

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

The Public Works Committee conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, December 16, 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

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 November 18, 2025, Meeting Minutes

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

Regular Meeting Minutes dated November 18, 2025

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

5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

5.01: Consider Recommending City Council Approval of Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids for MSA Bunker Lake Boulevard Reconstruction, Improvement Project #26-01

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek reviewed the staff report and recommendation to approve plans and specifications and authorize advertisements for bids for MSA Bunker Lake Boulevard Reconstruction, Improvement Project #26-01.

Councilmember Riley referenced the proposed assessments and asked if those were already in place or negotiated in the past.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek confirmed that these are essentially all PSD assessments, as they wanted to wait for final project costs to come in, where Oppidan chose to contribute their funds ahead of time.

Councilmember Riley recognized that this will impact businesses and spoke about the importance of communication. He asked how this timeline aligns with Kwik Trip's construction schedule.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek replied that Kwik Trip is aware of our project and that the schedules align well. He stated that both projects should wrap up around the same time.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Specht, to recommend City Council approval of plans and specifications and authorizing advertisements for bids for MSA Bunker Lake Boulevard Reconstruction, Improvement Project #26-01.

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

5.02: Consider Recommending City Council Approval of Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids for Countryside Estates Street Reconstructions, Improvement Project #26-04

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek reviewed the staff report and recommendation to approve plans and specifications and authorize advertisements for bids for Countryside Estates Street Reconstructions, Improvement Project #26-04.

Councilmember Riley asked if the city could ensure that construction traffic for future street reconstruction projects in the two connecting neighborhoods would not access those projects through these streets.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek confirmed that could be written into the specs for the projects.

Councilmember Riley asked if the streets in Wildwood Acres could be removed from this project and the streets in the other two connecting neighborhoods added.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek did not feel they would be able to develop plans and complete the necessary topographic and geotechnical work in time to make this change. He stated that they did look at options but determined that the streets in the other two neighborhoods should be reconstructed separately to make the funding work for the Capital Improvement Program.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Specht, to recommend City Council approval of plans and specifications and authorizing advertisements for bids for Countryside Estates Street Reconstructions, Improvement Project #26-04.

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

5.03: Consider Recommending City Council Approval of Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids for Section 01 Unplatted Street Reconstructions, Improvement Project #26-07

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek presented the staff report and recommendation to approve plans and specifications and authorize advertisements for bids for Section 01 Unplatted Street Reconstructions, Improvement Project #26-07.

Chairperson Olson asked about the length of time during which the curb and gutter is being constructed and access is limited.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek replied that access to properties would be limited during construction of the curb and gutter but that staff will work with residents to provide access based on their needs.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Specht, to recommend City Council approval of plans and specifications and authorizing advertisements for bids for Section 01 Unplatted Street Reconstructions, Improvement Project #26-07.

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

5.04: Consider Recommending City Council Order Request for Proposals for 2026 Neighborhood Overlay Improvements, Improvement Project #26-08

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek presented the staff report and recommendation to order Request for Proposals for engineering and design services for the 2026 Neighborhood Overlay Improvements, Improvement Project #26-08.

Councilmember Riley commented that staff have done a great job of managing their workload and would prefer to see this path to get the work completed earlier with better project results.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Specht, to recommend City Council order Request for Proposals for engineering and design services for the 2026 Neighborhood Overlay Improvements, Improvement Project #26-08.

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

5.05: Discuss Repairing Irrigation Damage Associated with Improvement Projects

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek reviewed the staff report and recommendation to include irrigation repairs by lump sum on public improvement projects moving forward. By nature of a lump sum, the contractor is incentivized to minimize the amount of irrigation damage during the project. This will, in turn, provide better project outcomes in speeding up restoration, promoting continued grass maintenance following construction, avoiding additional touch-up work, and meeting the expectations of property owners. Based on recent years, the staff time for inspecting irrigation repairs is anticipated to be offset by the time required to discuss damage with both residents and the contractor.

Councilmember Riley commented that this change was made to minimize staff time and costs, and had concerns with the proposed change to go back. He stated that if things are replaced to a standard, some people will still not be happy. He was unsure as to how the response could be standardized.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby confirmed that irrigation system repairs were removed from city improvement projects after Andrie Street and 164th Lane were reconstructed as homeowners did not like the replacement materials being used. He stated that they could go back and develop a potential game plan to determine the repairs that could be standardized and bring that staff recommendation back to the committee.

Councilmember Riley stated that he generally supports this, but wants to see the guardrails that would be in place to provide efficiency and standardization.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek stated that they could spec out the two or three most popular brands and make it clear that if residents do not want that, they could make the repairs themselves.

Councilmember Riley stated that he would agree with that approach to use an industry standard, and the homeowner could opt out if they would like to use something else.

Chairperson Olson recognized the work that is required relating to irrigation repairs and/or movement of those systems. He provided another suggestion where a payment could be made to residents, and they would complete the work.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek stated that in reviewing policies of other cities, Coon Rapids has a policy that allows a financial payment to be made to a resident who would like higher-quality equipment. He explained that the payment is made in the standard amount, and then the resident would pay the difference.

Councilmember Riley stated that he would prefer a standardized policy and procedure, as he does not want to create more complexity or staff work.

Chairperson Olson stated that he would like to see some kind of accommodation for people who will be unhappy with the standard. He stated that he has a few heads in his own system that he does not like, as they are not as functional and adjustable as others.

Councilmember Riley stated that there seems to be support for the idea, and the committee would like to see more information from staff on a proposed policy/procedure.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby noted that communication will also be a large part of this. He stated that they could look at an allowance for those residents who would like an upgraded model of equipment. He stated staff will bring their recommendations back to the Committee for further discussion.

5.06: Consider Recommending City Council Authorizing Connexus Energy to Provide Design Services for 2026 COR Street Lighting Improvements

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby presented the staff report and recommendation to authorize Connexus Energy to provide design services for the 2026 COR Street Lighting Improvements.

Councilmember Riley acknowledged that they have discussed this and asked if the City has committed to doing this work.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby replied that The COR Design Framework included much more extensive lighting levels throughout The COR. He stated that this is a scaled-back version of lighting from the original framework. He acknowledged that more housing and commercial uses have been developed, but lighting remains very sparse across The COR. He commented that lights at intersections would improve safety, and lights along walkways would make pedestrians feel safer at night.

Councilmember Riley stated that he could see that perhaps it is time now to install the lights, as further development has occurred.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby stated that Ramsey Parkway is a good example of how the designs have changed from the original design framework.

Councilmember Riley recognized that the splashpad is coming to fruition and asked if there is sufficient lighting in that area.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby replied that the project includes its own lighting plan and confirmed that the lights from both projects would be coordinated so they work together.

Chairperson Olson asked if there would be a financial benefit to completing this in two phases or whether there is a cost savings to doing the work in one project.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby replied that with roads, they look for opportunity-driven elements where developers could contribute towards the cost. He noted additional development that will occur, such as the extension of Veterans Drive, where developers would assist with the installation of lights. He stated that with the development that has occurred, they know where these lights should go, and more pedestrians will be actively using The COR, especially after the Waterfront infrastructure, including splashpad, is constructed.

Chairperson Olson asked for information on the driver between the original design and what is currently proposed.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby replied that the COR design framework street lighting plan was overkill in his opinion and believes this is a more reasonable lighting plan. He stated that the recommended lighting plan will improve safety for pedestrians and drivers, but will also not fall into the category of light pollution.

Chairperson Olson confirmed that this plan is more right-sized for the COR as it has developed. He asked if the spacing of the lighting provides an opportunity for additional lights to be installed between if that is determined necessary.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby was unsure how that could work. He stated that Connexus does the design and the electrical line that is installed supports the design needs, noting that if additional lights were needed, a larger electrical line may be needed. He does not believe that additional lights would generally be needed in the future.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Specht, to recommend City Council authorization for Connexus Energy to provide design services for the 2026 COR Street Lighting Improvements.

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

Councilmember Riley asked if the Committee would discuss the frontage road and the other two projects identified in the CIP.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby confirmed that is the plan, and provided information on the anticipated timeline.

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.

6.02: Review Future Topics Calendar

No comments.

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 6:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Westby
City Engineer/Public Works Director

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.