

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

The Public Works Committee conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 20, 2018, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

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

Also Present: Public Works Superintendent Grant Riemer
 Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Mark Riverblood
 City Engineer Bruce Westby
 Community Development Director Manager Timothy Gladhill
 Police Chief Jeff Katers
 City Administrator Kurt Ulrich

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 January 16, 2018, Meeting Minutes

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

Regular Meeting Minutes dated January 16, 2017

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

5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

5.01: Review COR Street Names

City Engineer Westby reviewed the staff report and stated that the purpose of this case is to review existing and proposed street names within The COR, and to obtain preliminary feedback from the Public Works Committee regarding potential concerns with specific street names and any information the Committee would like Staff to present at the next regularly scheduled Public Works Committee meeting on March 20, 2018. He stated that the majority of street names within The COR are based on the Anoka County street grid naming convention, with the exceptions of Veterans Drive, Center Street, and Ramsey Parkway. He stated that the street naming convention for the City of Ramsey includes Football Greats, Mammals, Rocks, Elements, and Indian Tribes as streets progress from west to east.

City Engineer Westby stated that most recently, the deviation of street names from the County grid was discussed when the Riverstone residential development was platted. Ultimately, the City Council approved renaming two street segments as something different from the County grid. He stated that the position from public safety is that the City should follow the County grid system or come up with its own convention that is consistent throughout the City. He explained that street names are an important component of public safety response, which can have a significant impact on response times and outcomes.

Councilmember Kuzma asked if the officers in the police department are aware of the locations of road names that deviate from the system.

Police Chief Katers replied that the department is aware of those street locations (Veteran's Drive, etc.). He stated that his concern would be that in time of crisis, an outside agency would not know the location of those streets and a map system may not be available. He stated that his concern would be to follow one system or another, rather than merging two systems. He used the example of Anoka, which deviated from the County grid but still follows its own system. He recommended staying with one system, whether that is the County grid or the City's own system. He explained that by deviating the City has opened the door for future developers to ask for variances. He noted that some of the streets already exist in other areas of Ramsey and asked if the names would be changed for those existing streets as well. He stated that thus far the City has followed the County grid system. He stated that Veteran's Drive makes sense because of the location of the Veteran's Center. He stated that Center Street would be difficult to find unless you are familiar with the location.

Councilmember Johns stated that these concerns echo as to what was heard during the Capstone discussions. She stated that she would be willing to change the names of certain bizarrely named streets, if the beginning letter remains the same.

Chairperson Riley echoed the comments of Councilmember Johns regarding the three bizarrely named streets within The COR. He stated that he would like to focus on those three street names and would limit the discussion to those street names. He stated that his preference would be to address those street names before there are businesses or residents on those streets.

Councilmember Kuzma asked if there are residents on those street names in other areas.

City Engineer Westby replied that there are residents living on those street names in other areas of the City.

Chairperson Riley suggested naming the roadway something specific to The COR that would help to identify the location. He was unsure that acceptable names would be found that would start with X, Y, and Z. He believed that the discussion of changing the road names should focus on the sections of road only within The COR boundaries.

Councilmember Johns agreed that it would make sense if there was a clean cutoff within The COR.

City Engineer Westby asked if staff should come back with alternatives that could fit.

Councilmember Johns asked how the post office works, as far as using numbers for the street names.

Community Development Director Gladhill replied that the City and County dictate the address and the post office simply collects that database.

Chairperson Riley confirmed the consensus of the Committee to direct staff to prepare alternatives that would make sense for road names within The COR.

City Engineer Westby confirmed the boundaries of The COR.

6. COMMITTEE / STAFF INPUT

6.01: Ferry Street Overpass

City Engineer Westby noted that he spoke with the Anoka engineering staff about the Ferry Street overpass. He noted that the project is on pause at this time in attempt to straighten out the S curves. He stated that Anoka staff stated that they would keep Ramsey involved and informed when the project moves forward.

Chairperson Riley noted that he would like Ramsey to remain active and proactive rather than reacting to the decisions that have been made.

City Engineer Westby stated that the bids for the sealcoat project were opened today and were very favorable.

City Administrator Ulrich noted that the Thurston/Fairoak project was redesigned to bring the cost down closer to the grant fund amount that Anoka has received.

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 5:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Grant Riemer
Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.