

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

The Public Works Committee conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Chairperson Michael Olson
 Councilmember Chris Riley

Members Absent: Councilmember Dan Specht

Also Present: City Engineer/Public Works Director Bruce Westby
 Assistant City Engineer Joe Feriancek

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Olson 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 Olson, to approve the agenda, as presented.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Olson and Councilmember Riley. Voting No: None.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve February 18, 2024, Meeting Minutes

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

Regular Meeting Minutes dated February 18, 2025

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Olson and Councilmember Riley. Voting No: None.

5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

5.01: Consider Recommending City Council Approval of Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids for Dickenson’s Mississippi Estates Street Reconstructions, Improvement Project #25-04

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek reviewed the staff report and recommendation for City Council to approve plans and specifications and authorize advertisement for bids for Dickenson’s Mississippi Estates Street Reconstructions, Improvement Project #25-04, without the alternate bid. This will avoid delaying the delivery of this project while allowing staff to conduct further discussions with the owners of the four properties between the west end of Rivlyn Avenue and Riverdale Drive.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby stated that when Lano was developed there was no requirement for stormwater treatment onsite.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek provided historical photos showing that the water has always been directed toward Rivlyn Avenue and noted a previous pond that had been filled in by another development project.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby stated staff has received complaints in the past from a property owner on Rivlyn Avenue about stormwater running into his backyard from Lano’s property that sometimes has an oily sheen to it. Staff met with Lano to discuss potential onsite stormwater detention and treatment options for their site, potentially as part of the city improvement project. Based on their meeting with Lano he stated the best option at this time would be to install the storm sewer stub as described to ensure project #25-04 is not delayed. He provided additional details on the above-ground and below-ground water treatment options, relative costs, and elements to consider. He noted the stub size was modeled to ensure it was sized appropriately to prevent overloading the existing storm sewer outlet to the Mississippi River, and would allow for a future project once design and cost details are determined.

Councilmember Riley recognized that holding ponds were not required when the Lano site was constructed and asked if that means the business is allowed to let its runoff go off the property.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby commented that they would not allow that with a new development but this is a grandfathered situation because the regulation did not exist when Lano purchased the property. He was also unsure if the homes north of Rivlyn Avenue existed prior to Lano.

Councilmember Riley commented that even though the requirement did not exist in the past, it would appear the business is still doing something wrong by allowing the runoff to go off the site in this manner. He asked if the intention of the stub was to allow Lano to connect to it in the future.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby confirmed that is accurate and stated that they would continue to work with Lano in an attempt to find a solution.

Chairperson Olson asked the cost of the stub.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek estimated the cost for the stub and manhole to be under \$10,000.

Councilmember Riley commented that cost seems reasonable but noted that he is not interested in cost-sharing for the improvements on the Lano property.

Chairperson Olson commented that it seems like a good-faith gesture to provide a place for Lano to connect to the storm sewer.

Councilmember Riley commented that it does not matter who was there first, you are still not allowed to let your stormwater flow onto and flood another property. He asked for more information on the bid alternate and why it was not recommended to be bid by staff.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek replied that work was not included in the original scope of the project.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby provided additional information on the area within the bid alternate noting that it would not impact the surface of the road. He stated that while staff would recommend doing the work, there will be additional work needed with the property owners that could delay the project.

Councilmember Riley asked if a temporary easement could be used to complete the work.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby replied staff would prefer a permanent easement to address future maintenance needs, but a temporary easement could be used to gain access for construction this year.

Councilmember Riley commented that the temporary easement may go over better with the private property owners. He stated that he would like to see the additional water main work completed but also did not want to slow down the project. He recognized that the work could easily be done as a standalone project in the future but anticipated that would have a higher cost.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek replied that completing that work as a separate project could have a slightly higher cost.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby commented that the project could be bid with the alternate and staff can continue to work with the property owners to determine if that work could move forward with the project, which will be discussed with Council when bids are presented for award of contract.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Olson, to recommend City Council approval of plans and specifications and authorize advertisement for bids for Dickenson's Mississippi Estates Street Reconstructions, Improvement Project #25-04, including the alternate bid.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Olson and Councilmember Riley. Voting No: None.

6. COMMITTEE / STAFF INPUT

6.01: Review Gravel Road Elimination Program Funding Options

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby reviewed the staff report providing updated project costs for the Gravel Road Elimination Program (GREP). He stated that the intention for tonight is to discuss project prioritizations and funding sources.

Councilmember Riley asked if TIF 14 has available funds.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby replied that TIF 14 does have funds available, but was unsure of the amount. He stated his understanding is a portion of TIF 14 funds are reserved for one or more 2026 projects and noted he can present more information on available TIF funds at a future meeting to continue discussions.

Councilmember Riley commented that he would like to have the additional TIF fund information, and any other funds that could potentially be available. He recognized that while the City has gone away from assessments, he believed that assessments could be considered as an option for the GREP.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby confirmed that staff could look into what a reasonable assessment could be for that type of improvement.

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

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.

6.03: Review Future Topics Calendar

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby noted an upcoming meeting with MnDOT for the TH 47 trail connection and advised staff would have an update at the next meeting.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Westby
City Engineer/Public Works Director

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.