

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

The Public Works Committee conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, 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/Public Works Director Bruce Westby  
                              Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Mark Riverblood  
                              Assistant City Engineer Joe Feriancek  
                              Public Works Streets Supervisor Shane Turner

**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 March 21, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

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

Regular Meeting Minutes dated March 21, 2023

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

**5.     COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

### **5.01: Consider Boulevard Trees for the Barren Side of Sunwood Drive in The COR**

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood reviewed the staff report and recommendation to proceed with the Base Bid planting only at this time in the amount of \$45,639. The Add Alternate could be considered with some sort of cost-sharing agreement with the adjoining landowner, or at a future time.

Councilmember Musgrove asked for a discrepancy between the numbers in the presentation versus the numbers in the report.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood replied that the difference was the cost for grass seed that he had forgotten to include.

Councilmember Musgrove stated that she spoke with the private business owner a while back and he had stated that he would not be interested as the trees could be damaged during construction when the site is developed. She asked if the area proposed for the trees would be protected during future construction practices.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood provided details on the proposed planting location. He noted that the City followed a similar plan on the other side of the street and those trees were not damaged during construction of those sites.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if this action would increase the value of the land sale and whether dollars would be reallocated to the forestry fund at that time.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood stated that the City could administer a land sale proceed to come back to that fund but did not believe that would be necessary. He stated that he cannot demonstrate that someone would pay more for a lot with trees on it, but the land would look nicer and have better curb appeal. He stated that it would also reduce the cost for the developer to plant those trees and install irrigation in that area. He commented that there would be benefit to all properties that purchase land and will also provide a community benefit in traffic calming and the general aesthetic. He noted that planting these trees now would also avoid significant size differences between the trees on each side of the road.

Chairperson Riley commented that this seems to be a good use of the forestry fund and did also support the concept of having trees of similar sizes on both sides of the road.

Councilmember Musgrove commented that she previously did not support this but was happy to see the lower bids and identified funding source. She stated that this will also improve the aesthetic which provides benefit to the local businesses.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood stated that he did send the case to Mr. Kuker and has had communication with him but noted that his lack of response most likely signals that he does not want to participate in this project.

Motion by Councilmember Woestehoff, seconded by Councilmember Musgrove, to recommend City Council approval regarding the installation of boulevard trees and irrigation, at a not to exceed cost amount of \$47,000.

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

### **5.02: Consider Recommending City Council Approval of 2023 Temporary Pavement Repairs Plan**

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby reviewed the staff report and recommendation.

Councilmember Woestehoff asked the number of miles that would be pavement overlays.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby replied that those areas occur in many intersections, noting that staff is currently surveying and marking to provide the square yard quantity.

Councilmember Woestehoff referenced Alpine eastbound between Variolite and Ramsey Boulevard and asked if that would be included. It was noted that section was missed. He stated that he appreciates this information and plan to address these issues. He stated that he also likes the idea of using a contractor to help ease the burden on public works staff.

Chairperson Riley agreed noting that is the only way they would be able to get more work done. He asked a timeline for when this work would be completed.

Public Works Street Supervisor Turner provided details on the current street work orders, noting that there are only four streets workers. He commented that the contracted services will greatly assist in accomplishing this work. He stated that he does have people ready to begin as early as Monday but acknowledged that they would still have to complete the RFP process. He stated that he was able to find one contractor that could begin Monday but was having difficulty finding a second. He was concerned that once road postings are lifted, this would become a lower priority project for a contractor.

Councilmember Woestehoff asked the budgetary number and whether this would fall below \$750,000.

Public Works Street Supervisor Turner confirmed that the project could be broken into sections to ensure that number is not exceeded.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby confirmed that is the budgeted number, but the Finance Director requested that only \$600,000 or \$650,000 be spent on this process this year.

Chairperson Riley commented that he feels that this is an emergency situation because of the deteriorating condition of the roads. He asked if they could find a way to move forward with this.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if staff feels that this work could be completed within the \$600,000 range.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby commented that he believes they would be over that if the overlays are included.

Public Works Street Supervisory Turner replied that there are different levels of spending included in the list and provided additional details on the amount of material and time that could be spent in different areas. He stated that he could provide an hourly rate and price per ton, but the ultimate cost would not be known until they are in the field.

Chairperson Riley commented that they could determine that those are acceptable and reasonable rates.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby stated that staff intends to bring this to the City Council this following Tuesday and believed that they would have more information on the cost estimate as well as input from the finance department. He stated that staff could have discussions to determine if the process of obtaining comparison bids could be avoided.

Chairperson Riley stated that perhaps the rates are compared to rates obtained by other cities following similar practices. He stated that if they can then avoid that process, they could feel comfortable knowing that the rates are competitive.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby stated that perhaps there are options to complete some of the higher priority pavement patching work without advertising for bids in order to begin at least a portion of the work as quickly as possible.

Chairperson Riley encouraged staff to continue to let them know what is needed to address the issue.

Councilmember Musgrove thanked staff for their efforts.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood commented that public works staff are often getting negative attention from the public, which makes it hard to get their job done because of the frustration of the community around this issue.

Public Works Street Supervisor Turner commented that it would be helpful to have a few additional seasonal employees in order to address some of the other regular seasonal maintenance items during the growing season.

### **5.03: Consider Recommending City Council Approval to Order Vector Trailer**

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby reviewed the staff report and recommendation to recommend City Council approval to purchase the vector trailer for the reasons noted within the staff report.

Public Works Street Supervisor Turner stated that this vector trailer would assist with the jetter truck. He stated that the City does have an agreement with Anoka, where if the jetter truck for either city was to go down, the other city would provide assistance. He stated that the vector trailer would be able to reach some of the more remote areas, noting that there are some areas that have previously not been accessible. He provided details on the cost and inclusion of the boiler.

Chairperson Riley asked if this is the next most important piece of equipment that would be needed.

Public Works Street Supervisor Turner replied that this would be well used.

Councilmember Woestehoff asked if the jetter truck has a boiler.

Public Works Street Supervisor Turner replied that it does not.

Councilmember Woestehoff commented that this would seem to be a better solution in some instances.

Councilmember Musgrove commented that this would seem to be valuable in all seasons. She asked how the overage from the budgeted amount would be funded.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby replied that the stormwater fund would still fund the entire purchase price.

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff, to recommend City Council approval to purchase the vector trailer in 2023.

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

**5.04: Consider Recommending City Council Approval of Adding Streets within Rivenwick 3<sup>rd</sup> and Rivenwick Village Subdivisions to 2023 MSA Pavement Overlay Improvements, Improvement Project #23-06**

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek reviewed the staff report and recommendation to recommend City Council approval of adding streets within Rivenwick 3<sup>rd</sup> and Rivenwick Village subdivisions to 2023 MSA Pavement Overlay Improvements, Improvement Project #23-06.

Chairperson Riley asked and received confirmation that these are City streets.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek commented that the streets marked in blue are City streets while the others marked are private and the improvements would be kept to the City streets and right-of-way.

Councilmember Musgrove commented that since they will be out there for the Riverdale project it would make sense to include this section. She noted that it would also be timely to have this done prior to the Highway 10 project.

Councilmember Woestehoff stated that the project is labeled as an MSA overlay and asked if there would be an issues as these are not MSA roads.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek replied that when there is an MSA project the MSA funding and local funding are kept separate.

Chairperson Riley thanked staff for bringing this forward to combine like projects.

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff, to recommend City Council approval of adding streets within Rivenwick 3<sup>rd</sup> and Rivenwick Village subdivisions to 2023 MSA Pavement Overlay Improvements, Improvement Project #23-06.

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

**5.05: Consider Recommending City Council Approval of Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids for Barthel's Rum River Acres 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Reconstructions, Improvement Project #23-05**

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek reviewed the staff report and recommendation to recommend City Council approval of plans and specifications and authorizing advertisement for bids for Barthel's Rum River Acres 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Reconstructions, Improvement Project #23-05.

Chairperson Riley acknowledged that this road has been on the plan but asked if this is the worst road to do next.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek stated that when these roads were last rated in 2021, they received the worst rating.

Chairperson Riley asked if there would be any anticipated drainage issues or issues with driveways with raising the road.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek provided additional details noting that where they are raising the road, they would go further in but would remain within the right-of-way. He commented that there would not be negative drainage impacts resulting from this project.

Chairperson Riley asked that the standard before photos are taken for the project.

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff, to recommend City Council approval of plans and specifications and authorizing advertisement for bids for Barthel's Rum River Acres 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Reconstructions, Improvement Project #23-05.

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

**5.06: Consider Recommending City Council Approval of Ordering Request for Proposals for 2023 MSA Pavement Marking Improvements, Improvement Project #23-13**

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek reviewed the staff report and recommendation to recommend City Council approval of ordering request for proposals for 2023 MSA Pavement Marking Improvements, Improvement Project #23-13.

Councilmember Musgrove thanked staff for addressing the questions that she had prior to the meeting.

Motion by Councilmember Woestehoff, seconded by Councilmember Musgrove, to recommend City Council approval of ordering request for proposals for 2023 MSA Pavement Marking Improvements, Improvement Project #23-13.

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

**6. COMMITTEE / STAFF INPUT**

**6.01: Staff Updates on Improvement Projects and Items of Interest**

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby stated that the first item on the list is the 161<sup>st</sup> Avenue reconstruction and provided an update on that process, noting that the bid opening is scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup>. He stated that stormwater ponding is proposed within easement on three properties and staff has met with those property owners to hear their concerns. He stated that the main concern of those property owners was the loss of buffers and trees. He reviewed the plan for the stormwater pond construction and noted that a row of new pine trees is planned along the north property. He stated that the property owner to the south did not think six-foot trees would do much good because of the elevation of his home and staff discussed the option of transplanting some existing pines on that property. He stated that they will be meeting onsite with a contractor that does transplanting to get more information and costs. He stated that the costs are estimated to be reasonable and if that were the case, they would begin that work using stormwater funds prior to the pond construction.

Chairperson Riley asked if there would be a warranty if the trees were moved.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby replied that there would be some type of agreement specifying that the City would be transplanting the trees but would not be warranting that work.

The property owner from 7826 161st Avenue NW, Jeff Lubarski, stated that the term holding pond was used but believed that the intent was for that water to drain and not constantly hold water. He also had concern with pollutants. He stated that is an easement for stormwater and not pollutants.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby stated that numerous terms can be used for stormwater ponding areas but confirmed that the intent would be for the water to infiltrate into the soil and is not meant to have standing water for long periods of time.

Chairperson Riley asked if the water would drain at the same rate, it currently does.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby provided details on the current path of drainage and noted that this area would become deeper and therefore water could sit for longer than it currently does. He stated that they are not changing the drainage area and therefore it would be the same water volume that currently drains to this area, though it would drain more quickly due to the storm sewer. He did not think the chemicals used for lawn treatment at the park would be different than what is used on residential yards.

Councilmember Woestehoff stated that the resident he spoke with had questions about the timeline of events as the resident was planning to have company for a wedding.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby replied that construction is anticipated to begin in June. He noted that staff will attempt to work with the homeowner to avoid conflict to the extent possible.

Mr. Lubarski asked what would happen if his well were to be polluted as a result of the project.

Councilmember Musgrove referenced the parking lot improvement and asked if there would be more area for infiltration in that area as part of the project.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek stated that there would be two lowered medians as part of the design that would handle the first inch of rainfall from the parking lots, which will significantly reduce the pollutants from the parking lot. He stated that there will also be sump manholes that collect sediment and unwanted materials. He stated that the water reaching the drainage basin after the project will be cleaner than it currently is.

Chairperson Riley asked the purpose of having to put in a new pipe rather than leaving the ditch as is.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek stated that the existing ditch is very flat and at grade with 161<sup>st</sup> until you reach the pond area. He stated that with the storm sewer system they need to maintain at least four feet of cover over the pipe and then run it at grade to daylight into the pond. He stated that the outlet for the system is approximately six feet below the existing grade of the pond, which led to the need for additional depth in the pond. He stated that water currently runs over the street, which is a safety hazard. He explained that a road would not be designed in that manner today.

Chairperson Riley commented that these are drainage improvements, and the area will drain better as a result of this project. He asked if the resident was amenable to the concept of transplanting trees.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby noted that they would find out the following day when they meet on site.

City Engineer/Public Works Director 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 changes requested.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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Bruce Westby  
City Engineer/Public Works Director

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