

Roseville Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 25, 2018, 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 Martin Kors, Michael Kruse, Thomas Trainor and Michael Joyce (arrived at approximately 6:55 p.m.)

Absent: Member Nancy Misra (Excused)

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

2. Public Comments

None.

3. Approval of July 24, 2018 And August 28, 2018 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.

Chair Cihacek indicated the August 28, 2018 meeting minutes were not official minutes due to lack of quorum.

Motion

Member Trainor moved, Member Kruse seconded, approval of the July 24, 2018 meeting minutes as presented.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

4. Communication Items

City Engineer Jesse Freihammer provided a brief review and update on projects and maintenance activities listed in the staff report dated September 25, 2018.

Mr. Mark Culver stated in regard to the Long Lake Project the most significant changes besides a trail is the improvements at Long Lake Road and County Road C. He stated currently Long Lake acts as an extension of the freeway offramp between the southbound offramp and County Road C. The signal has been deficient in design for quite some time and doesn't have a dedicated left turn phase for the southbound traffic. That is a significant movement through the intersection and as part of this project the County will be adjusting the geometrics primarily on the north approach to provide a dual left and a dedicate right with a through movement. The southside is set up to align with the new geometrics on the north side. That should improve the operations of that intersection significantly. He noted that would be the biggest improvement of the project, in his opinion.

Member Wozniak thought it was great that the City took advantage of this project to make the connection to the diagonal trail and the County Road C trail because the Commission has looked at making that connection for a long time and as part of the work the Commission has done on the trail management program he thought the City has always looked at a chance to make that connection.

Member Wozniak wondered when the project would be completed.

Mr. Freihammer stated the project would start early 2019 and would take the duration of the summer and should be completed by the end of summer 2019.

Mr. Culver stated this project has been on the City's radar for some time and the County has made a couple of applications for Federal funds for this project and the County finally decided to get it done.

Mr. Culver noted for the abutting property owners along County Road C the City will be proposing to levy assessments for this project. It is the City's special assessment policy for full reconstructs. It is defined as when the City replaces all of the curb and gutter on a roadway and reconstructing the full depth of pavement. That is considered a reconstruct project and at that point the City does assess the benefiting property owners if the property owners have not been assessed. In this case, the property owners have not had an assessment for improvements on the roadway. The Engineering Department will be putting together a feasibility study which will be presented to the City Council in November and that will have estimated assessments for the properties.

Member Kruse asked if the no previous assessment is based on historical information or is it based on the owner of the property.

Mr. Culver indicated it was historical and does not matter if the property has changed ownership or not.

Member Kors asked if there were any provisions for the crude oil plant along the project area.

Mr. Culver stated part of the reason why this project is using concrete is because of the heavy truck traffic and the heavy weight of the truck traffic.

Mr. Freihammer stated the pavement condition will reflect the amount of trucks in the corridor, access into the properties being reflected. The one other significant thing is that currently there are truck stopping lanes for the truck to pull off to the side for the railroad tracks which will be eliminated. The main reason for that is in order to get the pathway in there as well with the proximity of the existing tower, the corridor became very tight and the County did study how much that lane was used, and the lane was pretty substandard, there was not a huge acceleration lane to go in and out. The decision was made to move forward without the stopping lane. The corridor is fully designed for the amount of trucks in there and is probably the most heavily trucked corridor in Roseville.

Mr. Culver noted the resurfacing project for the weekend will have some additional ramp closures, particularly around Cleveland, Highway 36 and 35W ramps. Those ramps will close on Friday and staff was not sure how long the ramps will be closed but staff is trying to find out.

Mr. Culver stated the County did score the proposals for the MNPass project and the award is going to go to Ames Construction, which came to \$208 million. The City will see some significant work on that in 2019.

Mr. Culver updated the Commission on City Council activities.

5. City Campus Solar Update

Mr. Culver provided a brief review and update on projects and maintenance activities listed in the staff report dated September 25, 2018.

Member Trainor wondered if staff was going to do an annual review of the project and look at how it is performing.

Mr. Culver stated staff will be able to monitor this in real time and generate some reports as far as how much solar energy has been produced and how much the City is paying. It is a little trickier with Xcel Energy rates because with the demand charges the City may sometimes have to guess how much would be paid in demand charges if using all electricity off the grid versus solar energy. The actual cost per kilowatt hour might go down because of the solar energy use.

Member Trainor asked if the whole complex would be set up to use solar energy at peak energy times.

Mr. Culver stated the campus buildings all have individual meters and are looked at individually and the reason why the average rates are different by building.

Member Wozniak asked if the payments for each building came out of the particular department budget or is it a City budget. If the departments are paying out of their budget would the savings go back to those departments.

Mr. Culver stated for City Hall there is a general building budget that would cover City Hall and probably also cover the maintenance facility, but he would have to check into that. He thought because of the utility funds these might be split off or make payments from the utility funds back into the building fund as overhead. The Fire Station energy costs do come out of their budget along with the skating center. He believed that if the different buildings have energy savings the savings would be reflected back into those individual budgets.

Member Joyce arrived during the presentation at approximately 6:55 p.m.

Motion

Member Trainor moved, Member Wozniak seconded, to recommend the City Council install the solar arrays under the Solar Rewards program on the rooftops of City Hall, the Fire Station and the Maintenance Facility. The Commission further recommends that a solar array under the PV Demand Credit program be installed on the Maintenance Facility as well.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

6. Tiered Water Rate Analysis

Mr. Freihammer provided a brief review and update on projects and maintenance activities listed in the staff report dated September 25, 2018.

Member Kors thought Mr. Culver mentioned that larger families use more water.

Mr. Culver stated the City is trying to account for that by breaking this down per capita. The City is trying to estimate and get a glimpse of where the larger families would be at. That is why staff is recommending the motion based on feedback from the Commission and where staff felt the Commission was going towards. If that is the desire to try to encourage some water conservation particularly with the highest users, staff felt comfortable with setting that 50,000-gallon tier and then going from there.

Member Wozniak indicated the new tier would be used for summer months only and he thought the larger families would use the same amount of water year-round and not only in the summer months.

Mr. Freihammer directed the Commission to look at the winter use graph per quarter. He reviewed the graph with the Commission and noted it was less than a percent that use that tier in the winter and that would be the same amount of people affected in the Summer months. He noted some of those may have leaky plumbing and City Staff tries to notify those people.

Mr. Culver stated if the Council were to adopt this and staff was to implement this new tier, staff would make concerted efforts to notify and educate those customers over the 50,000-gallon tier to let them know this is coming and to take a serious look at why the resident is using that much water, particularly in the winter months.

Chair Cihacek stated if no changes are made and the City does get the money, to allow for conservation programs moving forward, the City can develop some sort of incentive program which would help the residents who are over the 50,000-gallon tier to lower their rates and become educated.

Commissioner Kors wondered how many households this would impact in the City.

Mr. Freihammer stated it would impact 350 residences in the summer and 17 residences in the winter. He stated in the summer staff would target that group, even the 40,000-gallon tier to educate them, if this were to be adopted.

Chair Cihacek thought there would be opportunity with additional funding to have good outreach and communication and a potential rebate on some of the programs.

Commissioner Kruse thought if this tier was adopted it would be higher than the commercial rate for that same amount of usage.

Chair Cihacek thought if the rates were increased for residential the next Commission task would be to look at commercial rates.

Mr. Freihammer stated commercial will be more varied because there is no typical commercial property, and some are using it as process water, not necessarily irrigation. Commercial is almost a different analysis.

Mr. Culver stated staff could modify the commercial rate and then set up an exception opportunity so if the business can show the City that that particular business is actually using the water for industrial purpose or production of a product then the City could give them a different rate for that and still encourage those that are consuming that much water for irrigation to do something different.

Chair Cihacek thought this would be a totally different analysis to look at rates and would need a conversation at a different meeting, if needed. He thought if the City raised one tier there would need to be a conversation for commercial.

Member Joyce asked if the biggest commercial user was Rosedale.

Mr. Culver stated Rosedale is one of the top ten users. He noted the milk factory is the City's biggest user and there is also Old Dutch. He stated the City has fewer commercial accounts but thought there was a larger percent of commercial accounts that are irrigating their property versus residential accounts. He noted there are not a lot of residential properties in the City with heavy irrigation. There are townhome properties, multi-family housing properties and a good chunk of those are irrigated.

Member Wozniak asked if an apartment building would be classified as residential or commercial.

Mr. Freihammer indicated it would be classified as commercial.

Mr. Freihammer stated the only residential the City is showing is single family, duplexes, some townhomes, some of those may have an irrigation meter, and condo's depending on how the condominiums are set up.

Chair Cihacek thought this was the first step in a longer process.

Motion

Member Trainor moved, Member Wozniak seconded, to recommend the City Council approve a third-tier summer rate at twice the tier one rate for residential accounts, which use over 50,000 gallons.

Member Wozniak asked if in the motion the Commission needed to add \$4.50 a gallon for over 50,000 gallons. Did it need to be specific in the recommendation or can it state twice the tier one rate.

Mr. Culver stated if the Commission indicates twice the winter rate, that statement, if the Council were to adopt it would carry through to future rate adjustments.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

7. Organics Drop Off Location Discussion

Mr. Culver provided a brief review and update on projects and maintenance activities listed in the staff report dated September 25, 2018.

Member Wozniak stated the County has created a cookie cutter design for these types of sites that would be approximately 20 feet wide by 10 feet deep, six feet high and maintenance free with an access gate on one side and two gates for material pickup on the other side on a concrete pad. He stated the County is willing to pay for these to be installed and the County would provide bags, waste removal services and snow removal services during the winter months.

Mr. Culver stated he did not have the city-wide survey in the member's packets but there was not a ground swell of support for the organic's curbside. In the survey there was also a question regarding drop off recycling and only fifteen percent of the residents polled indicated interest in using it and the majority of people indicated there was no likelihood of using that. He noted the City Council saw the results and wondered why the City would push this type of recycling so hard.

Mr. Culver stated he was bringing this to the Commission because no formal recommendation has been made to the City Council and he wanted to give the Commission another opportunity to hear the information and understand that the County really would like to see a centrally located recycling center in Roseville. From a cost perspective there is really little risk to the City to provide the recycling station and partner with Ramsey County. The City would need to make some compromises as far as where it would be located and how the City does leaf operations at the recycling center.

Member Kruse wondered how this would impact the new development on that corner where the recycling station is being proposed.

Mr. Culver stated it should not impact the development at all and there should be some vegetation on site to screen it. There should not be any additional smell from this that would impact the development. He thought the leaf recycling center would have a greater smell.

Chair Cihacek asked if the City could request a smaller size for the recycling station. He did not think there would be a concern with smells but there is a concern for lighting and the site is relatively confined so a smaller pad would work well there especially with the proposed amount of use.

Commissioner Wozniak asked what size the bunker was.

Mr. Culver indicated the size was 30x15. He noted the actual size the County gave to staff was 20x8. He noted it would fit where proposed and the City does not use that area for operations. He thought the standard size would fit.

Chair Cihacek thought the size was too big for what the use be. He stated that given the level of interest and the people dropping items off he thought the organics could even be picked up once a month. This is a very big container for a very little amount of stuff going into it. The pad may be 10x20, so the site could be expanded over time, but the actual container should be smaller.

Member Kors thought for the people who were against this drop off is there some measures the City can do for outreach to explain benefit.

Mr. Culver stated part of this would be additional outreach. There could be information put in the newsletter regarding organic material.

Chair Cihacek stated since this will be by one of the City's largest park systems, could the City potentially use that site and that container to pilot out organics collections after park events to that dumpster. He wondered if other non-essential users put stuff in the dumpster, which might add more value.

Member Wozniak thought the County would be open to something like that.

Chair Cihacek stated he would try to scale down the site to match the City use and potentially have other businesses, events, organizations other than residential that are located within Roseville being able to drop off at the site as well.

Member Trainor indicated he would like to see this move forward and once built he thought people would use it. He thought the education portion is important, but a baseline has to be established first and then build from there.

Member Joyce thought the twenty percent of residents that were indifferent to this were uninformed and were not knowledgeable on this type of recycling and if educated there might be more involvement.

Mr. Culver thought as the City gets more of these drop off sites more people will end up using it, people who are not aware of it will be exposed to it more. He thought it will propagate in the use as people understand it more and the benefits of it.

Member Wozniak thought there may be a need by residents for smaller trash containers as a result of this and managing waste separately. He did not think the County would support changing the size of their "cookie cutter" enclosure at this point.

Chair Cihacek noted the pad would still be the same size but the container could be smaller.

Member Wozniak agreed.

Member Kruse asked if the County has asked for this before and the City indicated it would be thought about.

Mr. Culver stated the County approached the City. He believed it has been over a year now since the City was approached regarding this item.

Member Wozniak stated the County is reaching out to a number of communities. The ones that are not currently served by a County yard waste site, Roseville being one of them.

Member Joyce wondered how the home composting numbers were looking, such as the rain barrel and the organics composting product. He wondered if those were still in effect and being used.

Member Wozniak thought the County still did some distribution of backyard composting bins. It has remained fairly constant, but backyard composting is limited. If done properly, the resident does not want to put any meat, fish or eggs in the compost or even bread or pasta should not go in to the compost because it will not decompose. He stated this system will take a lot more waste than the backyard compost bin.

Motion

Member Wozniak moved, Member Trainor seconded, to recommend to the City Council that the city work with Ramsey County to establish a drop-off site for household organic waste (e.g., food scraps, etc.) at the city's leaf compost site on Dale Street, based upon Commission comments and pending further review buy Public Works staff on feasibility.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Mr. Culver stated all three of the recommendations will be communicated to the City Council. Staff will work with the Council Members to bring forth these items at a future meeting for the Council to act on. For this item it could simply be that staff would get some direction from the Council Members off line to pursue this and bring the Council an agreement for approval. He noted staff would be looking for an installation next Spring for this.

Member Kruse stated he was looking at the County's website and the organics drop off site is listed for April through November, he wondered if there was a winter time that drop off is not accepted.

Member Wozniak believed all compost sites are open year-round and accept organics.

Mr. Culver stated the yard waste sites are only open April through November.

Member Wozniak stated his recollection is the County accepts organics year-round and the sites that accept brush accepts year-round on select weekends only.

8. October Agenda

Discussion ensued regarding the October PWETC agenda:

- Annual Guest Speaker – Chris Miller, Finance Director will present recommended utility rates for 2019: Water, Sewer, Storm Water and Recycling.
- November 2019 Work Plan

- January 2019

Mr. Culver noted he would not be at the October meeting.

Chair Cihacek recommended in the past bringing in research being done by the U of M, Smart Water Technologies for a presentation on sensors and other items. He also thought the Commission and staff could start to look at commercial water rates.

Mr. Culver thought the Commission could look at a final purchasing policy and a complete streets policy.

Member Wozniak asked if there were any updates on the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Culver stated between the Pathways Master Plan and the Transportation Plan, which is a component of the Comprehensive Plan, the Pathways Master Plan is not. The Pathways Master Plan will be presented to the Council for final approval on October 8th. The Comprehensive Plan will be before the City Council for the final touch on November 5th. The City has to adopt a final version by the end of the year.

Member Trainor asked if an update regarding the potential of Eureka shutdown with the change in recycling can be presented with a slide or two on how that situation is going and what rates are looking like. What the City is forecasting for wins or losses on the financial side.

Mr. Culver asked the Commission to hold off until November on that item because he will be back, and he is keeping on that subject and has some data he would like to present to the Commission.

Member Trainor asked if a motion needed to be made in order to not meet in December.

Chair Cihacek indicated the Commission did not need to make a motion, it is standing motion each year.

Member Wozniak stated the City of St. Paul is moving to organize trash collection on October 1st. It seemed like in the survey there was some interest. He asked staff to look at past surveys to see if there is any increased organized trash collection among the populous or is it remaining stagnant.

Mr. Culver stated staff can, at some point, if there is interest by the Commission to look back at some of the lessons learned from St. Paul's rollout of that program. There certainly is an effort to acquire enough signatures on a petition to get a referendum vote on that from a number of residents who do not like the new system.

Chair Cihacek asked for a solar update as presented to Council the Commission recommendation to move forward.

Mr. Culver stated the solar agreements will be presented to Council on October 22nd and a quick update can be done at the next Commission meeting as to the Council direction.

Member Joyce wondered how the roof replacement will be done with the solar project.

Mr. Culver stated the Fire Station roof is new as of 2012-2013. The City Hall and part of the Maintenance Facility roofs were redone in 2014 and the other portion of the Maintenance Facility where the solar array will be placed will be done in 2019. He noted the city typically uses a 20-25 year planned cycle on the rooftops. He thought the roofs can be extended a little bit because the City also does an annual maintenance contract to inspect and minor maintenance on the roofs annually. The solar panels should also help to extend the life of the roofs as well.

Member Wozniak asked if the City has been getting any requests for electric scooters.

Mr. Culver stated the City of St. Paul was going through that. He thought one of the staff members looked on the app and saw some scooters in Roseville, but he did not believe there were any in the City at this time. He thought the City was right on the edge of the area of influence with the St. Paul Campus. He noted he has seen a lot of the electric scooters around the St. Paul Campus.

Chair Cihacek wondered if the Commission should be proactive and develop a policy in regard to electric scooters.

Mr. Culver thought staff and the Commission could look at creating a policy.

Chair Cihacek stated a couple months ago there was conversation about snow parking restrictions and he wondered if this should be reviewed.

Mr. Culver updated the Commission on snow parking restriction discussion with the City Council. He noted staff will be going back to the City Council on October 22nd to present the data and feedback from residents.

Chair Cihacek asked if the Commission could get an update after the Council meeting regarding this item.

9. Adjourn

Motion

Member Trainor moved, Member Joyce seconded, adjournment of the meeting at approximately 8:02 p.m.

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Motion carried.