

Roseville Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 28, 2019, at 6:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers, 2660 Civic Center Drive
Roseville, Minnesota 55113

1. Introduction / Roll Call

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

Present: Chair Brian Cihacek; Vice Chair Joe Wozniak; and Members Stephanie Hammer, Karen Huiett, Michael Joyce, and Shane Spencer

Absent: Member Nancy Misra (Excused)

Staff Present: City Engineer/Assistant Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer; and Environmental Specialist Ryan Johnson

2. Public Comments

Ms. Donna Peterson, 2436 Haskell, stated she wanted to bring to the Commission's attention a flyer that was sent with an email on May 23rd from Alliance For Sustainability about Resilient Cities Workshop on June 20th. She thought it was going to be a great workshop and she was looking forward to the keynote speaker from Chicago that is going to be talking about the Greenest Region Compact which is tying together about one hundred cities in the Chicago area and there will be a lot of learning from other cities around here in terms of what people are doing on different aspects of cutting the carbon footprint or working on sustainability. There are also supposed to be some local experts on sustainable building policies.

Ms. Peterson stated she is part of a small group that is just getting started in Roseville called Resilient Roseville and the goal for the group is to help Roseville move forward on climate action. That is not just City Hall, it is obviously other things that are needed to happen in Roseville besides what happens at City Hall. She stated the group's first endeavor is two or three people have taken off on trying to see whether the High School or some of the schools might be amenable to solar panels.

3. Swearing In of A New Commissioner

Chair Cihacek swore in Commissioner Shane Spencer as the newest Commissioner to the PWETC.

Member Spencer shared his background with the Commission.

4. Approval of April 23, 2019 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

Vice Chair Wozniak moved, Member Hammer seconded, approval of the April 23, 2019 meeting minutes as presented.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

5. Communication Items

City Engineer Jesse Freihammer provided a brief review and update on projects and maintenance activities listed in the staff report dated May 28, 2019.

Vice Chair Wozniak noticed the County has implemented phase signals at Hamlin where it crosses County Road B2 and has seen some long lines of traffic eastbound in the afternoon.

Mr. Freihammer stated staff can work with the County on possibly adjusting the signal time.

Vice Chair Wozniak noted the road goes down to one lane after the lights with a left turn lane and he thought the turn lane could be made a little longer but was not sure what the solution would be. He wondered how adjustable the signals are.

Mr. Freihammer stated the length of the signal can be adjusted.

Vice Chair Wozniak asked if the signal can be triggered by sensors.

Mr. Freihammer stated the signals can have sensors that trigger timing but most of the time it is triggered by cars, based by the loop detectors and then goes to a cycle.

Member Huiett asked with the construction contracts are there diversity goals within the subcontractors.

Mr. Freihammer stated if the project is Federal Aid those are automatically built in. For the MnDOT projects for this year have prevailing wage goals in there and are some requirements.

Member Hammer asked what the communication plan was for the roadwork, especially lane closures with County Road C. She stated there is a lot of road construction which affects commutes.

Mr. Freihammer stated Ramsey County is the lead on the project and will do weekly updates at the Ramsey County site in detail. Roseville also tries to share on Facebook and Twitter and in the newsletter information from Ramsey County. Detours are promoted on social media, so people are not caught off guard.

6. MS4 Annual Meeting

Environmental Specialist Ryan Johnson provided a brief review and update on the Annual MS4 Public Meeting and sharing the Annual Report.

Chair Cihacek offered an opportunity for public comment with no one coming forward.

Member Hammer asked if the information will be available to people that may be interested in creating private within their property or is there other kind of guidance.

Mr. Johnson stated these are a good couple of pieces the City has, for private residences there is probably some better information that is a little more tailored to them.

Chair Cihacek asked what a contributor to high phosphorus levels is.

Mr. Johnson stated anything from landscaping, atmosphere deposition. The City is really good at designed the storm sewer systems to capture storm water and get it away to reduce the flooding issues but at the same point in time, anything that is organic falls on it and gets washed away and all of the ponds, lakes, ditches all end up being sources because everything is collected there and not being able to get processed. The City has a lot of phosphorus basically held.

Mr. Johnson reviewed the total maximum daily load volume.

Member Huiett asked if the City has looked at solar power for the pumps in the water to move it around and keep it from getting stagnant.

Mr. Johnson stated the City was looking at that, but the pumps draw enough that solar power would probably not be able to keep the pumps going all of the time and to add the solar onto the pumps made it a little more cost prohibitive.

Member Huiett thought it could help serve as a reminder that something is going on and an aid as to why the ice is thin.

Mr. Johnson reviewed pond maintenance with the Commission.

Member Hammer asked what efforts are being made to rehab the plant life around the ponds, in terms of filtration.

Mr. Johnson stated there is not a good echo system established. A lot of the ponds were established in the fifties through seventies. From an eco-system side, it is not great and one of the components the City has looked at when doing smaller project restorations is to go through and use more native seeds to try to establish something that has a little more benefit.

Chair Cihacek asked if the impervious surface that feeds into this pond is reduced, would it benefit the capacity for this pond.

Mr. Johnson stated that was correct. Volume rate would decrease.

Vice Chair Wozniak asked if a place like Von Marr in Roseville, is the added storage capacity equal to the Von Marr footprint or should the City go beyond that.

Mr. Freihammer stated for example in Rice Creek Watershed, all of Rice Creek has to go an additional twenty percent.

Mr. Johnson stated once a business hits ten thousand feet of impervious surface, it all has to get modeled to show at least a twenty percent decrease in the rate. Just because it is in the Rice Creek Watershed District flood plain and this all drains up to Jones Lake, which is the Watershed's primary concern once it leaves Roseville. He stated the City does see a lot of improvement; stormwater wise when there are big redevelopments.

Mr. Johnson continued with his presentation on Chloride and street sweeping.

Vice Chair Wozniak asked what percentage of the salt that Roseville uses rock salt.

Mr. Johnson Roseville uses mostly the rock salt. The City does use a lot more brine and wetting the salt before putting down to try to activate it faster, so less is used.

Member Huiett asked if sand was not as effective salt.

Mr. Johnson stated sand and salt are two different processes. Salt is really good at melting, getting it down to pavement and sand is good for traction. If sand is put down salt is usually not put down because it's kind of defeats the purpose.

Mr. Johnson reviewed shredding day and recycling stats for 2018. He also reviewed tips for residents that were in the report.

Vice Chair Wozniak asked if the tip information has ever been posted online or in the newsletter for residents.

Mr. Johnson stated it has and staff works with communications to put the information out. It typically makes it out via social media in fall and winter.

Chair Cihacek asked if staff had the same advice for commercial properties.

Mr. Johnson stated staff has done a little bit but need to do more. Right now, most businesses are worried about liability and less about people tripping over salt piles. Businesses tend to use more salt. He stated the City needs to come up with a communication plan on who to target and how to get the word out.

Member Spencer asked when alerting residents about access salt is a visual used because a lot of people are very visual.

Mr. Johnson stated the City does not have a lot of visual information, but staff does link to different sites such as the PCA or the watershed districts for information of proper spacing of rock salt for effectiveness and there is a lot of information out there that staff references.

Member Huiett thought the good work staff is doing, it does save and is a safety matter when talking about some slippery conditions. She appreciated the balance there as well.

Mr. Johnson stated the City has a street salting policy as well. The City uses the appropriate amount of salt to get it to a point of safety that all of the residents would be happy with.

Chair Cihacek stated if the Commissioners have questions for Mr. Johnson please contact him.

7. Sustainable Roseville

Environmental Specialist Ryan Johnson provided a brief review and update on the Annual Sustainability of Roseville.

Chair Cihacek thought this was not a comprehensive list of things the City has worked on but things that have been accomplished.

Mr. Johnson stated that was correct. He reviewed Green Step Cities with the Commission. He also reviewed the Solar Investigation from 2014-current. He noted the industrial areas on the map are very bright and there is a lot of potential that could be on the west portion of the City to make big improvements on greenhouse gas emission reductions, get more solar in due to large flat roofs. Staff needs to determine how the City should move forward.

Member Huiett asked what the estimated payback period was for the City Solar.

Mr. Johnson stated the City did not pay anything for the solar yet. He explained the agreement the City entered into with the manufacturer. He noted the expected payback is not determined; it depends on when the system is purchased by the City.

Chair Cihacek stated the City will start seeing a positive profit within year two because the first year is a wash.

Member Hammer asked if there is commercial property in the City that has solar like the City does on the buildings.

Mr. Johnson stated there are probably more churches in the City that have solar than businesses. He stated he did not want to say there are not any businesses because the City does not gather any information from businesses. He would imagine City wide there are some businesses that have solar.

Member Hammer wondered if this would be something beneficial in the future for businesses if the businesses learn about the benefits of solar power.

Mr. Johnson reviewed the solar installation on City buildings.

Member Spencer asked if there are any companies out there that will do an upgrade process as solar becomes more efficient at what the company does.

Mr. Johnson stated the way it was explained to the City staff was these panels will still be working in thirty years but may not be as efficient as newer technology. These will still be highly functional, and the City will get some value from them.

Chair Cihacek stated the panels degrade about one percent per year. These panels will continue to perform well past the payoff period on the one hand, but no company can afford to come back and replace panels at their cost if there is better technology. The modeling does not allow it to happen. He stated it is a long-term commitment for the City.

Mr. Johnson stated on the City website there is a link to show a kiosk view of what is currently being produced for solar energy. He reviewed with the Commission what the City can do moving forward to get to the next step.

Chair Cihacek thought this was something the Commission should look ahead to discuss further. He did think it would be helpful for the Commission to make recommendations on fleet management based upon what the City currently has, what is in the market and what would make sense. He thought it would be a good idea to review the B3 generally. What is it doing, what is in there now, what the expansion programs would be. He thought it was a good idea to review the program due to new Commissioners. He also thought the Commission needed to start planning joint meetings with the Parks Commission and Planning Commission to come up with a joint process for many of these areas.

Vice Chair Wozniak thought the Commission needed to also have conversations with the City Council as to how to incorporate the action from Resilient Roseville and other concerned citizens into this Commission. He stated it was his understanding that the Commission would need City Council approval in order to have a sub-committee outside of this Commission or an entirely new Commission because there is some energy going on right now and he wants to take advantage of that.

Chair Cihacek stated the Commission meets with the City Council in July and thought this item could be put in with the look ahead items to discuss the Commission structure generally before the joint meeting.

8. Items for Next Meeting – June 25, 2019

Discussion ensued regarding the May PWETC agenda:

- Eureka Annual Report
- Short Public Works Review
- Utility Rate Review of Commercial Rates
- Prep Session for Joint Meeting with the City Council

Vice Chair Wozniak noted the Commission should hear about the organic's approval at the next meeting as well and may be some things to discuss such as timeline and bag distribution.

Vice Chair Wozniak stated several of the Commissioners received an email from Kalie Sirventes with Conservation Minnesota asking the Commission to sign a letter that would be sent to Congress Woman Betty McCullen urging the subcommittee to provide significant increased funding for the land and water conservation fund in fiscal year 2020. It came with a copy of the letter and signature pages for Commission members and the reason he is bringing it up is the Commission does not know if the Commissioners have the authority to sign this even as an Advisory Commission but he wanted to verify that and explore that because this may not be the last time someone approaches the Commission for support of something of this nature, something supporting environmental funds or policies.

Chair Cihacek stated the City residents could contact Congress and express the same message however in this position the Commissioners are representing more than themselves, the Commissioners are representing other constituency. The question is does the Commission have the authority to speak on the resident's behalf because the Commission is not an elected body and not the role of the Commission. In this case what he would recommend as Chair is the Commission could read the letter and make note of the service that the Commission provides to the City to help strengthen that but as a Commission do not send any letters of support unless the Council asks the Commission to do so in order to maintain impartiality.

9. Adjourn

Motion

Member Huiett moved, Member Joyce seconded, adjournment of the meeting at approximately 8:31 p.m.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion carried.