

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

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

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**1. Introduction / Roll Call**

Chair Wozniak 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 Joe Wozniak; Vice Chair Bryant Ficek; and Members Michael Joyce, Jarrod Cicha, Nancy Misra, Mike Collins and Shane Spencer (Virtual)

**Absent:** None

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

**2. Public Comments**

None.

**3. Approval of August 24, 2021 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**

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

**Ayes: 5**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion carried.**

**4. Oath of Office**

Chair Wozniak administered the Oath of Office to Member Collins.

## **5. Communication Items**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **6. Emerald Ash Borer Update and Accelerated Plan**

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. Taylor reviewed the treatment schedule with the Commission.

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

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

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

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

Chair Wozniak asked who makes the approved species tree list.

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

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

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

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

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

## **8. Adjourn**

### **Motion**

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

**Ayes: 7**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion carried.**