

Roseville Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers, 2660 Civic Center Drive
Roseville, Minnesota 55113

1. Introduction / Roll Call

Vice Chair Mueller called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. and at her request, Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer called the roll.

Present: Vice Chair Des Mueller; and Members Jarrod Cicha, Daniel Fergus and Edwin Hodder; Member Allison Luongo arrived at 6:35 p.m.

Absent: Chair Bryant Ficek and Member Sarah Rudolf (Excused)

Staff Present: Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer and Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer Jennifer Lowry

2. Public Comments

None

3. Approval of September 26, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Comments and corrections to draft minutes had been submitted by PWETC commissioners prior to tonight's meeting and those revisions incorporated into the draft presented in meeting materials.

Motion

Member Cicha moved, Member Hodder seconded, approval of the September 26, 2023 meeting minutes as presented.

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

4. Communication Items

Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer Jennifer Lowry provided a brief review and update on projects and maintenance activities listed in the staff report dated October 24, 2023.

Member Hodder asked what the quote for 2023 sewer televising was regarding.

Mr. Freihammer explained what sewer televising is and how the City uses the information to find potential problems.

Vice Chair Mueller wanted to highlight in the sustainability update there are a few things regarding opportunities with the County and Met Transit.

5. Utility Rates

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer presented the 2024 proposed utility rates and asked for feedback or a formal recommendation to the City Council.

Member Fergus asked if the City gets many complaints about utility rates and the residents' costs.

Mr. Freihammer explained the Finance Department does get some but there are ways that the residents can control the costs. He reviewed some of the ways to reduce costs.

Member Fergus understood that the City needs to get some money in reserves for the storm drain but he did not know if it made sense to do five percent per year instead of thirty-three percent now and two and a half percent later.

Mr. Freihammer reviewed the discussion from last year and the reason for the increase.

Vice Chair Mueller asked if staff had any information available from 2022 about what the average cost per year was coming into 2023. She was thinking about what people are spending and how it keeps stacking up year after year and how everybody is spending more on everything. She understood the City needs to build its reserves, but she was trying to get a gut check for what the average family is having to foot the bill for on top of this.

Mr. Freihammer indicated the City has that historic data and he could get it for the Commission, but he did not have it at the meeting.

Member Hodder asked if Ehlers revisited the class rates as far as residential, apartments, commercial usage, and effect on the system.

Mr. Freihammer explained when Ehlers did the last major study the City revamped how it charged the rates between commercial and residential and the tiers were also changed. He reviewed the current tiers in residential and commercial.

Member Hodder indicated when he looked at the rates and information for commercial versus residential, he thought the commercial could bear a little more

of the weight based on the usage and what they are putting through the system. He thought it seemed to be a little light compared to the residential.

Mr. Freihammer noted he will bring this information up to the Finance Department so when this is looked at by the consultant in 2024 this can be reviewed.

Motion

Vice Chair Mueller moved, Member Cicha seconded, to recommend the City Council approve the 2023 utility rate increases presented by the Finance Department.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Motion

Member Hodder moved, Member Fergus seconded, to recommend the City take a look at the variance between commercial and residential rates.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

6. County Road B Update

Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer Jennifer Lowry provided an update on County Road B and asked for feedback and a recommendation to the City Council on the layout.

Member Fergus wondered if the City has looked into permeable pavers for this project.

Mr. Freihammer explained the City has looked into permeable pavers and do have some in the City with mixed results. He explained the City will probably not do that on the roadway with this project. He noted this project will actually reduce stormwater thresholds and also reduce the impervious surface.

Ms. Smith reviewed the travel route plan with the Commission. She also discussed how the assessment plan would work.

Vice Chair Mueller thanked staff for the presentation. She asked if there was anyone in the public that would like to comment.

Mr. Keith Wieteki, 2428 Farrington Circle, indicated he is a member of the Midland Hills Golf Course, and they are very concerned about what is going on and has been working with staff. The reason why the golf course is concerned is where the thirteenth green and tee is located will be affected. He noted a lot of the

irrigation controls and communication with the irrigation are located in the City right-of-way and has been there many years and has an agreement with the City to have the controls within the right-of-way. He explained when they saw the proposed plan moved onto the golf course it was going to be something like two hundred fifty-thousand-dollar expense to the golf course and they did not think the benefit to the community was worth it. Clearly four stop signs at a couple hundred dollars per sign versus two hundred fifty thousand dollars is a better economic trade off. He explained the golf course is highly in favor of this and recommend it.

Mr. Lawrance Bell, president of Midland Hills Golf Course, indicated they have been working the Public Works Department on the entire street because a lot of the water is coming from the street onto their catch ponds on the course. He explained this does impose an expense on the golf course because they need to reconstruct a part of the course that they just spent money on fixing in 2020. He asked that the City consider the fact that the traffic at the intersection has decreased and is not a dangerous intersection and there are about fourteen homes on the backside that come out there. He appreciated staff's work on this project.

Staff reviewed previous plans with the Commission with revisions that have been made to mitigate the concerns of the golf course.

Motion

Member Cicha moved, Member Hodder seconded, to recommend the City Council to move forward with the current plan presented.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

The PWETC recessed at 8:05 p.m. and reconvened at 8:10 p.m.

7. TH 36 Update

Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer Jennifer Lowry presented the TH 36 update to the Commission and asked for feedback.

Vice Chair Mueller indicated she was glad this plan is touching on the crossover/underpass at Dale because it is very dangerous going under Hwy 36. She wondered what their thoughts are on this. She thanked staff for the presentation and indicated if the Commission wanted more information the video can be seen online.

8. Lead Free Roseville

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer explained the Minnesota Department of Health is requiring all public water systems with over 10,000 services to document what material the water service to the homes and businesses are made of. He indicated to complete this task, the City will be taking a phased approach to get the

information. He reviewed the process the City is intending to take to get the information needed. He also asked for feedback from the Commission.

9. Items for Next Meeting – November 2023

Discussion ensued regarding the November 28, 2023 PWETC agenda:

- Recycling RFP
- Public Works – 2024 Work Plan
- Envision Roseville update.

10. Adjourn

Motion

Member Cicha moved, Member Fergus seconded, adjournment of the meeting at approximately 8:35 p.m.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion carried.