

Roseville Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 27, 2020, 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 Karen Huiett, Nancy Misra, Shane Spencer and Youth Member Jan Lynch

Absent: Member Stephanie Hammer, Michael Joyce and Youth Member Jan Lynch (Excused)

Staff Present: Public Works Director Marc Culver; Assistant City Engineer Luke Sandstrom, and Environmental Specialist Ryan Johnson

2. Public Comments

3. Approval of January 28, 2020 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.

Vice Chair Wozniak indicated he sent a few minor changes to the minutes to Mr. Culver by email.

Mr. Culver noted those changes have been incorporated into the digital minute record.

Motion

Member Wozniak moved, Member Spencer seconded, approval of the January 28, 2020 meeting minutes as amended.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

4. Communication Items

Public Works Director Marc Culver provided a brief review and update on projects and maintenance activities listed in the staff report dated February 27, 2020. He also mentioned the Star Tribune article regarding Ramsey County and Washington County's likely future efforts for organics composting and curbside collection.

Chair Cihacek asked if the County had any residual rates (nonorganic materials).

Mr. Culver indicated he had the same thought but has not heard anything. He asked Vice Chair Wozniak if he had any insight on the residual or waste that has been found in the streams.

Vice Chair Wozniak indicated he did not but could find that out and bring back to the Commission at the next meeting. He was sure the County received that information from the compost site where waste currently goes. He noted the food scrap sites will remain open, as plans are now, with the roll out of curbside food scrap collection.

Member Misra inquired if there was any significant difference between what is collected in Ramsey County and the City of Minneapolis.

Vice Chair Wozniak indicated he did not know that.

Mr. Culver explained there was a number in the article for the City of Minneapolis, but it was for the entire city. It was hard to make a comparison because no per capita number was given. He noted it is a much more established program.

Member Spencer thought it would also be interesting to see how Roseville compares to cities of its size, the Metro. Is Roseville in line with other cities.

Mr. Culver mentioned the census and updated the Commission on the status.

Chair Cihacek asked if the Met Council has released its tool for emissions measurement yet.

Mr. Culver indicated he was not aware of that. He noted the city has just subscribed to a tool called Streetlight, mostly for traffic counting but it uses cellular data to count traffic and do quick OD studies and Mr. Sandstrom has been playing around with it.

Mr. Culver explained Xcel Energy came out with a press release regarding resiliency. He reviewed the information with the Commission.

Chair Cihacek updated the Commission on the Forestry Task Force.

Vice Chair Wozniak inquired if there was much discussion about addressing the tree diversifying issue.

Chair Cihacek explained part of the conclusion that came about was that there is a jurisdictional issue inside 706 in which the Park Board is apparently given some capacities as a tree board but it is not clear in 706 what that means because the next section states the city overall has responsibility for planting and planning.

Chair Cihacek reviewed other items that were discussed at the Forestry Task Force meeting.

Mr. Culver indicated the city Council interviewed two candidates for Chair Cihacek's open position and Council will be appointing those members on March 9th.

Vice Chair Wozniak explained in January he received an email from a resident and thought other Commission Members did as well regarding the poor driving conditions when snowing on the on-ramps to Hwy 36 at Rice Street. The resident did not want a response but did want to voice their concerns about the road and how dangerous it is when it snows. He indicated he was bringing it up because he was not sure what to do when the Commission receives an email from a resident at the Commission level.

Mr. Culver was fairly certain that staff responded to the resident to indicate the email was forwarded on to MnDOT.

Chair Cihacek thought staff should be the first communicator in those instances and if needed staff will reach out to the Commission for a response.

Member Misra thought as development occurs in the city certain intersections and roads will become more congested and she wondered how the city is looking at that.

Mr. Culver thought the Commission could have an entire meeting on this. He reviewed what the city currently does with new developments and the surrounding intersections.

5. Sump Pump Enforcement

Assistant City Engineer Luke Sandstrom provided a brief review of the Sump Pump Ordinance. He noted city staff began an Inflow/Infiltration (I/I) flow monitoring study in May 2017. With three years' worth of sewer flow data staff would like the Commission to discuss how to incorporate this data into how the city enforces the new ordinance.

Mr. Sandstrom made a presentation to the Commission.

Member Misra asked what the cost would be of typical corrections if the sump pump does have a direct connection.

Mr. Sandstrom explained on the cheaper side, if the sump pump pipe is running to the sewer or to the laundry basket it is a couple hundred dollars at most. The more expensive cost would be removing the foundation drain which is a more invasive repair.

Chair Cihacek asked who would pay for the inspection.

Mr. Sandstrom indicated most cities have an inspection fee so the resident would pay that fee.

Chair Cihacek thought if someone had a third-party inspection done when selling their home, the housing inspection should include a review of the sump pump connection. If this were to be made a policy, the policy could state an inspection must be done when selling a home either by a third party or by the city.

Vice Chair Wozniak asked if Chair Cihacek was talking about requiring a home inspection as a condition of selling a home.

Chair Cihacek indicated that was correct but just for a sump pump, not necessarily an entire house inspection. Many people prior to selling or buying a house will get a house inspection done so at that point it makes sense for this requirement.

Member Huiett explained she would not want this to be the one-off thing, if there are no other requirements at point of sale. She wondered if there are any other requirements that this would be lumped into for point of sale homes.

Vice Chair Wozniak explained his questions was on the same line of thought. Is the sump pump connection to sanitary sewer a code violation.

Mr. Sandstrom indicated it is against the ordinance so would be in violation.

Member Huiett asked what happens if the sump pump is connected to storm sewer.

Mr. Culver explained the city still would not let anyone connect to the public storm water system without some sort of permit or permission.

Member Misra asked if staff had any idea of how many sump pumps are there in the city.

Mr. Culver explained based on some observations made during meter replacements, when the city did a large-scale meter replacement a few years ago, staff believes there are ten percent of the households have an illegally connected sump pump.

Mr. Culver explained one option is to inspect the sump pump when doing meter replacements which staff is a little hesitant on doing because the resident may then refuse access to the meter for fear of the city catching something else. He noted if the resident does not allow the city access to the home meter the ordinance does allow the city to charge a “denial of access” fee which would be implemented onto the water bill quarterly. Staff does not want to discourage residents from making the appointment for meter replacement.

Member Huiett explained she was concerned with the messaging of catching illegal sump pump connections and thought the better point of view is addressing the rain event in the most sustainable ways with several strategies that could be done instead of the fear of it being an illegal thing. Maybe give alternatives to sump pumps such as rain gardens and list those. She thought the broader message should be more to the point.

Vice Chair Wozniak indicated a number of other cities have tried the different approaches that were outlined in the presentation and he wondered if there was any feedback from the other cities on what, if any impact, it had on I/I in those cities.

Mr. Sandstrom explained he worked for West St. Paul for two years and the city started with a blanket policy because the city had a very large amount that had to be offset due to the Met Council surcharge. The city went away from the blanket policy because the city required sewer repairs to be done and found the roads had many patches and looked like quilts and subsequently had a lot of issues with the resulting pavement conditions. He reviewed the process West St. Paul went through.

Mr. Culver indicated some of the communities have had more interaction with the Met Council and the Met Council has come down on them harder with more fees for flow exceeding what Met Council allows. He noted Roseville has been more aggressive with its sewer linings and has done other things to significantly lower the flow rates. The city is making progress on that.

Member Misra asked if Roseville had much residential drain tile.

Mr. Culver thought a majority of homes in Roseville have internal drainage systems, like foundation drain tiles. Those would be connected to a sump pump.

Member Misra asked if that was prevalent in Roseville.

Mr. Culver thought it was.

6. Sustainable Roseville Update

Public Works Director Marc Culver explained in 2012, Roseville took a more active role in making the city more sustainable. Staff will look for input from the

Commission on what to pursue, what to prioritize and what to bring to the city Council for recommendations for further action.

Environmental Specialist Ryan Johnson presented the information to the Commission.

Mr. Culver noted there will be an intern in house full time working on these items for eleven months. This person will be able to help staff and this Commission on many items to help Roseville become more sustainable and will be able to do some outreach into the community.

Vice Chair Wozniak explained there is a program through the Port Authority that would allow energy improvement costs to be placed on their property taxes. (the program is called MinnPACE. More information can be found here <https://www.sppa.com/energy-financing/minnpace>)

Mr. Culver indicated the one he was familiar with on that was specific to solar but was not sure if it extended to other energy things. He noted this is a great program and the city needs to make people aware of it.

Chair Cihacek explained another thing the intern could work on is helping develop buying pools for a community solar garden. He explained how this could work for the city and other communities or private entities. This might help the city accelerate solar power as well as the School District, corporations or other entities.

Member Misra asked if there has been any solar energy production this past winter.

Mr. Johnson indicated the city has seen a little bit. There have been some snowy, icy conditions but have been producing a little bit. It will be interesting to see through February and then see how 2020 looks as well.

Member Spencer asked how the city finds the interns.

Mr. Johnson explained the city will work through MNTAP which already has a pool of interested students. The same will be done through Minnesota Green Corp. which is through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Chair Cihacek asked if anyone in the public had input on this topic.

Ms. Tammy McGehee explained she wanted to forward Bob Willmus's message because he came to speak on the sump pump and was not able to speak but wanted to point out that there was a charge of \$250 to get the inspection in West St. Paul and Golden Valley and in addition to that there needs to be a plumber there so the entire cost was around \$500.00 to get this point of sale inspection so Mr. Willmus very much favored the current plan and not doing the point of sale with the added expense.

Ms. Donna Peterson, 2436 Pascal, indicated it was good to hear about the intern possibility going forward. She thought getting a Green Corp member here will be fantastic and she thought the project Mr. Johnson laid out that the intern will be working on is very interesting. She indicated on Partners for Energy she was not quite sure what the needs will be at the beginning. She hoped that there will be some way that Resilient Roseville could factor into it or play a role.

7. Items for Next Meeting – March 2020

Discussion ensued regarding the March PWETC agenda:

- Update on city Ordinance Changes – Chapter 800 Public Works; Chapter 700 Public Ways and Private Property
- Environmental Assessment for Roseville

Mr. Culver explained he will be sending out the link for the Environmental Assessment for the next meeting.

Vice Chair Wozniak wondered with the EAW if the Commissioners should be prepared to submit comments.

Mr. Culver explained the public comments go to the EQB (Environmental Quality Board) and then the EQB distributes the comments to several State agencies and the surrounding communities.

Chair Cihacek did not think that the Commission should send comments but as individuals, comments can be sent to the EQB because he did not think the Commission would want to possibly be in conflict with the city Council.

8. Adjourn

Motion

Member Huiett moved, Member Misra seconded, adjournment of the meeting at approximately 8:11 p.m.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion carried.