

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

The Public Works Committee conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Chairperson Chris Riley
 Councilmember Debra Musgrove
 Councilmember Matt Woestehoff

Also Present: Public Works Superintendent Grant Riemer
 City Engineer Bruce Westby
 Deputy City Administrator Tim Gladhill
 Fire Chief Matt Kohner
 Police Chief Jeff Katers

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Riley called the regular meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 5:36 p.m.

2. CITIZEN INPUT

There was none.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

Deputy City Administrator noted that they are still waiting for the applicant to arrive related to Item 5.01. He suggested the group delay that item and move up Item 6.01 to give the applicant additional time to arrive for the discussion.

Motion by Councilmember Woestehoff, seconded by Councilmember Musgrove, to approve the agenda, as amended.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Councilmembers Woestehoff and Musgrove.
Voting No: None.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve January 19, 2021, Meeting Minutes

City Engineer Westby noted that staff made a few corrections to the minutes from the version that was first published with the agenda and republished the corrected version prior to the meeting.

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff, to approve the following minutes:

Regular Meeting Minutes dated January 19, 2021

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Councilmembers Musgrove and Woestehoff. 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 projects.

Councilmember Musgrove asked the timeframe on the well casing grant.

City Engineer Westby replied that the City was just awarded that grant agreement and has through the summer to get the work done. He stated that the well driller is working on the plans now and intends to begin work in March and anticipates being done in May, weather dependent.

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

Chairperson Riley asked when 167th is going to be repaired.

City Engineer Westby believed that is scheduled for 2023.

Chairperson Riley stated that is the road he receives the most complaints about.

City Engineer Westby confirmed that staff also receives complaints on that roadway.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if roads move up in order because of changing conditions.

City Engineer Westby confirmed that staff reviews the CIP each year to determine if projects should be moved based on updated road ratings and funding sources.

Chairperson Riley asked if 167th is an MSA road.

City Engineer Westby confirmed that to be true.

5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

5.01: Consider Street Names for Riverstone South Addition

Deputy City Administrator Gladhill reviewed the staff report.

Police Chief Katers stated that within City Code both major and minor plats recognize the naming of streets following County grids. He stated that the naming grid goes throughout the County, using the example of different cities that use birds or trees. He stated that there have been approved changes in the past but in this case, these roads match roads in existence today. He explained that it is very important for public safety response to be able to use the grid, noting that he knows how to get to a home without looking at a map based on the address. He stated that he does not mind adaptations if there is a public benefit, but he does not see that to be the case in this request.

Fire Chief Kohner echoed the comment that consistency is very important in public safety. He stated that when deviations are made, it creates a larger learning curve and does not benefit the City. He noted that there are a number of residents on these streets already and therefore it is important to keep those roads running north and south following the Anoka County grid.

Tom Bakritges, Capstone Homes, stated that they view this as common sense and are aware of the grid naming system. He stated that they are requesting to replace unicorn with umbrellabird. He noted that unicorn is not an animal and is horrible for marketing. He stated that umbrellabird is a unique name that is also an actual animal and therefore follows the grid naming system. He stated that the second request is made in order to honor the Pearson family on the property. He stated that from the beginning they have said they would like to use Pearson as a street name, whether that is parkway, drive, or street. He stated that most cities are flexible as long as the north/south and east/west pattern is followed.

Chairperson Riley confirmed agreement on the other three street names of Quintana, Rabbit and Tiger.

Councilmember Musgrove asked the thought process behind changing names in Riverstone North.

Chairperson Riley explained that the County planned the street name as sloth, but the applicant and City agreed to replace that with snowy owl.

Councilmember Musgrove stated that change would then replace the mammal with a bird. She asked if the applicant is open to other U names. She stated that she is not a fan of unicorn but would like to stay in the mammal theme.

Councilmember Woestehoff stated that he does not have a problem with unicorn and also did not have a problem with sloth. He stated that he understands the goal of Pearson Parkway but could not support that as it does not match the alphabet pattern. He stated that he lives in the mineral section of roads on Uranimite and noted that uranimite is not actually a word outside of the street name. He stated that he supports the City recommendations because of the public safety reasoning.

Chairperson Riley stated that there is already a snowy owl and would prefer to keep that. He stated that perhaps Pearson Parkway could be moved to the U road placement as a compromise.

Councilmember Woestehoff noted that Unicorn Street already exists in Ramsey with addresses on it.

Councilmember Musgrove commented that she believes that staff will be able to adapt and find the address based on street name. She stated that she does like the idea to change unicorn to Pearson and keep snowy owl.

Councilmember Specht asked and received confirmation that there are addresses in existence on unicorn. He recognized that could be difficult for marketing and stated that he would like to honor the Pearson name and believes this to be a good compromise.

Mr. Bakritges confirmed that they would also support changing unicorn to Pearson and keeping snowy owl.

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff, to recommend that the City Council adopt the following street names for Riverstone South: Quintana, Rabbit, Snowy Owl, Tiger, and Pearson.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Councilmembers Musgrove and Woestehoff. Voting No: None.

6. COMMITTEE / STAFF INPUT (Continued)

6.02: Review Future Topics Calendar

Chairperson Riley welcomed input on the calendar.

City Engineer Westby stated that staff is trying in earnest to knock some items off the list and will continue to do so as quickly as they can.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff, to adjourn the Public Works Committee meeting.

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Grant Riemer
Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.