

**Roseville Public Works, Environment and  
Transportation Commission**

**Agenda Item**

---

**Date:** October 26, 2021

**Item No: 3**

---

**Item Description:** Approval of the September 28, 2021 Public Works Commission Minutes

---

Attached are the minutes from the September 28, 2021 meeting.

**Recommended Action:**

Motion approving the minutes of September 28, 2021, subject to any necessary corrections or revision.

Move: \_\_\_\_\_

Second: \_\_\_\_\_

Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_

Nays: \_\_\_\_\_

**Roseville Public Works, Environment  
and Transportation Commission  
Meeting Minutes**

---

---

Tuesday, September 28, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.  
City Council Chambers, 2660 Civic Center Drive  
Roseville, Minnesota 55113

---

---

1       **1. Introduction / Roll Call**

2       Chair Wozniak called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. and at his  
3       request, Public Works Director Marc Culver called the roll.

4  
5       **Present:**       Chair Joe Wozniak; Vice Chair Bryant Ficek; and Members Michael  
6       Joyce, Jarrod Cicha, Nancy Misra, Mike Collins and Shane Spencer  
7       (Virtual)

8  
9       **Absent:**       None

10  
11       **Staff Present:**   Public Works Director Marc Culver; and City  
12       Engineer/Assistant Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer

13  
14       **2. Public Comments**

15       None.

16  
17       **3. Approval of August 24, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

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

21  
22       **Motion**

23       **Member Wozniak moved, Member Misra seconded, approval of the**  
24       **August 24, 2021 meeting minutes as presented.**

25  
26       **Ayes: 5**

27       **Nays: 0**

28       **Motion carried.**

29  
30       **4. Oath of Office**

31       Chair Wozniak administered the Oath of Office to Member Collins.

32

33 **5. Communication Items**

34 City Engineer Jesse Freihammer provided a brief review and update on projects  
35 and maintenance activities listed in the staff report dated September 28, 2021.

36  
37 Member Cicha thanked Assistant City Engineer Smith for helping with the County  
38 Road B project issues with a family member.

39  
40 Mr. Culver thanked Member Cicha for pointing that out and appreciated the  
41 comment. He noted that project is nearing completion.

42  
43 Mr. Culver updated the Commission on the City Council items related to the  
44 PWETC as well as an updated on the watermain break between Josephine and  
45 County Road C2.

46  
47 Member Misra indicated she was happy to see a four way stop at Hamlin and C2.  
48 She noted she goes through that area fairly often and it feels safer now. She  
49 wondered if this is a permanent change.

50  
51 Mr. Culver explained this is an intersection the City has been struggling with and  
52 there has been a high crash rate there, in particular over the last four or five years  
53 and the City has been working with the County trying different things because  
54 people are not seeing cars in that area of late. He indicated this does not meet  
55 warrants and technically speaking the City should not have a four way stop there  
56 and the danger is if an all-way stop is put into a non-warranted situation it sets up  
57 a situation where people do not respect the stop sign because there is not enough  
58 traffic there and people will start to do California stops or go through the stop sign  
59 and an even worse crash could happen. He thought it has been working great and  
60 people are used to the signs now. He thought in the future this might be converted  
61 to a possible mini round about, which would be more suitable for that type of  
62 intersection. For now, it will be an all way stop for the foreseeable future.

63  
64 Chair Wozniak asked if the City has done any follow-up traffic studies on C2 to  
65 determine whether or not there has been an increase in crosstown traffic since C2  
66 opened all the way up to Victoria.

67  
68 Mr. Culver explained the City did follow up traffic counts between Josephine, C2  
69 and Woodhill. The traffic study that was done before C2 connected to Lexington  
70 nailed how the traffic would be distributed through those three routes, once C2 was  
71 opened to traffic. He noted it is pretty well balanced out between the three.

72  
73 **6. Emerald Ash Borer Update and Accelerated Plan**

74 Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Matt Johnson and Parks Superintendent  
75 Jim Taylor gave a presentation regarding the Emerald Ash Borer update and  
76 accelerated plan.

77

78  
79  
80  
81  
82  
83  
84  
85  
86  
87  
88  
89  
90  
91  
92  
93  
94  
95  
96  
97  
98  
99  
100  
101  
102  
103  
104  
105  
106  
107  
108  
109  
110  
111  
112  
113  
114  
115  
116  
117  
118  
119  
120  
121  
122  
123

Member Cicha asked regarding the buddy trees, what species of tree did the Parks Department like planting underneath the Ash Trees.

Mr. Taylor indicated the Parks Department has a street tree masterplan that is followed which has twelve or thirteen different species. They are dead set on not putting the City in the same situation as other cities have done twice now by using anywhere from twelve to fourteen species. The reason it started at eleven or twelve was because the State said the City could only use grant funds for certain species. The City will plant, with City dollars, outside of those eleven or twelve species that the State allows. The City is being as diverse as possible in the replanting.

Mr. Johnson indicated another thing is that they are going to use the best value approach where the City is going to work with a vendor that has a strong amount of expertise and they have already listed a potential expansion of the existing tree inventory and the tree species list for a vendor.

Member Joyce asked regarding water of the new plantings, who is responsible to do that, and he wondered if that is something in the RFP.

Mr. Taylor explained in the RFP there is the watering and planting included as a part of it. Boulevard trees have been watered by the contractor; the park trees have been watered by the City.

Member Joyce asked if there is any anticipated tree loss due to the draught from this year.

Mr. Taylor indicated they are not seeing a lot right now. Their normal disease and hazard year has been right on par to what the City is usually at. Obviously, the Ash decline may have accelerated a little bit because of the draught but he did not think that of the trees planted there has not been a lot of loss because they have been watered right away.

Member Misra thought the Parks Department had a good plan and it is good to hear they are focusing on the diversity of species being replanted. It occurred to her as she looked at the death curve that over the next three years the City will see almost double the number of trees going out that has already been seen. She thought it will be very dramatic in the next couple of years. She wondered if there is any kind of encouragement for private homeowners to also take a look at their own trees and start to replant, sort of like a buddy system.

Mr. Johnson indicated that is a great question and has been listed in the current draft of their RFP as a value add. Sort of putting this to the vendors on whether it is an educational component, whether there is some sort of component to potentially discount. Staff does not know exactly how that would look but ideally, they can help the City with that piece, with the awareness piece of the private trees. The other piece that staff has tried to do to the extent that they are able is to do the green

124 wraps around the trees to try to get people to identify Ash trees in their yards and  
125 understand what is going to happen. He noted there have also been articles put in  
126 the newsletter as a part of awareness. He explained currently the City does not have  
127 any public assistance for that. He thought the awareness was good and the  
128 educational piece will continue to accelerate and is important but beyond that they  
129 have not been able to help financially with that.

130  
131 Member Spencer indicated one thing for him, and he has not read up on it, but is  
132 there any indication that the Emerald Ash Borer is jumping species of trees or is it  
133 strictly the Ash tree that it is contained to.

134  
135 Mr. Taylor explained the City is not seeing anything like that in the City. He noted  
136 he has not seen any research data on that as well, but staff will certainly keep an  
137 eye on it as they go.

138  
139 Vice Chair Ficek indicated he was curious about the treatment itself and what the  
140 City is doing as well as if it has any impact on the death curve. Is it treating the  
141 trees and pushing the death out by a number of years.

142  
143 Mr. Taylor reviewed the treatment schedule with the Commission.

144  
145 Vice Chair Ficek asked if the City is continuing with treatment in some areas.

146  
147 Mr. Taylor indicated they were and did treat forty some trees. This is a two-year  
148 treatment. He noted the City is starting to whittle that number down due to the  
149 buddy tree plantings. There is still treatment as a part of the RFP process to  
150 continue to do some of the treatments while buddy trees are planted in those areas.

151  
152 Chair Wozniak asked about the species used to replace the Ash trees and wondered  
153 if climate change has altered the choices that staff has in front of them. He thought  
154 they are seeing a warmer, dryer climate and at least some people are predicting that  
155 this area will basically transition slowly to a grassland eco-system over the next  
156 fifty years. He wondered how that affects the type of trees they are choosing to  
157 replace the ash trees with.

158  
159 Mr. Taylor indicated it has not affected the type of tree plantings yet and they have  
160 actually expanded the list a little bit more because they have had good luck with  
161 some newer species of trees.

162  
163 Chair Wozniak asked who makes the approved species tree list.

164  
165 Mr. Taylor explained they work with the DNR as well as the City does its own  
166 research on the approve species tree list.

167  
168 Chair Wozniak thanked Mr. Taylor and Mr. Johnson for the presentation.

169

170  
171  
172  
173  
174  
175  
176  
177  
178  
179  
180  
181  
182  
183  
184  
185  
186  
187  
188  
189  
190  
191  
192  
193  
194  
195  
196  
197  
198  
199  
200  
201  
202  
203  
204  
205  
206  
207  
208  
209  
210  
211  
212  
213  
214  
215

**7. Items for Next Meeting – October 26, 2021**

Discussion ensued regarding the October PWETC agenda:

- Proposed Utility Rates and Fees
- Introduction to Crosswalk Policies

Chair Wozniak asked if staff has had any luck with recruiting a student member to the Commission.

Mr. Culver indicated the City has not and he did not believe any of the other Commissions were having luck with recruiting student members either. He reviewed the process for student commission recruitment.

Member Joyce asked if the Commission wanted to do a tour of the public works facilities before winter.

Mr. Culver indicated he would like to propose a tour of the booster station outside of the normal meeting time. He indicated they could also do a walk through of the maintenance facility as well.

Vice Chair Ficek indicated since the last meeting he noticed school has started and there are more kids walking around. With all of the walking he was particularly thinking about the middle school and the high school and some of the intersections where there are signals and he was wondering what the potential would be for implementing a leading pedestrian interval.

Mr. Culver explained a leading pedestrian interval is a special interval of time in the signal cycle where the intersection is all red for that pedestrian phase. It would actually bring up the walk signal several seconds prior to any of the green lights coming up. What that does is gets the pedestrian into the intersection and makes them visible to the drivers waiting at the intersection before the light turns green and it also gets them a third or so through the intersection before cars are allowed to move. It has shown to be very effective in increasing safety at intersections. It is a very good safety treatment at signalized intersections. He explained for implementation in Roseville, all of the traffic signals in Roseville are controlled by either Ramsey County or MnDOT. The City would have to work with those agencies on that. He would imagine those agencies would have to look at it from a big picture perspective.

Member Collins indicated he has been going by the high school area ever since school started this year and late at night after football games it is extremely busy in that area and kind of hard to see with it being really dark. He thought the suggestion about the crosswalks in that area would be really great idea.

Mr. Culver noted next year it is going to be really interesting around that area. The County received some Federal money to update the signal at Lexington and County Road B2, adding two left turn lanes. There will be left turn lanes with left turn

216 phasing and a lot of the congestion that is currently there is because cars are waiting  
217 to turn left and backs up. That should be a lot better as well as better lighting at  
218 that intersection.

219  
220 Member Misra indicated she was wondering when and how the City might start  
221 addressing the electric vehicle and charging stations, especially given all of the  
222 multi-dwelling housing that is going in.

223  
224 Mr. Culver indicated that is on the radar of the City and developers. He indicated  
225 they will check on that with some of the developments currently going in and  
226 update the Commission on that.

227

228 **8. Adjourn**

229

230 **Motion**

231 **Member Joyce moved, Member Ficek seconded, adjournment of the meeting**  
232 **at approximately 7:51 p.m.**

233

234 **Ayes: 7**

235 **Nays: 0**

236 **Motion carried.**