

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

The Public Works Committee conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

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

Also Present: Public Works Director Bruce Westby
 Utilities Supervisor John Nelson

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Riley called the regular meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 5:32 p.m.

2. CITIZEN INPUT

There was none.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

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

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

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve May 19, 2026, Meeting Minutes

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

Regular Meeting Minutes dated May 19, 2026

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

5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

5.01: Receive Updates on Water Treatment Plant SCADA System and Water Tower #1 Painting Schedule

Utilities Supervisor Nelson presented updates on the redundancy/safety features built into the new Water Treatment Plant to ensure treated water will remain safe to drink at all times, and discussed when the water tower at Dysprosium Street and Nowthen Boulevard is scheduled to be painted.

Kraig LaFreniere with Total Control Systems, the City's contracted Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system integrator, provided additional information on the SCADA system and Water Treatment Plant.

Chairperson Riley commented that the rollout of the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) and integrated SCADA system went well and this appears to be a standard operating system.

Mr. LaFreniere confirmed that these are standard systems and equipment.

Chairperson Riley asked if there is a backup to the processor.

Mr. LaFreniere provided additional information, noting that there will be a backup processor on site, along with other items/equipment that will be stocked.

Councilmember Olson asked and received confirmation that the system could be run manually, if needed.

Utilities Supervisor Nelson commented on the great outcome of the new WTP and the improved quality of the water supplied to municipal water users. He provided additional information on tours staff have given of the new WTP and presentations that have been provided at technical conferences explaining how well the WTP has been operating.

5.02: Recommend City Council Approval of Fire Hydrant Water Meter Rental Program and Ordinance #26-13 Amending 2026 Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges

Public Works Director Westby reviewed the staff report and recommendation to recommend City Council approval of Fire Hydrant Water Meter Rental Program and Ordinance #26-13 amending the 2026 Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges.

Utilities Supervisor Nelson provided additional context on the different uses by contractors, the process for rentals, and past water theft issues. He noted most cities have this type of rental program.

Motion by Councilmember Olson, seconded by Councilmember Specht, to recommend City Council approval of Fire Hydrant Water Meter Rental Program and Ordinance #26-13 Amending 2026 Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges.

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

5.03: Recommend City Council Approval of Plans and Agreements with Connexus Energy for COR Street Lighting Improvements, Improvement Project #25-12

Public Works Director Westby reviewed the staff report and recommendation to recommend City Council approval of Connexus Energy's plans and agreements for the COR Street Lighting Improvements, Improvement Project #25-12.

Chairperson Riley asked about the source of the streetlight fund.

Public Works Director Westby explained how funds are collected for that fund and how they can be used. He noted that he would provide more specific information in the Council case from the Finance Director.

Chairperson Riley asked if there would be sufficient funding left in the account for future needs.

Public Works Director Westby confirmed that there would be adequate funds for the future, noting that this lighting was always anticipated, which is why the balance in the account is what it is. He stated that now that Connexus has completed these plans, they will continue to work on the other proposed 2026 street lighting project plans for the City. He noted that there is a long lead time on the lights and poles, of about three to six months. He explained that the plan would be to install all underground wiring ahead of time and attach the poles and bases as they come in. He noted that Connexus said they have a few poles in stock, which would be placed at higher priority intersections to start.

Motion by Councilmember Olson, seconded by Councilmember Specht, to recommend City Council approval of Connexus Energy's plans and agreements for the COR Street Lighting Improvements, Improvement Project #25-12.

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

6. COMMITTEE / STAFF INPUT

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

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 asked about full fencing of the pond near the splashpad and acknowledged that will be a discussion before the full Council.

Chairperson Riley provided input about the TH 47 trail gap, noting that he would still like to see that connection completed, with or without the assistance of MnDOT.

Public Works Director Westby commented that he is not aware of any public engagement efforts for MnDOT's proposed 2027 Highway 10 improvements at the west edge of Ramsey and into Elk River. He summarized the comments that Ramsey had submitted to MnDOT's project team and noted that those items have not been incorporated into the design plans yet.

Councilmember Specht commented that Ramsey could hold a public meeting, acknowledging that they would not be able to answer questions. He suggested that something be mailed to property owners in that area, advising them of the proposed improvements/changes.

Public Works Director Westby agreed and was hoping that MnDOT would be reaching out to property owners. He anticipated that there would be around 100 addresses if the City were to send a mailer.

Councilmember Specht recognized it is a bit awkward for the City to send the notice, but felt that it is necessary for residents to be informed. He noted that language could be included that states that this is not a City project and could provide a MnDOT contact number for residents to use for comments and/or questions.

Chairperson Riley asked if the Highway 10 pedestrian crossing elements at Jarvis Street had been removed from the project.

Public Works Director Westby stated that city staff did submit strong comments that the City does not support pedestrian crossings on Highway 10 and requested that those elements be removed, but they have not been removed as yet, and in fact an additional crossing has been added at Alpine Drive. He stated that city staff would not be comfortable operating snow removal equipment in MnDOT's Highway 10 right-of-way at Alpine Drive to keep the pedestrian crossing path clear of snow in the winter.

Chairperson Riley asked how the City can escalate these concerns.

Public Works Director Westby commented that he could attempt to contact someone higher up the chain at MnDOT.

Chairperson Riley agreed that they need to find a way to push this message harder. He also agreed that the City should mail a letter to city property owners in the area of the project with a MnDOT contact. He asked if there would be value in combining comments with Elk River.

Public Works Director Westby commented that he has not spoken to Elk River staff recently but could do that.

Chairperson Riley agreed that staff should reach out to Elk River, as the cities would have a louder voice together. He asked for an update on fiber installation in the community.

Public Works Director Westby stated that Gateway Fiber submitted three permit applications. He stated that city staff sent them the city's list of construction and right-of-way permitting requirements that had been reviewed by and received consensus approval from City Council, and

that staff reviewed the first two permit applications but have not yet received a response from Gateway. He explained that the scope of their projects in Andover and Anoka seem to have been expanded, and perhaps Ramsey will be later on their schedule. He stated that he has been contacted by three additional fiber companies looking to do business in Ramsey and has meetings set up with those companies to discuss their proposed fiber buildout projects and schedules.

6.02: Review Future Topics Calendar

Public Works Director Westby noted the highlighted items that are proposed to be removed from the calendar.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember Specht, seconded by Councilmember Olson, 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
Public Works Director

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.