

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

The Public Works Committee conducted a regular meeting on Monday, August 22, 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:         City Engineer / Interim Public Works Director Bruce Westby  
                              Assistant City Engineer 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 Woestehoff, seconded by Councilmember Musgrove, to approve the agenda, as presented.

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

**4.     APPROVE MINUTES**

**4.01: Approve July 19, 2022, Meeting Minutes**

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

Regular Meeting Minutes dated July 19, 2022

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

**5.     COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

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

### **6.01: Receive Update on Argon Street Drainage Improvements**

City Engineer / Interim Public Works Director Westby provided an update on the status of staff's efforts to identify potential drainage improvements to prevent stormwater runoff from entering the home at 15410 Argon Street during spring thaws and heavy rain events.

Councilmember Woestehoff asked for details on the proposed grading.

City Engineer / Interim Public Works Director Westby replied that they would grade a shallow swale across the middle of Mr. Ridgeway's property but would not plan on grading within the drip line for the tree and would instead use a small concrete structure to divert the water coming out of the culvert.

Chairperson Riley invited input from the resident.

Dan Ridgeway replied that they would like to have the work done before winter. He stated that he received an email from staff with these plans. He noted that his neighbor is an engineer and wants to review the plans, but he stated that this plan appears to work.

City Engineer / Interim Public Works Director Westby replied that this is a fairly preliminary drawing that appears to work. He noted that additional work would need to be done to finalize the plan. He stated that typically an easement would be obtained but, in this case, it would be difficult to obtain easements on impacted properties.

Mr. Ridgeway replied that this has been a nightmare. He stated that the last alternative would be to condemn the property because even if he sold the home, the problem would continue.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if the City could get more definition on the scenario that water is diverted from 15410 and whether that would impact 15411.

Chairperson Riley commented that is the same path where water is already flowing.

Mr. Ridgeway replied that neighbor does not have any issues with the water drainage.

City Engineer / Interim Public Works Director Westby confirmed that the City has not received any complaints from that residents and noted that this would not increase the amount of runoff.

Councilmember Musgrove commented that she understands that the amount of water would not be changed but the direction it is flowing would be changed.

City Engineer / Interim Public Works Director Westby stated that this would better define the path of the water on this property, and it would not change anything on downstream properties.

Mr. Ridgeway commented that the water runs through the property to the west at a much lower elevation than the home and further distance from the home.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if the resident would be willing to participate in a cost-share if the cost were \$10,000.

Mr. Ridgeway replied that he would not be willing to pay anything as it was the City that changed the contour of their yard.

Chairperson Riley asked if the resident is speaking about the replacement of the septic system.

Mr. Ridgeway confirmed that the new septic system was installed and noted that the City also recontoured the yard.

City Engineer / Interim Public Works Director Westby replied that public works did some regrading of the property in 2017. He commented that was done for the previous property owner as there was an issue created by the installation of the new septic system. He stated that the new septic was installed in 2012 and was inspected by the City. He stated that in 2017, the property owner called the City because of the problems they were having with water getting into the home so public works did some grading in attempt to keep water from the home.

Chairperson Riley asked if they should consider putting a berm where the sandbags are now in addition to the proposed plan as extra assurance.

City Engineer / Interim Public Works Director Westby asked if the property owner uses that entrance.

Mr. Ridgeway replied that his wife uses that lower level as her office and has the dogs with her which go in and out of that door. He asked how the snow in the winter would melt between the home and berm.

City Engineer / Interim Public Works Director Westby replied that they have not looked at a berm option and believe that this solution would work and allow the door to continue to be used.

Councilmember Woestehoff asked when the next planned improvement of Argon would be.

City Engineer / Interim Public Works Director Westby did not believe that is currently scheduled in the 10-year CIP.

Councilmember Woestehoff requested that the realignment of the culvert be included in that improvement.

Mr. Ridgeway noted that because there is not curb on the road, the water does not follow the contour of the street and instead empties into their yard.

Chairperson Riley asked if there is an easement on the other side of the property that could be swapped.

City Engineer / Interim Public Works Director Westby replied that there are only standard perimeter easements.

Mr. Ridgeway commented that in a recent heavy rain event, he walked to where the water goes into the culvert, and it continues to flow at a high speed which he believes is a safety concern for small children as they could get sucked in.

Chairperson Riley commented that the Committee did discuss that at the last meeting and there was concern that putting a grate would trap someone under the water.

Councilmember Woestehoff commented that the concern was with someone being pushed against the culvert.

Chairperson Riley confirmed that Mr. Ridgeway is satisfied with this plan and would like it to move forward.

City Engineer / Interim Public Works Director Westby commented that this should be a quick process. He stated that they will look further at the diversion structure for the end of the culvert, but the grading and turf will only be a few days of work. He commented that the work could easily be done in October. He asked if the Committee would like to see more of the finished plans in September. He stated that if the cost is around \$10,000, staff could solicit bids from a few contractors to bring back.

Chairperson Riley commented that he did not believe this needs to come back to the Committee and could proceed to the City Council.

City Engineer / Interim Public Works Director Westby commented that because of the cost and the fact that this was not on the CIP, this would be placed on the Consent Agenda and confirmed consensus of the Committee.

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff, to direct staff to finalize the plans for the drainage improvement plans for the property at 15410 Argon Street not to exceed \$10,000.

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

Chairperson Riley thanked staff for finding a more cost-effective solution.

## **6.02: Receive Updates on Improvement Projects, Studies, and Items of Interest**

City Engineer / Interim Public Works Director Westby provided an update on the 161<sup>st</sup> Avenue reconstruct project, noting that the case will be presented to the full Council the following night.

Councilmember Woestehoff asked and received confirmation that the trail will be located on the north side of 161<sup>st</sup> Avenue with minimal impact to trees.

City Engineer / Interim Public Works Director Westby provided an update on 167<sup>th</sup> Avenue reconstruction plans.

Councilmember Woestehoff asked for more details on the off-road trail mentioned.

City Engineer / Interim Public Works Director Westby provided additional clarification.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if the road should be posted at a slower speed near the businesses on the east end of the road.

City Engineer / Interim Public Works Director Westby confirmed that staff could look at traffic calming options.

Chairperson Riley commented that some sort of pedestrian facility would be necessary for this road and confirmed consensus that should be included in the design.

City Engineer / Interim Public Works Director Westby confirmed that they would review options for pedestrian facilities.

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

Chairperson Riley stated that at Business Appreciation Day he heard many positive comments about the Highway 10 construction project in Anoka.

Councilmember Musgrove commented that she has heard a comment from a business owner that their business has slowed during construction.

City Engineer / Interim Public Works Director Westby commented that staff is learning from the Anoka project and can hopefully address some of those things in the Ramsey project.

Councilmember Musgrove referenced the Elk River corridor study, recognizing there has been progress made but asked if the final report would come to the Public Works Committee or the full Council.

City Engineer / Interim Public Works Director Westby stated that once the final draft of the study is received, he plans to bring that to the Committee for review.

Chairperson Riley stated that the trees within the Lennar project have died and asked if staff could follow up. He referenced a trail segment along Puma for the length of the developer's property but stated that the trail segment goes nowhere.

City Engineer / Interim Public Works Director Westby commented that the reconstruction of Alpine Drive is included in the CIP and will explore a connection to that trail. He confirmed that there is a two-year warranty on trees planted in Lennar's Northfork Meadows development and noted that staff does follow up on those issues and that the trees will be replaced.

### **6.03: Review Future Topics Calendar**

Councilmember Woestehoff stated that perhaps a future presentation could be made on trail gaps and median maintenance noting that those items have been on the list for a long time.

## **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 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Bruce Westby  
City Engineer / Interim Public Works Director

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