

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

The Public Works Committee conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, August 18, 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

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 July 21, 2020, Meeting Minutes

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

Regular Meeting Minutes dated July 21, 2020

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

5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

5.01: Consider Recommendation to City Council Authorizing Requests for Quotes for 16660 Jasper Street Drainage Improvements, Improvement Project 19-13

City Engineer Westby reviewed the staff report and recommendation to recommend City Council authorization for Requests for Quotes for 16660 Jasper Street Drainage Improvements, Improvement Project 19-13.

Chairperson Kuzma asked if there would be any recourse to go back to Capstone.

City Engineer Westby stated that he was not aware of any recourse.

Councilmember Menth stated that it appeared that the ground drained properly before the homes were constructed, but after construction of the homes this issue arose. He asked if the City is supposed to pay \$16,000 to correct the problem Capstone created. He stated that he would not support the City paying those funds.

City Engineer Westby stated that staff has been trying to work with Capstone to try to find a reasonable solution.

Councilmember Menth asked if the as-built drawings had the correct grading on them.

City Engineer Westby stated that there is a note on the certificate dated November 26, 2007 showing a swale with a two percent grade. He stated that the builder did not construct the swale, and that the City must have missed this fact and accepted the as built certificate as submitted.

Councilmember Menth asked if the as-builts are then supposed to be checked against the grading plan.

City Engineer Westby confirmed that to be true. He stated that this appears to be something that fell through the cracks.

Chairperson Kuzma suggested that staff check with the City's insurer to determine if this would be a covered expense, possibly under errors and omissions insurance.

City Engineer Westby stated that he can follow up with the Finance Director and report back.

Councilmember Menth asked for additional information on the process.

City Engineer Westby reviewed the different steps and verification that is supposed to be followed.

Chairperson Kuzma commented that the biggest issue would be that it has been 12 years since the error occurred.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Menth, to recommend City Council authorize Requests for Quotes for 16660 Jasper Street Drainage Improvements, Improvement Project 19-13, with direction for staff to check on the insurance coverage.

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

5.02: Consider Recommendation to City Council Authorizing Requests for Quotes for 5751 164th Lane Drainage Improvements, Improvement Project 19-17

City Engineer Westby reviewed the staff report and recommendation to recommend City Council authorization for Requests for Quotes for 5751 164th Lane Drainage Improvements, Improvement Project 19-17.

Councilmember Riley asked for clarification on whether this drainage issue has existed for 30 years, and when the City was made aware of the issue.

City Engineer Westby stated that this issue appears to have existed for 30 years, but that the new homeowner expressed the issue to City Staff in the spring of 2019.

Councilmember Riley commented that the past two years have had higher than normal rainfall amounts and asked if that could be part of the problem.

City Engineer Westby commented that staff has visited the site and the issue does exist and is not simply due to higher than normal rain amounts during the winter of 2018/2019.

Chairperson Kuzma asked the price of the improvement.

City Engineer Westby replied that the cost estimate is about \$22,000 and reviewed the different elements of the proposed project.

Chairperson Kuzma stated that he is unsure that this is a City issue.

City Engineer Westby stated that stormwater generated from City right-of-way should not be drained across private property without an easement, therefore this is something the City should try to resolve.

Councilmember Menth asked if this could be delayed to provide time for the Committee to visit the site.

City Engineer Westby commented that it is getting close to the winter season. He commented that the private property owner filed a claim with the City's insurance company to pay for repairs to their home, and if the drainage issue is not resolved after repairs are made to the house the City could again be asked to pay for future damages. He confirmed that the insurance claim has been filed to the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust per the property owner's claim that the City is liable for damages to their home.

Chairperson Kuzma commented that the approval to go out for quotes could be provided tonight and members of the Committee could travel to the site prior to the Council reviewing the case.

Motion by Councilmember Menth, seconded by Councilmember Riley, to recommend City Council authorize Requests for Quotes for 5751 164th Lane Drainage Improvements, Improvement Project 19-17.

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

5.03: Consider Recommendation to City Council Authorizing Requests for Quotes for 9591 Inverness Lane Drainage Improvements, Improvement Project 20-08

City Engineer Westby reviewed the staff report and recommendation to recommend City Council authorization for Requests for Quotes for 9591 Inverness Lane Drainage Improvements, Improvement Project 20-08.

Councilmember Menth asked if the culvert under Inverness is functioning.

City Engineer Westby stated that the culvert is functioning, but the culvert is not large enough or deep enough, and there is not enough slope to allow it to adequately convey the stormwater runoff that drains across the backyard of 9591 Inverness Lane.

Chairperson Kuzma asked the estimate for this project.

City Engineer Westby replied that the estimate for this project is \$60,000. He explained how the different project elements would work.

Councilmember Riley asked if the problem existed other than the past two years.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer replied that there have been issues for the past two years.

City Engineer Westby explained that the problem occurs in the late winter/early spring when the water freezes and cannot flow through the pipe.

Councilmember Menth asked who would be to blame for this situation.

City Engineer Westby stated that this is a problem with conveying drainage through ditches versus storm sewer, as ditches fill up over time.

Councilmember Riley asked if there is another option.

City Engineer Westby replied that there is not another option that he would recommend.

Councilmember Riley asked if there would be an option to run a culvert under Jarvis to Elk River's side.

City Engineer Westby replied that he did not look into that option. He stated that staff could look into that option.

Motion by Councilmember Menth, seconded by Councilmember Riley, to recommend City Council authorize Requests for Quotes for 9591 Inverness Lane Drainage Improvements, Improvement Project 20-08, directing staff to also look at the option of a Jarvis culvert crossing.

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

6. COMMITTEE / STAFF INPUT

6.01: Receive Staff Updates on Improvement Projects, Studies, and Items of Interest

City Engineer Westby provided an update on current and proposed City, County and MnDOT improvement projects and studies, and on other items of interest to the Committee.

City Engineer Westby stated that staff continues to look at alternatives to sealcoating and provided an update on the option of rejuvenating pavements. He noted that a pilot test was completed on Ute Street between Alpine Drive and 154th Lane in July and displayed photographs and video clips. He stated that staff will continue to monitor this test section to see how it holds up. He provided additional details on the timing of when this would occur.

Councilmember Riley asked for an update on the timing of pavement repairs to 167th Avenue.

City Engineer Westby stated that 167th is not currently included in the CIP, and that is was previously included in CIP's as an overlay but will be added back, likely towards the front end of the CIP, as a reconstruction.

Councilmember Riley referenced the trail in front of the new Ramsey Storage facility on Ramsey Boulevard, noting that there is water standing on the trail.

City Engineer Westby replied that staff is working with the developer to correct that, among other items.

6.02: Review Future Topics Calendar

Public Works Superintendent Riemer provided an update on water usage and water levels.

City Engineer Westby provided an update on a culvert at the intersection of Cobalt and 175th which has settled and shifted. He stated that staff will be televising and likely repairing the culvert soon.

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 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Grant Riemer
Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.