

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

The Public Works Committee conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 21, 2020, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Chairperson Mark Kuzma
 Councilmember Jeff Menth
 Councilmember Chris Riley

Also Present: Public Works Superintendent Grant Riemer
 City Engineer Bruce Westby
 City Planner Chris Anderson

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Kuzma 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 Riley, seconded by Councilmember Menth, to approve the agenda, as presented.

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

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve November 19, 2019, Meeting Minutes

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

Regular Meeting Minutes dated November 19, 2019

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

5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

5.01: Receive Overview of Framework for Water Efficiency Grant Program and Consider Recommending Adoption of Resolution #20-018 to Enter into Clean Water Fund Grant Agreement with Metropolitan Council to Receive Grant Funds

City Planner Anderson reviewed the staff report and the recommendation from the Environmental Policy Board (EPB) to adopt Resolution #20-018 to enter into the Clean Water Fund Agreement with the Metropolitan Council to accept the \$28,000 grant to implement a water efficiency rebate program.

Chairperson Kuzma commented that it seems like a good program. He noted that he is a bit disappointed that only residents on City sewer/water will be eligible but acknowledged that this will still be open to half the residents.

City Planner Anderson noted that the EPB had a similar comment and discussion and had suggested that perhaps this be used as a pilot program and the City could eventually continue with its own program that could be open to all residents.

Councilmember Menth asked how the program would work in terms of the resident purchasing the device and receiving a rebate.

City Planner Anderson explained the process that residents would follow to receive a rebate from the City.

Councilmember Riley asked if the City would have a list of preferred vendors.

City Planner Anderson explained that some cities choose to purchase certain devices and sell to residents at a discount, but the City opted not to do that with this program. He explained how residents would receive the rebate for the eligible water sense labeled devices. He explained that the rebate funds are available on a first come, first serve basis.

Councilmember Menth asked for additional information on how new construction is defined.

City Planner Anderson explained that only replacement devices are eligible.

Motion by Councilmember Menth, seconded by Councilmember Riley, to recommend the City Council adopt Resolution #20-018 to enter into the Clean Water Fund Grant Agreement with the Metropolitan Council and to accept the \$28,000 grant to implement a water efficiency rebate program.

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

5.02: Consider City Council Recommendation to Indefinitely Suspend Pavement Sealcoating Program

City Engineer Westby reviewed the staff report and the recommendation that the Committee provide a recommendation to the City Council to indefinitely suspend the City's annual sealcoat program for reasons noted in the staff report.

Councilmember Menth asked if sealcoating is causing the pavement damage.

City Engineer Westby stated that there are many theories, but the most common theory is that the issues begin after the second sealcoat with the freeze/thaw cycles. He confirmed that roads that have not been sealcoated are not experiencing the same issues. He stated that staff is reviewing the most cost-effective manner to address the issue going forward. He stated that the discussion will continue in February and therefore the Committee can take action on its recommendation tonight or wait until the February meeting.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Menth, to table the recommendation related to the City's annual sealcoating program to the February meeting.

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

5.03: Consider City Council Recommendation to Accept Feasibility Report for 2020 Pavement Overlay Improvements, Improvement Project No. 20-02

City Engineer Westby reviewed the staff report and the recommendation for the Committee to recommend City Council acceptance of the Feasibility Report for the 2020 Pavement Overlay Improvements, Improvement Project No. 20-02.

Chairperson Kuzma stated that the funding source right now is extremely limited and therefore the City will need to be creative on what it can do for road maintenance. He believed there should be continued communication with the public in terms of what the City will be able to do in terms of road repair.

Councilmember Riley stated that it appears that the biggest problem the City continues to run into is that there is not enough pavement to mill for road projects. He asked how the City is going to be proactive when it continues to make decisions not to do anything. He stated that he is frustrated by the situation the City continues to be in because of past road construction practices and pavement sections that are too thin to be milled.

City Engineer Westby reviewed some of the available options. He stated that the City needs to do overlays at the right time, noting that previous attempts to complete overlays on pavement sections that were in a condition that was considered borderline for receiving an overlay generally did not provide the desired lifespan after the repair. He confirmed that the timing may not be the issue for some older streets, as the issue on some of those roads are the inconsistent/lack of pavement depth.

Motion by Councilmember Menth to recommend City Council acceptance of the Feasibility Report for the 2020 Pavement Overlay Improvements, Improvement Project No. 20-02.

Further discussion: Councilmember Riley stated that he is not happy with this as it would not seem to make sense to not fix things that need to be fixed. Chairperson Kuzma stated that is not what staff is saying. He stated that the City is going to look for better candidates for this type of repair rather than attempting to do a mill and overlay on streets that will not receive the desired benefit from the repair. Councilmember Menth agreed that the City would simply be looking for better prospects for this type of repair. City Engineer Westby stated that there are some additional options for rural roads that do not have curb and gutter and could just have an overlay without the mill. He noted that staff would also look for roads that are ready for their first overlay in order to maintain the repair schedule for those roads. Councilmember Riley asked if residents have already been alerted of the potential overlay improvements. City Engineer Westby noted that a mailing was sent to residents alerting them of the potential overlays and about a public open house, but a follow up letter was sent alerting residents that the overlays may no longer be completed, that the public meeting was canceled, and that they would receive another letter if improvements were again proposed for their street. He stated that the letter briefly summarized the information, but additional information is available to residents online. He stated that it is hard to put out information on the pavement management program and funding because there are so many unknowns. Councilmember Riley referenced option one and asked for additional information. City Engineer Westby explained that funding for this year is limited and that option has double in cost so only a portion of the roads may be able to be completed. Councilmember Riley asked if the improvements would be assessed. City Engineer Westby confirmed that assessments are proposed to pay for up to 25-percent of the project.

Councilmember Menth withdrew his motion.

Councilmember Menth asked if the Committee would feel more comfortable completing overlays on some of the roads.

Chairperson Kuzma stated that the City only has a limited amount of funds for repairs this year.

City Engineer Westby stated that staff can do a deeper dive to determine estimated costs and return that information to the Committee in February. He noted that staff could also bring other potential candidates for overlays so that the Committee could discuss both options.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Menth, to direct staff to bring back additional information to the Committee at the next meeting related to both options one and option three.

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

6. COMMITTEE / STAFF INPUT

6.01: Receive Update on Bunker Lake Boulevard Reconstruction – Armstrong Boulevard to Ramsey Boulevard

City Engineer Westby reviewed the staff report.

Councilmember Riley asked if a brief update could be sent related to the County communication via email as well. He asked if the County would be open to completing the work in one project, rather than the City completing one segment and the City completing the other segment.

City Engineer Westby confirmed he would bring additional information to the February meeting.

6.02: Staff Updates on Improvement Projects and Items of Interest

City Engineer Westby reviewed the staff updates on improvement projects and items of interest.

6.03: Review Future Topics Calendar

City Engineer Westby reviewed the future topics calendar.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Grant Riemer
Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.