

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

The Public Works Committee conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Chairperson Michael Olson
 Councilmember Dan Specht
 Councilmember Chris Riley (virtual attendance)

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councilmember 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 Specht, seconded by Councilmember Riley, to approve the agenda, as presented.

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

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve November 19, 2024, Meeting Minutes

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

Regular Meeting Minutes dated November 19, 2024

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

5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

5.01: Appoint Chair and Vice-Chair of the Public Works Committee

Motion by Councilmember Specht, seconded by Councilmember Riley, to appoint Michael Olson as Chairperson and Chris Riley as Vice-Chairperson of the Public Works Committee for the term January 21, 2025, to December 31, 2025.

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

5.02: Consider Recommendation for City Council to Accept Bids and Award Contract for MSA Sunwood Drive Reconstruction, Improvement Project #25-02

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek reviewed the staff report and recommendation from staff to recommend City Council accept bids and award a contract for MSA Sunwood Drive Reconstruction, Improvement Project #25-012 to North Valley, Inc. in the amount of \$272,962.90.

Councilmember Specht asked how the segment for this project was determined.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek noted a previous overlay project that was done to the east and explained that Sunwood Drive was constructed at two different times.

Chairperson Olson noted that there are no sewer inlets in this section and asked if that would remain that way.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek replied that the water flows to the adjacent streets where the catch basins are located.

Councilmember Specht asked if the pedestrian ramps in the 2021 segment meet ADA standards.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek replied that those ramps meet the standard.

Motion by Councilmember Specht, seconded by Councilmember Riley, to recommend the City Council accept bids and award a construction contract for MSA Sunwood Drive Reconstruction, Improvement Project #25-02 to North Valley, Inc. in the amount of \$272,962.90.

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

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek asked if this type of item should be placed on the consent agenda or appear as a case at the regular meeting. It was the consensus of the Committee that these items should appear as a case but could be brief.

5.03: Consider Recommendation for City Council to Accept Bids and Award Contract for Fox Ridge Estates 1st and 2nd Street Reconstructions, Improvement Project #24-13

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek reviewed the staff report and recommendation of staff to recommend the City Council accept the bids and award a construction contract for Fox Ridge Estates 1st and 2nd Street Reconstructions, Improvement Project #24-13 to Douglas-Kerr Underground LLC in the amount of \$2,099,737.06.

Councilmember Specht asked for more information on the parks funded item.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek replied that the parks department requested some bump-out parking for maintenance vehicles.

Councilmember Specht asked for more information on the lifespan of skim patching.

Chairperson Olson stated that the skim patching has made a great difference in his neighborhood, so much so that many of his neighbors thought that was the ultimate fix for the roads.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby commented that staff have been impressed by the skim patching results as well. He stated staff would like to review all roads, including those in poor condition but not programmed for repairs in the CIP, and look at skim patching more roads further in advance of programmed reconstructions, maybe three to five years ahead of reconstructions.

Chairperson Olson stated he likes this thought and asked if perhaps skim patching could be used to spread out the need for programmed reconstructions to help reduce annual reconstruction costs.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby stated staff review road conditions and CIP projects each year, but try not to shift project years too much as residents are often aware of the timeline and do not like when their road repairs are delayed. However, now that the city knows how well skim patching performs and that it is received favorably by the public, staff will explore options for skim patching streets to spread out programmed reconstruction projects to reduce annual costs.

Chairperson Olson commented that the skin patching has been well received in his neighborhood and may ease complaints about delaying projects if skim patching can allow the road to be reconstructed at a later time.

Motion by Councilmember Specht, seconded by Councilmember Riley, to recommend the City Council accept bids and award a construction contract for Fox Ridge Estates 1st and 2nd Street Reconstructions, Improvement Project #24-13 to Douglas-Kerr Underground, LLC in the amount of \$2,099,737.06.

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

5.04: Consider Recommendation for Design Alternative for High Point Street Reconstruction, Improvement Project #25-05

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek reviewed the staff report and recommendation of staff to recommend option two, reconstructing the Zirconium Street cul-de-sac to the standard 100-foot diameter.

Councilmember Specht referenced option two and asked if the land would be sold for something like \$1 or whether the City would retain ownership of the land.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek replied that the City would have the option but there would be no need to sell the land. He stated that staff would recommend retaining ownership.

Councilmember Specht asked if the City would then need to complete the mowing and maintenance.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek replied that the land would be similar to other City-owned land in the boulevard where property owners maintain the land.

Councilmember Riley stated that he supports option two as he did not see a need to increase the size and believed option three would have additional issues.

Chairperson Olson asked if the residents on the cul-de-sac were given an opportunity to provide input.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek replied that staff would keep the properties informed as to the decision that is made, but if desired a survey could be put out to the properties on the cul-de-sac.

Councilmember Riley stated that he did not believe a survey was needed but agreed that communication on what will happen will be important.

Chairperson Olson asked if there will be a public hearing on this case.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby replied that this would not require a public hearing.

Chairperson Olson commented that 30 feet would be an additional amount of grass to mow and snow to clear for those residents. He commented that option two does make sense.

Councilmember Riley stated that he did not think of the extra work but thought of the fact that residents would get more yard space. He explained that there is a right-of-way in front of all homes and therefore it is a benefit to gain additional yard space.

Chairperson Olson stated that it could be good to have the input of the residents because of the additional maintenance. He recognized that this is the lowest-cost option.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek stated that there will be a letter mailed to residents about the public open meeting on the project and stated that an additional paragraph could be added about the cul-de-sac.

Councilmember Specht wanted to ensure there is clear communication to those residents with contact information for staff. He referenced the Northfork Meadows development where additional backyard space was sold to residents and asked if that could be considered.

Chairperson Olson stated that the City owns right-of-way along any boulevard. He asked how much right-of-way the City would retain if a portion were sold to residents.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek identified the existing right-of-way and stated that does not need to be adjusted unless they wanted to give more ownership to the residents. He stated that if that is done there would be a cost to prepare the necessary documents, and it would increase the taxes paid by those residents. He also identified the standard right-of-way, acknowledging that this would exceed the typical right-of-way.

Councilmember Specht commented that he wants to ensure that it is clean and understood.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek stated that could happen later if that is desired so that it would not slow down the project. He stated that sometimes there is a holdout where someone does not want to adjust the property and that would then create unaligned right-of-way.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby noted the lot lines that radiate towards the cul-de-sac and adjusting the ownership of the land could have impacts on driveways that would require bends and jogs in the property lines.

Councilmember Specht agreed that option two is the right path forward and perhaps the decision on the property line is left to the full Council.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby asked Assistant City Engineer Feriancek if there is time to solicit input from residents and bring this back to the February Committee meeting.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek replied that this is scheduled to move to the City Council in late February. He stated that the public open house is scheduled for February 13th and is an opportunity for those residents to provide feedback.

Councilmember Specht stated that he would be fine with this moving forward to the Council as proposed.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Specht, to recommend alternative two, reconstructing the Zirconium Street cul-de-sac to the standard 100-foot diameter.

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

5.05: Consider Recommending City Council Approving Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids for 2025 Crack Seal Improvements, Improvement Project #25-09

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek presented the staff report and recommendation to recommend City Council approve of plans and specifications and authorize advertisement for bids for 2025 Crack Seal Improvements, Improvement Project #25-09.

Councilmember Riley asked if this is all of the cracksealing that is necessary to keep the City on track.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek confirmed that does keep the City on schedule for maintenance.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Specht, to recommend City Council approve plans and specifications and authorize advertisement for bids for 2025 Crack Seal Improvements, Improvement Project #25-09.

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

5.06: Consider Recommending City Council Approving Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids for 2025 Pavement Rejuvenation Improvements, Improvement Project #25-10

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek reviewed the staff report and recommendation of staff to recommend City Council approve plans and specifications and authorize advertisement for bids for 2025 Pavement Rejuvenation Improvement, Improvement Project #25-10.

Motion by Councilmember Specht, seconded by Councilmember Riley, to recommend City Council approve plans and specifications and authorize advertisement for bids for 2025 Pavement Rejuvenation Improvements, Improvement Project #25-10.

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

5.07: Review Updated Project Costs for Gravel Road Elimination Program and Consider Policy Development

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby reviewed the staff report and recommendation of staff for the committee to direct staff to prepare a draft Gravel Road Elimination Policy that explores estimated project costs for each gravel road segment in more detail, includes a project prioritization schedule, and identifies recommended funding sources. He noted that the Capital Improvement Plan does not address replacing the 1999 road grader. He then added that even if these 6 gravel road segments are paved the City would still need to minimally maintain two remaining gravel road segments, those being Llama Street south of Riverdale Drive that serves as the driveway to the Nathe properties, and the shared driveway to the city-owned and maintained cemetery at 17320 Saint Francis Boulevard. He also noted staff's recommended priority ranking is to pave area A first, area F second, area E third, area D fourth, area B fifth, and area C last.

Councilmember Specht commented that he does support the conversion from gravel to paved roads and liked that this road construction would not include curb and gutter and would preserve the rural character. He stated that he would support bonding for the project costs.

Councilmember Riley asked for more details on the transfers from the PIR fund to the general fund as projected, noting that could be a potential source of funding. He agreed that it is in the best interest of the City to convert the gravel roads and wants to make that a priority, especially since the grader is not planned for replacement. He stated that he would not want to bond for this project and would like to see additional funding options, perhaps phasing this conversion over a few years. He stated that these neighborhoods have never paid for one level of road and therefore the assessment policy would seem to apply. He explained that in every neighborhood with paved roads, those residents have paid for those roads in one way or another and therefore it would seem fair that these residents share in that cost.

Councilmember Specht commented that those residents pay taxes the same as everyone else and therefore are paying for road projects. He noted that these are not original property owners and should not be responsible for what did, or did not, occur in the past.

Chairperson Olson referenced the proposed sequence for priority and asked how those projects rank in cost.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby provided the different cost estimates for those segments.

Chairperson Olson referenced the grading that was mentioned that would still be necessary and asked how that would be done if the grader is not replaced.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby stated that the 1999 grader is still in use and is able to be maintained, although the more it is used, and the heavier the use, the greater the maintenance needs will be moving forward. He stated that for the limited grading that would remain after the road conversions, different equipment could be used, or equipment could be rented. He stated that while he would like to see the conversion done sooner, it could be spaced out as well. He noted that he could speak with the Finance Director to gather more information on funding options that would not include bonding.

Chairperson Olson agreed that this should be a priority.

Motion by Councilmember Specht, seconded by Councilmember Riley, to direct staff to prepare a draft Gravel Road Elimination Policy that explores estimated project costs for each gravel road segment in more detail, includes a project prioritization schedule with area F having the highest priority, and identifies recommended funding sources.

Further discussion: Councilmember Riley stated that additional discussion should occur on whether the additional grading needs should become the responsibility of the private property owners in the future.

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

6. COMMITTEE / STAFF INPUT

6.01: 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.

Councilmember Specht inquired if there are any updates on design modifications to the Beatty Avenue NW intersection with Highway 10.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby commented that during the Elk River Highway 10 Corridor Study it was briefly discussed that potential modifications in this area may be explored further as part of future Highway 10 studies.

6.02: Review Future Topics Calendar

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby commented that staff keeps working through these topics as quickly as they can.

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 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Westby
City Engineer/Public Works Director

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.