

Roseville Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 22, 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 Edwin Hodder; Members Daniel Fergus, Allison Luongo, and Des Mueller; and Youth Commissioners Carson Bauer and Alexi Jendro,

Absent: Member Jarrod Cicha and Sarah Rudolf (Excused)

Staff Present: Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer; Finance Director Michelle Pietrick

2. Public Comments

3. Approval of September 24, 2024, Meeting Minutes

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

Motion

Vice Chair Hodder moved, Member Mueller seconded, approval of the September 24, 2024, meeting minutes as presented.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

4. Communication Items

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer provided a brief review and update on projects and maintenance activities listed in the staff report dated October 22, 2024.

5. AARP Walk Audit

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer introduced Mr. Bob Bierscheid, who presented the AARP Walk Audit results.

Member Fergus thought it was great that this was being done. In doing this, has he been surprised that it is better or worse than he thought?

Mr. Bierscheid explained that when he was the director and assistant director, they had difficulty getting pathways through, especially along Lexington, and there was some resistance at the time. This walking program is not only with Roseville but also with Ramsey County.

Member Mueller thanked Mr. Bierscheid for bringing this to the community because this is important for city residents.

Chair Ficek thanked Mr. Bierscheid for the presentation and felt this was of great value to the community.

6. 2025 Proposed Utility Rates

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer introduced Finance Director Michelle Pietrick, who presented the 2025 Proposed Utility Rates.

Member Fergus indicated that one thing that occurred to him was the sewer fund. It showed it holding steady, and then in 2031, they started doing inflationary increases. He wondered if it made sense to do a half percent per year instead of increasing it by five percent or something like that in 2031.

Ms. Pietrick explained that this is updated every two years because there have been some surprises.

Motion

Member Fergus moved, Vice Chair Hodder seconded, to recommend the City Council adopt the 2025 proposed Utility Rates.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

7. Streetlight Update

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer reviewed the Streetlight Policy update.

Member Mueller indicated that LED lights can irritate people, and many studies have been done on their biological impacts. However, she feels like the lights she sees in Roseville are muted, so she is curious if there is some tone to them.

Mr. Freihammer indicated the City worked with Xcel to meet all needs with a neutral light.

Mr. Freihammer and the Commission discussed the lighting used in the City and Xcel-owned versus city-owned lighting.

Chair Ficek indicated in the slides that there was a piece regarding the no cost of removing a light and that if, for some reason, the resident would come to the City to ask for removal.

Mr. Freihammer indicated the resident could come and request a light removal, but the City has not had that many requests. If needed, the City could make a formal policy regarding that.

8. Future Agenda Items

Discussion ensued regarding the Future PWETC agenda:

- Update on Less Mow Update
- 2025 Public Works Plan
- Police Department and Fire Department Public Safety Update

9. Adjourn

Motion

Member Luongo moved, Member Fergus seconded, adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:25 p.m.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion carried.