

Roseville Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers, 2660 Civic Center Drive
Roseville, Minnesota 55113

1. Introduction / Roll Call

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

Present: Chair Bryant Ficek; Vice Chair Des Mueller; and Members Jarrod Cicha, Daniel Fergus, Edwin Hodder, Allison Luongo, and Sarah Rudolf

Absent: None.

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

2. Public Comments

None.

3. Approval of November 28, 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 Hodder moved, Member Mueller seconded, approval of the November 28, 2023 meeting minutes as presented.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Abstain: 1 (Rudolf)

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 January 19, 2024.

Public Works Director Freihammer explained the City Council has authorized the new lead Fire Engine be an electric engine and delivered in 2025. He noted the Commission could view the City Council discussion online.

Member Hodder noted the community solar garden is a matter before the PUC to discuss rates and the City will need to figure out what impact that might have on the community solar garden efforts.

Mr. Freihammer explained staff has already looked into that and it does not affect the City's solar garden because the program is new enough and is for the programs that subscribed before the City entered into an agreement. This does not directly affect the City, but the City is a part of the Suburban Rate Authority and there are other cities that are a part of that. He knew the Suburban Rate Authority, which sort of represents the City, will be sending a letter opposing some of the changes.

Ms. Lowry updated the Commission on sustainability items happening in the City.

Mr. Freihammer noted ethics training will be sometime in early April. He noted the City did get awarded a bike plan grant. This Commission will be a very active part of that.

Chair Ficek asked regarding the referendum on the maintenance facility, will the City still be going after bonding for that as well.

Mr. Freihammer explained bonding has never been on the list. This is sales tax based.

Chair Ficek asked for the January 7th event he wondered how attendance was.

Ms. Lowry indicated she was not sure.

Chair Ficek asked regarding the Snelling and County Road B, pedestrian study, is there a schedule coming forward.

Ms. Lowry explained the City extended that to June. They are at an alternative analysis and stepped back from the group meetings last month. She believed this is intended to be wrapped up by June and planning a public meeting because MNDot is having their next round of meetings for the trunk highway 36 which is February into the first week of March.

5. Street Name Policy Draft

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer explained the City received a request from residents to change the street name of the segment of County Road B West to Cleveland Avenue. This portion is scheduled for reconstruction in 2025.

Chair Ficek was not sure there is a real solution to what the City Council calls the circular motion where the residents come up with a street name and the City is ok with it and it goes to the County who may decide it is not a good name and then it comes back to the City for further discussion and approvals. He thought if it comes to that the City would need to deal with it then.

Ms. Lowry did not think the County had a formal process for this so she did not think it would be really hard and she did not see this coming up a lot.

Member Fergus wondered if the wording could be changed from “The petition must include the new name requested”, it could say “The petition must suggest a new name”. The petitioners would not be signing a petition that states the road will be named “X”, so it is easier to negotiate with the County on a name.

Ms. Lowry was not sure what the City Attorney said about the signatures, but she did not think they are legally required. She thought it was just to get the buy in.

Mr. Freihammer agreed and explained it is more or less to demonstrate that there is support. He did not think there is a perfect process for this.

Member Luongo thought this policy was aimed more for individual homeowners but renaming a street could also affect people living in apartments so she was not sure if they should put in the policy to acknowledge people who live on the street versus people who own the property.

Ms. Lowry explained staff did talk through that with the City Engineer and left it as property owners and there was a reason for that, but she was not sure about the reason.

Mr. Freihammer thought legally for a petition the person has to be a property owner but certainly the notification can notify the people in an apartment building so those people can talk to the building owner or come to a meeting to voice their concerns. He thought the wording in section D to read “All property owners and tenants within one thousand feet will be notified...” He noted the tenants would not be a

part of the petition process but would be a part of the notification, including businesses.

Motion

Member Hodder moved, Member Luongo seconded, to recommend the City Council accept the amended changes and approve the proposed Street Name Change Policy.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

6. Public Works Code Updates

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer explained City staff has been reviewing ordinances and has a variety of public works related updates. He asked for discussion and feedback to give to the City Council.

Bench Ordinance 703.05

Mr. Freihammer reviewed the Bench Ordinance with the Commission.

Member Fergus indicated he was appreciative of the addition of this adjacent to City pathways.

Chair Ficek noted there is a section P in there, relocation of license or permit and he wondered if there was intended to be text behind that one.

Mr. Freihammer thought that was one section that the City Attorney was going to add some language to.

Chair Ficek indicated he also liked the addition for the removal if it expires and not actively being renewed the City can go in and remove it.

Member Luongo thought they were also waiting on some language for ADA compliance because there is a Section J but there was not any wording in that section.

Mr. Freihammer explained the City will clarify some language on that.

Member Rudolf indicated she had a question about Section K versus Section M. The last sentence of Section K says, "Signage shall be affixed only to the street-side portion of the bench backrest" and in Section M it says, "Advertising may be displayed on the front and rear faces of the backrest."

Mr. Freihammer indicated that was a good catch. Staff added Section M to clarify, and he thought Section M clearly conflicts with Section K. He thought staff could

change Section M to state just the front of the backrest because that is what the current ordinance states.

The Commission was supportive of the proposed changes to the Bench Ordinance.

Right of Way Repair & Restoration 707.12

Mr. Freihammer reviewed the Right of Way Repair & Restoration Ordinance with the Commission.

The Commission was supportive of the staff changes.

Water Meters 701.10

Mr. Freihammer reviewed the Water Meters Ordinance with the Commission.

The Commission did not have any questions and was supportive of the changes to the Water Meters Ordinance proposed by staff.

Well Ordinance 801.22

Mr. Freihammer reviewed the proposed changes to the private Well Ordinance with the Commission.

Member Hodder asked how much money it would cost the homeowner to get on the City system.

Mr. Freihammer indicated in most cases the curb stop is stubbed out behind the curb so all the homeowners would have to do is run the line from the curb to the water in the house. He thought it would roughly be five to seven thousand dollars.

The Commission thought 2035 was a fair time limit for homeowners to get on City water.

Fats Oils Grease (FOG) 802.15

Ms. Lowry reviewed the Fats Oils Grease (FOG) Ordinance with the Commission.

Member Luongo asked if there are fines if there is a certain amount of suspended solids if found in an inspection.

Ms. Lowry explained there are only two fines; she thought one was one hundred dollars and the other was one thousand dollars per instance in the fee schedule and these are not based on the amount. However, if there is a backup in the City's system and the City does the repairs or cleans up the spill then the City charges the business for that work. The is a part of the language that will get added to the version going to the City Council.

The Commission concurred with the proposed changes made by staff.

Repair/Abatement, New Ordinance, Chapters 801 & 802

Mr. Freihammer reviewed the Repair/Abatement draft ordinance, Chapters 801 & 802 with the Commission. He noted these two Chapters are new.

7. Lighting Policy

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer explained the City last updated the lighting policy in 2003. He reviewed the policy with the Commission and asked for feedback and a recommendation to be made to the City Council.

Member Fergus indicated he was in favor of the dark sky lighting and would love it if something were in the policy regarding this when new lighting or replacing lighting. He also thought instead of one hundred percent resident agreement for lighting there should be a percentage of resident agreement because not everyone is going to agree on getting new lights installed and where. He noted he was also in favor of the different uses and different spacing on land residential versus commercial.

Vice-Chair Mueller concurred with what Member Fergus stated.

Member Rudolf explained she was supportive of having the separation between the three divisions Mr. Freihammer mentioned about residential, commercial, and special district. She also wondered as a female walking around, there are certain areas that are really dark, and she was not expecting the City to pave her walking route with streetlights, but she also wondered if there was a way to consider the really dark spaces and having the opportunity of considering a space. She thought that generally what exists seems reasonable.

Mr. Freihammer explained that the Parks Department has their own lighting policy for the parks, and this does not really apply to parks. This is really regarding public right-of-way.

Member Luongo wondered if there should be something in the policy regarding lighting trails.

Mr. Freihammer explained there could be, there is not currently, but if the City decided to light the trails it would be a huge cost that is not really considered right now.

Member Rudolf wondered if it would make sense to consider one or two sentences of language that staff stated a few times during this presentation which is about the City strives to balance a sense of safety with fiscal responsibility but also like environmental responsibility with the dark skies piece. Really seeking to strike that balance.

Mr. Freihammer thought that was a good idea, maybe a type of mission statement.

Chair Ficek thought the City should be looking at the intersections and curves. To him that is a safety issue. The mid-block light should not be automatic and should be a request for people, he thought this should be a darker sky. He wondered if people could request lighting can people also request to remove mid-block lighting and make it darker. Should that be in there. Another thought he had is there should be a difference between commercial and residential. He wondered what happens to streets that have residential on one side and commercial on the other.

Mr. Freihammer indicated the City does not have much of that but could try to add language to clarify that.

Chair Ficek thought regarding the midblock petition, the one hundred fifty feet within the light is a high burden and one person could crash that. He wondered if it should be more two-thirds or three quarters. He thought the one hundred percent would be hard to get any group to agree to.

Mr. Freihammer noted the City staff works with Xcel as much as possible to put the lighting where it would benefit everyone.

Member Hodder thought it made sense to see what the need would be or just to assess what the City is missing. He thought that would be a good first step.

Mr. Freihammer appreciated the Commission feedback and will help staff draft something to present to the City Council.

8. Future Agenda Items

Discussion ensued regarding the February 20, 2024 PWETC agenda:

- Sustainability Super Meeting
- Mowing Ordinance Discussion
- Pollinator Update/Issues

Mr. Freihammer also reviewed possible topics for the March and April meetings.

9. Adjourn

Motion

Member Hodder moved, Member Fergus seconded, adjournment of the meeting at approximately 8:42 p.m.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion carried.