

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

The Public Works Committee conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, November 17, 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 Administrator Kurt Ulrich  
                            Councilmember Debra Musgrove  
                            Assistant City Administrator Tim Gladhill

**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 October 20, 2020, Meeting Minutes**

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

Regular Meeting Minutes dated October 20, 2020

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

## **5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

### **5.01: Consider Recommendation to City Council Approving Proposal to Comply with America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018**

City Engineer Westby reviewed the staff report and noted that although the staff report identifies a different action, staff believes that there would be adequate time to complete this action in-house.

Councilmember Riley stated that it sounded like this would have required staff time even with a consultant, therefore even though it may take a little more staff time, there would be a cost savings.

City Engineer Westby confirmed that with a consultant they were estimating 55 to 60 hours of staff time and if they complete this in-house, he estimates 100 to 120 hours.

Motion by Councilmember Menth, seconded by Councilmember Riley, to authorize City staff to complete the RRA.

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

### **5.02: Consider Recommendation to City Council Authorizing Flashing Yellow Arrow Studies at Select Intersections.**

City Engineer Westby reviewed the staff report and noted that the Committee could recommend that the City Council authorize the hiring of SEH, Inc. to analyze the feasibility of modifying signal systems to add flashing yellow arrow operations for identified intersections.

Chairperson Kuzma asked if the interchanges that will be added on Highway 10 will change traffic counts/patterns.

City Engineer Westby confirmed that there are a number of improvement projects that can impact traffic patterns/counts but noted that the Highway 10 improvements are still a number of years ahead.

Councilmember Menth asked if the signal systems would be changed with the improvement projects.

City Engineer Westby stated that the signal systems would not be changed. He stated that once the improvement projects are completed, Anoka County would complete traffic counts and perhaps change the timing of the signals.

Councilmember Riley asked for details on what would be included in the initial cost.

City Engineer Westby stated that the initial cost would be for the study and to determine whether a flashing yellow light would be allowed, and if it would be feasible, the estimated cost would be provided.

Councilmember Menth noted that the original request was submitted for the intersection at Sunwood and Ramsey Boulevard and asked if there were other intersections being considered.

City Engineer Westby confirmed that the request was for that one intersection, but staff had identified additional intersections and has received comments related to other possible locations.

Chairperson Kuzma asked if the County budgets funds for sign retrofits.

City Engineer Westby confirmed that the County budgets \$100,000 each year for that purpose.

Councilmember Riley stated that the presentation noted that the cost to upgrade to a flashing yellow light would have to be funded by the City. He commented that the intersection is of a County road and City road and therefore the County Commission had stated that should be a 50/50 cost share between the two. He asked for clarification from staff.

City Engineer Westby provided details on the County's cost-share policy.

Councilmember Musgrove stated that she suggested that intersection of Sunfish and Alpine. She stated that perhaps the resident that brought this forward would feel differently if the cost were known. She commented that she believes that the cost is high without participation from the County. She stated that even though she suggested an intersection, now that she knows the cost, she would prefer to wait.

Councilmember Riley asked if there are some intersections that are known to be easier updates with lower costs.

City Engineer Westby replied that none of the intersections would be considered low hanging fruit. He noted that the studies would need to be completed for the intersections.

Councilmember Menth commented that he questions this action, as the world has survived this long without flashing yellow lights. He stated that some of these intersections are fairly new and this would be considered a want and not a need. He commented that while it would be nice to have some things, there are needs in the City that have to be addressed, such as road and a water treatment center.

Councilmember Riley agreed that it would not make sense to move forward at this time but could be something to consider in the future when updates are made to intersections.

Chairperson Kuzma asked which intersections are City, County or State.

City Engineer Westby provided those details.

Councilmember Menth referenced stoplights that have been put in the last few years and asked what initiated those signals being added.

City Engineer Westby provided details on the different elements that warrant a signal system being added to an intersection.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Menth, to postpone hiring a consultant to conduct flashing yellow operation studies at this time but ask staff to continue to identify intersection modifications that could be completed in the future.

Further discussion: City Engineer Westby asked if staff should prepare a response to the resident that requested the improvement. Chairperson Kuzma confirmed that would be appropriate.

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

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

### **6.01: Staff Updates on Improvement Projects 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.

### **6.02: Review Future Topics Calendar**

No comments.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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Grant Riemer  
Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Amanda Staple

*TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*