

**WORKSHOP MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS
APRIL 18, 2023**

Open Meeting

The workshop meeting of the Council of the City of Vadnais Heights was held on the above date and called to order by Acting Mayor Steve Rogers at 5:35 p.m.

The following members were present: Acting Mayor Steve Rogers and Council Members Erik Goebel, Kelly Jozwowski, and Katherine Doll Kanne. The following member was absent: Mayor Mike Krachmer.

Also present were: City Administrator Kevin Watson, Assistant City Administrator Kaylin Clement, Planning/Community Development Director Nolan Wall, City Engineer/Public Works Director Jesse Farrell, Fire Chief Chris Hearden, Senior Engineering Technician Nick Ousky and Deputy Clerk, Phillip Lundquist.

Guests included: Josephine (Joey) Lundquist, Ramsey County; Matt Hansen, engineer with SRF Consulting Group for the Hodgeson Road Project; Dustin Cesafsky.

Council Member Staff Items for Consideration

Council Member Doll Kanne put forth the idea of rotation council member committee liaisons partway through the year. Council Members Goebel and Jozwowski were supportive of continuing a discussion

Hodgson Road Project

City Engineer Jesse Farrell opened discussion with a history of the project and a presentation on the upcoming work scope with Joey Lundquist from Ramsey County And Matt Hanson of SRF Consulting Group providing details as well. Just south of Rice north to Hwy 96. Details of the project were discussed. Preliminary design is done and right-of-way has been acquired. Bids go out in 2-3 weeks with construction set to begin in July starting at the north end. Project will go for a year-and-a-half. 2023 work would include Snail Lake Rd up to 96, remainder in 2024. Water main and sanitary work along will be redone in Shoreview, the water mains in Vadnais Heights are in good shape. Council Member Doll Kanne inquired about the winter upkeep of the emergency path to Martin Way. Acting Mayor Rogers inquired about the detour. Cooperative agreement is forthcoming, drafts are exchanged between entities. Project site is updated where residents can sign up to receive updates on the project.

Koehler Road Trail Update

City Engineer Jesse Farrell discussed the update. A taskforce was formed about 5 years ago. Received Safe Routes to School grant funding. Cost share would split remaining. Dustin Cesafsky also present to discuss details. Realigned trail from south side to north side to avoid

hydrant impacts. Working on first milestone for federal bidding process, after that is the permitting and acquisition. 4 properties affected by permanent easement, 10 properties affected by temporary easement to get grading done. Final design in 2024 after environmental permits. Bidding would be after that, and construction starting spring of 2024. Council Member Doll Kanne inquired about the affected properties, impacts on the property owners, and possibly extending projects. Council Member Jozwowski inquired about communication to homeowners. Council Member Rogers inquired for best practices to communicate about a project. Administrator Watson proposed ideas for communications. Further discussion of snow removal along trail.

VLAWMO Update

VLAWMO Director Phil Belfiori presented with City Engineer Jesse Farrell on past, present and future VLAWMO/City projects. Preview of Memo of Understanding for watershed resiliency study. VLAWMO is a joint powers organization that covers 24 square miles. Council Member Doll Kanne is the Vadnais Heights representative. Bridgewater rain garden is a recent example. Flood control on Lambert Creek is past/present project, just finished major project in meander and pond projects. Watershed resiliency study would cover area that starts near commercial area and city hall and runs to East Vadnais Lake including area of perennial flooding at Centerville and Edgerton. Importance of addressing water flow from top to bottom of flow to have greatest impact. Discussion of Memo of Understanding and timeline of agreement once other entities' boards approve. Public Drainage inspection occurred this year of Lambert Creek and identified area that needs work. Munch Bunch goats will return to the Wooded Wetland behind City Hall for that restoration project. Future street and parking lot projects are possible collaboration opportunities, as is Green Team. Council Goebel inquired about the study near the proposed brewery to which Director Belfiori responded addressing the water flow at the top to prevent larger flooding issues near that site.

Public Works Parks Equipment Update

City Engineer Jesse Farrell discussed the equipment concerns with the demand on current equipment including the hot asphalt box. Farrell went through the benefits of using the state cooperative deals to get the best price on equipment, and the state of several orders, current and upcoming. Council Members Doll Kanne and Rogers inquired as to prices and timeline from order to delivery. Council Member Jozwowski inquired as to input from Finance Director Sundberg. Progress on catching up to best practice on equipment turnover.

Other Staff Items

Recognition of work by City Engineer Jesse Farrell.

Administrator Watson asked if a council member would be willing to look over and possibly sign on to a piece regarding transit in the Star Tribune. Council Member Goebel volunteered to look. Recognition of boardwalk at Bear Park.

Meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.