

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

The Public Works Committee conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 15, 2022, 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  
                              Civil Engineer II Joe Feriancek

**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 Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff, to approve the agenda, as presented.

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

**4.     APPROVE MINUTES**

**4.01: Approve February 15, 2022, Meeting Minutes**

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

Regular Meeting Minutes dated February 15, 2022

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

**5.     COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**5.01: Consider Recommending City Council Approving Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids for Sunwood Drive and Waco Street Reconstruction, Improvement Project #22-01**

Civil Engineer II Feriancek reviewed the staff report and recommendation of staff to recommend City Council approval of plans and specifications and authorizing advertisement for bids for Sunwood Drive and Waco Street Reconstruction, Improvement Project #22-01.

Chairperson Riley asked if the curb would be sprayed white during this project.

Civil Engineer II Feriancek replied that is not planned for this project. He noted that although that had been done in a previous project it is not recommended for this project.

City Engineer Westby replied that spraying existing curb with white curing compound is done for aesthetic purposes only, though it is needed for new curb and gutter to cure to full strength. He stated that curb repairs can be sprayed with a clear curing compound to avoid a situation where the new section stands out in white. He noted that the white curing compound does fade within several years and has additional cost.

Chairperson Riley acknowledged that it would depend upon the number of curb sections being replaced. He commented that he is not wanting to spend extra money or waste money but noted a past project where almost every other section was repaired, and the new white sections stood out.

Civil Engineer II Feriancek confirmed that this project has minimal spot repairs.

Councilmember Musgrove commented that she is not in favor of painting the curbs and asked if perhaps information on the curing and fading could be included in information sent to residents.

City Engineer Westby noted that on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, the City would place these cases on the consent agenda noting the recommendation of the Committee for approval, should that be the action tonight, in order to advertise for bids. He stated that when the bids come back, the projects would then appear on the regular agenda. He confirmed the consensus of the Committee with that process.

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff, to recommend City Council approval of plans and specifications and authorizing advertisement for bids for Sunwood Drive and Waco Street Reconstruction, Improvement Project #22-01 to be presented on the consent agenda at the next Council meeting.

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

**5.02: Consider Recommending City Council Approving Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids for 2022 Neighborhood Pavement Overlay Improvements, Improvement Project #22-04**

Civil Engineer II Feriancek reviewed the case and recommendation of staff to recommend City Council approval of plans and specifications and authorizing advertisement for bids for 2022 Neighborhood Pavement Overlay Improvements, Improvement Project #22-04.

Chairperson Riley asked if the projects proposed tonight are in the worst condition.

City Engineer Westby stated that each year staff reviews the CIP and considers visual observations, complaints received, and the number of people using the road in order to schedule the projects.

Chairperson Riley recognized that there are most likely roads in worse condition than the roads in this project but noted that those roads would require reconstruction rather than an overlay for improvement.

Civil Engineer II Feriancek confirmed that the intent of an overlay is to keep a good road good. He stated that a rating of six or seven is needed for an overlay; once the road goes below that rating it would not be helped by an overlay.

Councilmember Musgrove asked for information on cost differences mentioned in the presentation.

Civil Engineer II Feriancek replied that the plans were about 95 percent complete when the case was developed and since that time the plans have been completed which would have accounted for the slight difference.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if there is grant funding included for this project.

Civil Engineer II Feriancek confirmed that grant funds would be used for inflow and infiltration improvements.

Councilmember Woestehoff asked if the increased cost from CIP to current estimates was due to increased project scope or inflation.

Civil Engineer II Feriancek replied that it was a combination of both. He noted that there were more ADA compliance issues identified for the project and staff also anticipates inflation.

Chairperson Riley commented that it was stated that for one road project 1.5 inches would be milled and replaced and asked if that would be adequate on this project.

Civil Engineer II Feriancek replied that milling and overlaying 2 inches is better but 1.5 inches would still be sufficient and would meet the City's standard practices.

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff, to recommend City Council approval of plans and specifications and authorizing advertisement for bids for 2022 Neighborhood Pavement Overlay Improvements, Improvement Project #22-04 to be presented on the consent agenda for the next Council meeting.

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

**5.03: Consider Recommending City Council Approving Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids for Wood Pond Hills 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Street Reconstructions, Improvement Project #22-06**

Civil Engineer II Feriancek reviewed the case and recommendation of staff to recommend that the City Council approve plans and specifications and authorize advertisement for bids for Wood Pond Hills 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Street Reconstructions, Improvement Project #22-06.

Councilmember Musgrove commented that part of this project was slated for 2026 and was moved up. She asked for details on timing and whether portions were included for 2022.

City Engineer Westby replied that one street was added to the project scope last year or the year before along with the curb and gutter repair.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if any of the project would be eligible for funding through the Lower Rum River Water Management Organization.

City Engineer Westby replied that the issues are caused by street runoff and therefore it would not be eligible for that type of funding.

Chairperson Riley stated that Junkite had been mentioned before and therefore he did not have a problem adding that section. He noted that most of the streets are cul-de-sacs which would typically have low traffic levels and therefore would lead him to believe they should be in better condition.

City Engineer Westby replied that the collector and through streets do get more general traffic but the same number of garbage trucks, delivery vehicles, etc. use the cul-de-sacs. He stated that staff attempts to go into a neighborhood to complete as much work as they can at one time to prevent doing work in that neighborhood over multiple years.

Chairperson Riley referenced Iodine which appears to stop at an addition line.

Civil Engineer II Feriancek confirmed that the entire area is being improved, but the work on the other side of the line is within the overlay project.

Councilmember Woestehoff referenced Helium and asked why that is not being worked on.

City Engineer Westby replied that was improved recently.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if construction vehicles would avoid 146<sup>th</sup> and instead use the streets that will be repaired.

City Engineer Westby replied that they do attempt to preserve streets that have been recently improved or that are in good condition and instead use streets that are going to be reconstructed or need reconstruction in attempt to minimize further damage.

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff, to recommend City Council approval of plans and specifications and authorizing advertisement for bids for Wood Pond Hills 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Street Reconstructions, Improvement Project #22-06 to be presented on the consent agenda at the next Council meeting.

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

**5.04: Consider Recommending City Council Approving Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids for 2022 Crack Seal Improvements, Improvement Project #22-08**

Civil Engineer II Feriancek reviewed the case and recommendation of staff to recommend that the City Council approve plans and specifications and authorize advertisement for bids for 2022 Crack Seal Improvements, Improvement Project #22-08.

City Engineer Westby stated that the City has received COVID funds to be used for street maintenance and would propose to use those funds for 2022 pavement rejuvenation projects.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if this would be the second or third year with pavement rejuvenation.

City Engineer Westby replied that this would be the third year. He noted that the first year was just a trial, doing one section of a street. He commented that staff has been completing observations and taking photos to document the progress.

Councilmember Musgrove asked how long other cities have been using rejuvenation and whether there has been benefit shown.

City Engineer Westby replied that Saint Michael has been using rejuvenation for at least eight years and noted that many other cities have joined in using that improvement. He stated that the goal is to apply it on newer streets to prevent deterioration, though some cities have recently been applying it to older streets as pilot projects.

Councilmember Musgrove stated that she would agree that the funding should be increased.

Chairperson Riley agreed, as long as it makes sense.

City Engineer Westby commented that staff is still tracking the improvements that other cities are using for roads and will continue to do so.

Councilmember Woestehoff asked and received confirmation that the action tonight would be related to the crack seal project and the rejuvenation project will come back before the Committee.

Motion by Councilmember Woestehoff, seconded by Councilmember Musgrove, to recommend City Council approval of plans and specifications and authorize advertisement for bids for 2022 Crack Seal Improvements, Improvement Project #22-08 to be added to the consent agenda for the next Council meeting.

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

**5.05: Consider Recommending City Council Approval to Advance Construction of 2022-2031 Capital Improvement Program Projects #19-STR-004 and #21-PARK-002 from 2024 to 2023**

City Engineer Westby reviewed the case and recommendation of staff to recommend that the City Council approve advance construction of 2022-2031 Capital Improvement Program projects #19-STR-004 and #21-PARK-002 from 2024 to 2023.

Chairperson Riley asked how resident concerns would be addressed that the school construction would damage the road.

City Engineer Westby replied that the paving would be completed right before the time the school is proposed to be opened in the Fall of 2023. He stated that the City will work with construction traffic to access the site from Variolite using a temporary access road. He commented that this is a State aid street that is built for heavy traffic and therefore he does not have concerns, but again noted that heavy hauling could utilize a temporary access. He provided additional details on the proposed design of the road and trail.

Councilmember Musgrove asked why construction traffic would use Variolite, which was recently reconstructed, rather than using Armstrong which is a County road.

City Engineer Westby replied that the Armstrong and Alpine roundabout project will be going on during 2023 and that Armstrong may be reduced to a single lane. He commented that Variolite was built to handle this type of traffic.

Councilmember Musgrove commented that it would seem that the trucks coming in and out on the unfinished road would put more pressure on the foundation and then it would make sense to wait to put the final layer of the road on until construction is completed. She asked if 161<sup>st</sup> Avenue would be constructed to a better standard.

City Engineer Westby confirmed that 161<sup>st</sup> Avenue would be built to a higher standard.

Councilmember Musgrove agreed that it makes sense to repair the Central Park parking lot at the same time for efficiency.

Chairperson Riley asked if paving 157<sup>th</sup> Avenue, a gravel road, should be included as an alternative.

City Engineer Westby commented that there could be some cost savings in doing that with these projects.

Councilmember Woestehoff commented that regardless of the school project, 161<sup>st</sup> Avenue needs to be reconstructed and therefore he supports this action. He stated that he would still have questions related to drainage in this area. He asked whether curb and gutter would be added to the street.

City Engineer Westby replied that the street currently has a bituminous curb and typically like replacement is done meaning concrete curb and gutter would be proposed. He commented that if there are not ditches for drainage, they use curb and gutter. He commented that he is unsure there would be trunk storm sewer under the street, but they would push the drainage to available swales, ditches and/or low areas within easements.

Chairperson Riley confirmed the consensus of the Council that 161<sup>st</sup> should be moved up regardless of the school and that the parking lot for Central Park should be included as well.

City Engineer Westby stated that staff has not thought through all of the questions related to this project and therefore staff would have additional conversations before bringing it to the Council. He welcomed any additional considerations the Committee may have.

Councilmember Musgrove stated that she would like to include the potential paving of 157<sup>th</sup> Avenue and would like to know the potential cost and funding for that.

City Engineer Westby replied that staff could look further into possible funding options and bring that information back to the Council. He recognized the higher costs for 2022 projects with rising costs for construction and materials.

Chairperson Riley agreed that he would like to see that included as an alternate.

Motion by Councilmember Woestehoff, seconded by Councilmember Musgrove, to recommend that the City Council approve advance construction of 2022-2031 Capital Improvement Program projects #19-STR-004 and #21-PARK-002 from 2024-2023 and to consider adding paving of 157<sup>th</sup> as an alternative.

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

#### **5.06: Consider Recommendations to City Council for Flashing Yellow Arrow Improvements at Sunwood Drive and Ramsey Boulevard Intersection**

City Engineer Westby reviewed the case.

Chairperson Riley recognized the expense and asked if that cost would have been anticipated giving the age of the intersection.

City Engineer Westby guessed that a higher cost could have been estimated because of the age but commented that there was no way to know how extensive the improvements would be without the SEH study.

Chairperson Riley asked if there would be any improvements in the near future planned that could bring this cost down.

City Engineer Westby replied that he was not aware of anything that would precipitate that. He did not believe the Highway 10 improvements would drive that improvement but noted that could be a possibility. He commented that at this time there is nothing in the plans that would involve adjacent intersection improvements. He noted that he could ask that question.

Chairperson Riley commented that if there is a time in the future where something changes, he could possibly consider it at that time.

Councilmember Musgrove stated that perhaps this intersection was constructed before flashing yellow lights were allowed.

City Engineer Westby confirmed that he did not believe that option had been federally approved when the intersection was constructed.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if the estimated cost included inflation.

City Engineer Westby confirmed that the consultant used the most up to date bid information from Anoka County.

Councilmember Musgrove commented that she would not be in favor of this improvement at this time and agreed that perhaps this could be done as a part of another project.

Councilmember Woestehoff asked if there is an average lifecycle for a stoplight. He noted that this intersection is roughly 20 years old and perhaps upgrades could be made when replacement is needed.

City Engineer Westby replied that the position of Anoka County, as he understands it, is that flashing yellow light improvements are considered for those where two County roads meet. He stated that Anoka County may therefore not do any upgrades to this signal system and would only maintain the infrastructure.

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff, to recommend that the Council deny the proposal from SEH for flashing yellow improvements at the intersection of Sunwood Drive and Ramsey Boulevard.

Further discussion: City Engineer Westby replied that he can continue to research FYA options at this and other intersections and add that to the future topics calendar. Chairperson Riley agreed that could be done but confirmed the direction of the Committee that it would not support a cost of \$94,000 for the improvement.

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, County and MnDOT improvement projects and studies, and on other items of interest to the Committee.

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

City Engineer Westby reviewed the future topics calendar.

## **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 6:58 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Grant Riemer  
Public Works Superintendent

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