

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

The Public Works Committee conducted a regular meeting on Wednesday, October 16, 2018, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present:     Chairperson Chris Riley  
                              Councilmember Jill Johns

Members Absent:     Councilmember Mark Kuzma

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 5:30 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 Councilmembers Johns. Voting No: None. Absent: Councilmember Kuzma.

**4.     APPROVE MINUTES**

**4.01: Approve August 21, 2018, Meeting Minutes**

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

Regular Meeting Minutes dated August 21, 2018

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

## **5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

### **5.01: Consider Recommendation to City Council Supporting Metropolitan Council Study for Northwest Metropolitan Area Regional Surface Water Supply Facility**

City Engineer Westby stated that Metropolitan Council staff have long been aware that the City of Ramsey has explored the use of surface water to augment, or even possibly replace, our groundwater supply sources for our municipal water supply. More than a year ago, staff from the Metropolitan Council informed City staff that funds were available to conduct a study to explore the feasibility of constructing a regional surface water supply facility in the northwest metro area, and asked if staff was aware of any other cities that might be interested in partnership with us to explore the feasibility of a regional surface water supply facility.

City Engineer stated that since then, staff contacted their counterparts in neighboring cities in Anoka County to discuss the possibility of partnering with us on a regional surface water supply facility. Those discussions were not fruitful. Then recently, staff was informed that the cities of Dayton and Rogers might be interested in partnering in such a study. Staff was later informed that the City of Corcoran might also be interested. Staff has since informed Metropolitan Council staff that three other cities have expressed an interest in partnering with us, at which time Metropolitan Council staff asked if each City would be able to adopt supporting resolutions, which Metropolitan Council staff would then use to request funding for the study on their end.

City Engineer Westby reported that staff from each partnering city plans to request City Council adoption of a supporting resolution at the earliest opportunity. For the City of Ramsey, staff proposes to request adoption of a supporting resolution at the October 23<sup>rd</sup> City Council meeting. He recommended approving a recommendation to the City Council to adopt a resolution supporting a Metropolitan Council study for a Northwest Metropolitan area regional surface water supply facility.

Chairperson Riley asked the reasons why some other cities do not want to participate.

City Engineer Westby replied that some cities have their own systems and do not feel that they would benefit from this study. He stated that some of the more rural cities are simply content with their current system or do not have their own water supply systems.

Councilmember Johns asked if Elk River has its own system.

City Engineer Westby replied that Elk River uses a private water utility to supply their water. He stated that this would be a partnership of four cities to determine what the costs would be to determine if there would be a feasible and affordable option. He stated that if the costs appear to be reasonable for a regional facility, he would expect each of the four cities to reach out again to determine if there would be additional interest. He explained that this is simply a planning study that will allow more information to be gathered for planning a future regional water supply facility.

Chairperson Riley stated that in the past the City was required to look at this and asked if other cities have been required to look at this topic as well.

City Engineer Westby confirmed that Ramsey was forced to look at the topic because of the location on the sandplain.

Chairperson Riley stated that he would prefer to keep Ramsey separate from the Metropolitan Council if possible.

Councilmember Johns stated that she would support the recommendation of staff.

City Engineer Westby stated that this would not open the City up to anything or future commitments. He understood that some people are guarded in their interaction with the Metropolitan Council. He stated that in his experience with the Metropolitan Council he was able to further understand the limitations on the reach that organization has. He stated that the Metropolitan Council is charged by legislation to assist cities in planning efforts for water supply and the organization cannot compel cities to do anything.

Councilmember Johns stated that the requirement was to have a regional partnership/solution and therefore perhaps this would meet that requirement.

Chairperson Riley noted that this will move forward to the City Council, noting that there are only two members present tonight that may not agree on the decision.

Councilmember Johns asked and received confirmation that the other cities involved would use the same resolution.

City Engineer Westby stated that the Metropolitan Council holds the funds from the Clean Water Fund. He explained that the Metropolitan Council is attempting to lessen its role in the process and allow the cities to take the lead.

Chairperson Riley stated that he will not be supporting this action and therefore suggested that the action be to send this forward to the City Council for review.

Motion by Chairperson Riley, seconded by Councilmember Johns, to pass the review of the resolution allowing the Metropolitan Council to complete a study for a Northwest Metropolitan area regional surface water supply facility to the City Council without a recommendation.

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

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

### **6.01: Update on Status of Feasibility Reports for 2019 Street Reconstruction Projects**

Councilmember Johns asked and received confirmation that 2019 is the last year of the street reconstruction and overlay program.

City Engineer Westby confirmed that staff will bring forward a new five-year plan during 2019 for review which will include seven to ten years of projects.

Chairperson Riley asked if that would provide additional flexibility for staff.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer confirmed that would provide the flexibility needed to include roads that may deteriorate faster than others during that cycle.

City Engineer Westby provided an update on the status of Feasibility Reports for the 2019 Street Reconstruction Projects beginning with Improvement Project #18-02, HY-10 Ramsey, Street Reconstruction. He stated that a public input meeting was held on September 13<sup>th</sup> and a notification was sent out prior to the property owners. He stated that he did not receive any comments, and no one attended the meeting. He reported that about one week ago he received a call from two property owners that object to the HY-10 Ramsey project. He stated that the property owners noted that there is a possibility of redevelopment in that area and perhaps that improvement project should be delayed until that future redevelopment project occurs. He noted that the two property owners have commercial use with little or no customer access and therefore the road conditions do not bother them and there have not been complaints on the project. He stated that one option to move forward would be to simply complete intersection improvements in that area and pothole patching on the rest of the project which could then be maintained annually. He estimated a cost of about \$8,000 or less compared to the \$290,000 for the proposed project. He confirmed that there is minimal use of the roadway and therefore staff recommends shelving this project and completing minor pavement repairs in 2019, allows streets to be limped along as best as practical for another five to ten years due to the high potential for redevelopment and objections received from the property owners.

Councilmember Johns stated that she agrees that this should be postponed until redevelopment occurs as long as the property owners are in agreement and the road is safe for public works and emergency vehicles. She stated that there is a lot of property for sale in that area and a high potential for redevelopment.

Chairperson Riley agreed. He stated that he appreciated the plan that had limited improvements but agreed that limiting the improvements further would be beneficial as the property owners object to the project.

City Engineer Westby confirmed the consensus of the Committee to support the staff recommendation to postpone Improvement Project #18-02 HY-Ramsey, Street Reconstructions.

City Engineer Westby provided an update on the Feasibility Reports for the 2019 Street Reconstruction Projects including Improvement Project #19-01, Ford Brook Estates Street Reconstructions; Improvement Project #19-02, Brookview Estates Street Reconstructions; and Improvement Project #19-03, Wood Pond Hills & Chestnut Ridge Street Reconstructions. He

noted that he will bring forward the proposed improvement projects as discussed for City Council review.

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

City Engineer Westby provided an update on improvement projects and items of interest.

### **6.03: Review Future Topics Calendar**

City Engineer Westby stated that staff has been updating the calendar included in the packet, noting that some of the items have been postponed because of the development projects. He reviewed some of the topics that he hopes to bring forward at the next few meetings. It was determined that Finance Director Lund should be invited to a future meeting in order to assist in a budget related discussion.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Grant Riemer  
Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Amanda Staple  
*TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*