrong Boulevard is pedestrian activated and flashes for 30 seconds to warn motorists when a pedestrian is using the crosswalk..

Councilmember Kuzma stated this is helpful information, and asked whether it is available to the public.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer stated details about crosswalks have not been presented with this level of detail. Public Works Superintendent Riemer stated HAWK crosswalk systems have traffic signals activated when a pedestrian pushes a button. He added a yellow light flashes, then goes to solid yellow, then a solid red double light located above the yellow lights indicates that pedestrians can safely enter the crosswalk. He noted there is an example of a HAWK crosswalk system in Coon Rapids' Riverdale Village.

Councilmember Kuzma stated he does not think the HAWK crosswalk in Coon Rapids is functional.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer stated the HAWK system is similar to a regular traffic signal.

City Engineer Westby stated the HAWK system lights are only activated if a pedestrian pushes the button, so roadways are more free-flowing.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer stated a ratings system called Pedestrian Level of Service (LOS) is used to determine whether a crosswalk is required at a certain location. He added LOS evaluates and rates how a crossing is functioning.

Councilmember Kuzma asked whether there are any crosswalks in the City of Ramsey that have been rated D.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer stated he only has data for two crosswalks located on high speed roads.

Councilmember Johns asked whether this process is used every time a crosswalk is being considered.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer stated that depends upon various factors, including whether concerns are raised by residents.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer stated a review involves the collection of traffic and roadway data – whether there is a median, width of roadway, and stopping sight distance. He added the State of Minnesota stipulates 20 pedestrians crossing per hour for a crosswalk to be considered. He noted two 24-hour traffic counts are completed and averaged together.

Councilmember Johns stated, with regard to the Variolite Street/161<sup>st</sup> Avenue intersection, the City Council had requested more enforcement on Thursday evenings due to games at the park.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer confirmed that the Police Department is aware of this request.

Chairperson Riley stated there are many distractions and concerns in residential neighborhoods, including children, other vehicles, and more narrow roadways. He added residential crosswalks can often be overlooked and drivers are past the crosswalk before they realize they should have stopped.

Councilmember Johns stated this is only an issue at certain times of the year.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer stated some of the responsibility needs be on the pedestrian as well as the motorist.

Chairperson Riley asked whether there was an issue regarding the line for the turn lane a few blocks south of the Variolite Street/161<sup>st</sup> Avenue intersection.

City Engineer Westby stated that is the current design being recommended by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT).

Chairperson Riley stated this has been very helpful information. He added the request for a crosswalk at the Variolite Street/161<sup>st</sup> Avenue intersection could be denied based on the City's evaluation. He added a statement explaining the evaluation process should be prepared.

**5.02: Consider Recommending City Council Approval of Plans and Specifications for Riverdale Drive Extension – Traprock Street to Ramsey Boulevard, Improvement Project 16-20**

City Engineer Westby stated the Riverdale Extension plans have been submitted to the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT). City Staff will be meeting with MnDOT representatives this week for a final plan review and to receive comments. The plans will be presented to the City Council at their June 27, 2017, Regular Meeting, for final plan approval and to authorize bids.

City Engineer Westby stated MnDOT has indicated that they have a brief list of comments. He added City Staff plans to have bids advertised by Friday, June 30, 2017. He noted the project is scheduled to be completed in 2017.

Councilmember Kuzma asked whether there was a problem with the grant.

City Engineer Westby stated there is no problem, and that the original agreement with MnDOT required the project to be let by June 30, 2017. He added that he spoke to MnDOT and there is a work around if the project is not let by this date so the funding is secure.

City Engineer Westby stated the interior construction will be completed first and the connections to existing streets at each end will be made last to minimize impacts. He noted Holiday has reviewed and agreed to the plan in general, and that accommodations are being made for pedestrian access.

Chairperson Riley asked whether there will still be access to Highway 10 at Traprock Street.

City Engineer Westby stated the access to Traprock Street will be removed at the end of the project, along with the median crossover for westbound Highway 10.

Motion by Councilmember Kuzma, seconded by Councilmember Johns, to recommend that the City Council approve plans and specifications for Riverdale Drive Extension – Traprock Street to Ramsey Boulevard, Improvement Project 16-20.

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

**5.03: Consider Recommending City Council Approval of Plans and Specifications for Sunwood Drive Striping Improvements, Improvement Project 17-04**

City Engineer Westby stated the Public Works Commission had reviewed this item briefly at their May 16, 2017, meeting. He added the proposed plans include the addition of dedicated right and left turn lanes on Sunwood Drive. He noted these turn lanes will create a safer configuration for pedestrians and better traffic flow.

City Engineer Westby stated the addition of a right turn lane onto Center Street will require the loss of several parking spaces. He added seal coating will be completed from Zeolite Street to Armstrong Boulevard before striping, and from Rhinestone Street to Ramsey Boulevard, and that all striping work will be completed by the end of August 2017.

Chairperson Riley asked whether the old stripes will be removed first.

City Engineer Westby confirmed this.

Motion by Councilmember Kuzma, seconded by Councilmember Johns, to recommend that the City Council approve Plans and Specifications for Sunwood Drive Striping Improvements, Improvement Project 17-04.

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

**5.04: Consider Recommending City Council Authorization to Prepare Plans and Specifications for Puma Street Utility Extensions, Improvement Project #17-10**

City Engineer Westby reviewed the staff report, and explained that two development proposals, Capstone Homes and the Riverstone development, are proposed to be served by City water and sanitary sewer. Utilities must be extended north along Puma Street to serve additional homes in the Riverstone development. Staff proposes to prepare final design plans and specifications for this improvement project. All costs to extend utilities are proposed to be paid through City sewer and water funds. The developer will pay for a portion of the public infrastructure costs via an assessment agreement, plus a portion of the utilities via trunk utility fees which are paid at the time of development. However, some additional costs are required to remove existing pavement and replace it with temporary aggregate surfacing. Capstone will cover all of these costs via their assessment agreement.

Councilmember Kuzma asked whether the house on the corner of Bunker Lake Boulevard and Puma Street will pay anything.

City Engineer Westby stated staff met with the residents and they will not be party to the assessment agreement.

City Engineer Westby stated the utilities are estimated to cost \$750,000, and that the additional costs for pavement removal and temporary aggregate surfacing are roughly estimated to cost \$100-150,000. The Capstone developers have estimated utilities at \$88,000, so that would be an

additional cost. City Engineer Westby stressed the importance of moving forward to make this project work.

Chairperson Riley stated he was initially concerned that the City was getting ahead of itself with this project, and the current plans take it even further. He asked why this needs to be extended down Bunker Lake Boulevard.

City Engineer Westby stated the phasing of the Riverstone development will require Bunker Lake Boulevard utilities to serve homes at the south end of their site. He added, in the next phase, for the development to be graded and more homes constructed over the winter, services need to be extended north along Puma Street.

Chairperson Riley asked whether they have plat approval.

City Engineer Westby stated they do not have plat approval.

Councilmember Kuzma requested clarification regarding the timing of the proposed improvement project and Riverstone's timeline, and whether guarantees can be obtained that they will not back out.

City Engineer Westby stated they are going as fast as they can, and the City has submitted the first draft of the assessment agreement to them.

Chairperson Riley stated they are asking the City to do this out of sequence, without a finalized agreement, following their plan and not the City's own project timeline.

Councilmember Kuzma agreed. He stated it would not be unusual to require a guarantee, as the City is financially committed at this point.

Councilmember Johns agreed. She added a requirement of starting the project could be a guarantee or commitment from the developer, since the City will be out \$890,000 if the project falls through.

Chairperson Riley stated he would like to request regular updates from the developer, and some sort of credit to assist with costs.

Councilmember Johns asked what would be the total amount to be requested from the developer as a guarantee.

Chairperson Riley stated the total is \$800,000 plus 100% of road construction costs. He expressed concern that the developer is pushing the City to do something that he does not agree with.

Chairperson Riley stated the utilities along Bunker Lake Boulevard are in the right of way, and generally do not affect the roadway. He asked what would happen if they need to extend utilities even further, up Puma Street to Alpine Drive.

City Engineer Westby stated that may happen as the developer will be developing the full 80 acres over the next decade or so.

Chairperson Riley asked whether the utility extensions along Bunker Lake Boulevard and the first half of Puma Street would all be completed as one project if the City moves forward.

City Engineer Westby stated the contract will be awarded this week for utilities for Bunker Lake Boulevard, which is a standalone project. He added this other project will be completed by November.

Chairperson Riley asked whether it would be acceptable to do the rest of the utilities.

City Engineer Westby it is always preferred if possible to tie in to the existing pavement, to ensure that streets are completed.

Chairperson Riley asked why that section of Bunker Lake Boulevard needs to be upgraded.

City Engineer Westby stated the future business park report calls for a 3-lane road with center turn lane. He added that Bunker Lake Boulevard was constructed as a 4-lane section due to the River crossing, and the intersection was originally set up for a four-lane design. He noted it will have to transition to a 3-lane segment towards Puma Street.

Chairperson Riley asked whether that segment will be repaved along with Puma Street, and will be part of the assessment agreement.

City Engineer Westby confirmed this.

Chairperson Riley requested that a specific number, approximately \$250,000, be included as a condition of approval. City Engineer Westby agreed to make this request of Capstone.

Motion by Councilmember Kuzma, seconded by Councilmember Johns, to recommend that the City Council authorize Puma Street Utility Extensions, with the following added condition:

-A letter of credit or some other financial guarantee be requested from the developer to cover engineering expenses and additional City expenses.

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

City Engineer Westby reiterated this will be reviewed by the City Council at their June 27, 2017, Regular Meeting.

Chairperson Riley requested that City Staff provide a review of milestones that have been achieved to date.

Councilmember Kuzma stated he is still not comfortable with the 29-foot driveway.

City Engineer Westby requested clarification regarding milestones.

Chairperson Riley stated the developer has continued to move forward with the project even though they do not even own the property, and there is no assessment agreement. He added he would like to know that the developer is staying on track, and what the developer has expended, to ensure their level of commitment to the project.

City Engineer Westby stated a proposed timeline for moving forward could be provided by City Staff. Chairperson Riley agreed.

## **6. COMMITTEE / STAFF INPUT**

### **6:01 Staff Updates on Improvement Projects and Items of Interest**

City Engineer Westby stated a project review document was provided in the meeting packet.

City Engineer Westby stated the City Council Meeting on June 27, 2017, will include a Consent Agenda item related to final payment for River Trail Phase 3.

City Engineer Westby stated North Valley, the contractor for Alpine Drive and Sunwood Drive reconstruction projects, has indicated that these projects will begin in August 2017. He added the projects will be completed and then paved concurrently.

City Engineer Westby stated 2 businesses on Sunwood Drive, Class C Components and In'tech Industries, have indicated that the reconstruct project will negatively impact their ability to receive shipments. He noted their driveways will be repaired over the holiday weekend beginning on June 30, 2017, and both businesses have been very understanding.

City Engineer Westby stated City Staff is compiling a final punch list, and working with property owners to get irrigation systems finished. He reviewed an on-going situation with one residential property that has a colored concrete edge along their concrete driveway. He added the resident has been working with the contractor to replace the concrete, unbeknownst to City Staff.

### **6:02 Review Future Topics Calendar**

City Engineer Westby stated he hopes to review the Gibbon Street and 173<sup>rd</sup> Avenue drainage issue and Sunfish Lake sedimentation basin at the Public Works Commission's next meeting.

Chairperson Riley stated he would like to request a discussion about changing the name of the segment of Zeolite Street in The COR to something more in keeping with the uses and functions in The COR.

Councilmember Kuzma requested an update on the gas station.

City Engineer Westby stated demolition contracts are being reviewed, including a proposal from Hakanson Anderson. He added demolition should take place this summer. He noted City Staff have been considering future use of the site, including overflow parking for neighboring businesses.

City Engineer Westby asked whether the Public Works Commission is interested in talking about the site.

Chairperson Riley stated he would like to discuss the current tree coverage, to open the space up and make it more visible and less of a parking lot.

City Engineer Westby stated he can add that the July meeting agenda.

Chairperson Riley asked whether the parcel could be divided, and part of it used for parking, if the City does not need the whole parcel.

City Engineer Westby stated stormwater ponding is proposed for part of the site, but there could be a small remnant. He added there are certain restrictions related to the site.

Councilmember Kuzma asked for an update regarding the privacy fence at the Anoka sanitation facility.

City Engineer Westby that is supposed to happen but he has not heard anything, but he agreed to look into it.

## **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 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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Grant Riemer  
Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Mary Mullen  
*TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*