

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

The Public Works Committee conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, July 15, 2025, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Chairperson Michael Olson
 Councilmember Chris Riley
 Councilmember Dan Specht

Also Present: City Engineer/Public Works Director Bruce Westby
 Assistant City Engineer Joe Feriancek
 Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Mark Riverblood
 City Administrator Brian Hagen

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 Specht, to approve the agenda, as presented.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Olson, Councilmembers Riley and Specht. Voting No: None.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve June 17, 2025, Meeting Minutes

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

Regular Meeting Minutes dated June 17, 2025

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Olson, Councilmembers Riley and Specht. Voting No: None.

5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

6. COMMITTEE / STAFF INPUT

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

Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood provided an update on the planning for the waterplay area at The Waterfront, including restrooms, architectural features, other activities, parking, landscaping, and other elements. He also provided information on capacity and the other uses that could be considered for the space. He noted a grant received for landscaping enhancements and provided information on the overall project timeline and schedule.

Commissioner Riley asked for an update on Central Park and the new playground.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood commented that the new playground has been a success that is appreciated by residents and visitors. He referenced the music components, noting that one tube was bent upon installation and has since been removed for replacement. He stated that he continues to follow up to determine when that piece would be received and installed.

Chairperson Olson asked if there are plans for outdoor speakers in the waterplay area.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood commented that they could consider that, as he is looking into that feature for The Draw as well. He noted that the outdoor speakers could always be added after the fact as well. He also provided an update on the TH 47 trail connection and related conversations with MnDOT.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby provided an update on current and proposed City, County, and MnDOT improvement projects and studies, and other items of interest to the Committee. He provided more specific information on the water treatment plant project, noting that he will be bringing a case forward to the Council worksession next week related to project costs, construction delays, and what the contractor and engineering consultant feel they have done to keep the project on track. He stated that the contractor would be provided an opportunity to provide information on the requested time extension.

Councilmember Specht commented that the City paid extra ahead of time to get the project done sooner.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby commented that, unfortunately, the contractor did not factor winter conditions into the timeline for their initial time extension request. He stated that if the change order is not approved, AE2S will still request additional funds for the extended construction timeline.

Councilmember Specht asked what would happen if that is not approved.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby commented that he did not believe that AE2S would walk away from the project, but they would most likely reduce their time on site. He explained that would not be desirable as this is the time in the project when you want the project engineers on site, inspecting the progress as the contractors attempt to hurry to complete the remaining work and final details.

Councilmember Riley agreed that it is important to have someone watching to ensure everything is done correctly.

Councilmember Specht recognized that the funding is not coming from the general fund and will not impact the budget for the next year, as the water fund is being used.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby commented that once the site is ready to safely host a tour, the Council will receive a tour of the facility.

Councilmember Riley commented that the contractor is missing the timeline by a lot. He stated that if the winter put them behind, they should have had time during the other months to catch up. He reiterated that the City paid more to get the project completed sooner, and the contractor did not deliver.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby confirmed that staff have heard that message, and they will be following up with the contractor. He continued to provide an update on other items of interest to the Committee. He confirmed the consensus of the Committee for him to provide updated information on the waterplay project within the packet, and the Committee can ask questions, rather than asking Parks and Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood to attend each meeting and provide an update.

6.02: Review Future Topics Calendar

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby reviewed the future topics calendar, and it was confirmed that the gravel road elimination program could be removed as that is being worked through the Capital Improvement Plan.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Westby
City Engineer/Public Works Director

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.