

Has it always been policy to assess corner lots as 100% long, 0% short side?

Jesse Freihammer, City Engineer

While there have been unique instances in the past, it has always been general practice to assess corner lots in this manner per city policy.

Administrator Thongvanh

We had two unique properties in the Grove that had significant curvature making it difficult to decipher between the front and side yard.

Mayor Gustafson opened the Public Hearing at 7:08 PM.

Felicia Busch of 1804 Lindig Street

They voiced concerns about the following:

1. Cracked gutters and the quality of the manhole cuts on Lindig Street.
2. Lawn/yard damage that occurred when the gutter and curb work was being done.
3. Catch basin and weeds sowed instead of grass

This resident and their surrounding neighbors wanted confirmation that the park across the street would be taken care of. There had been promises that this would be a grassy, flat play area and it was currently unkempt and uneven land.

Jesse Freihammer, City Engineer

The funds withheld from the contractor that created these issues can be used to hire a new contractor to conduct all corrective work. We can also utilize money from the old contractor's bond to fund the necessary repairs. The curbs are our number one concern at the moment but we are aware of the other issues as well. The basin will be an all turf grass basin once repairs have been completed.

Mayor Gustafson

The City has a list of all the changes that need to be made and is very aware of all of these issues.

Administrator Thongvanh

The work that was done is unacceptable and we are doing everything in our ability to correct this.

David Murphy of 1725 Tatum Street

They voiced concerns about the contractor planting weeds along Tatum Street. This is decreasing property values and the contractor needs to be reprimanded in some way. They also had concerns about racing bobcats up and down the street which stirred up a significant amount of dust.

James Kielsmeier of 1892 Tatum Street

They asked whether the City can provide published information on the predicted lifespan of Tatum Street since it was recently resurfaced. What is the new road resurface worth and how long is it going to last? They would also like an analysis of large truck traffic on that street and discussion of mitigating negative impacts. Large truck traffic wears down roads and is harmful to environment. They would like to be responsible and have these discussions, such as the potential to require single-hauler trash services.

Jesse, City Engineer

We typically expect to get 20 years out of the resurfacing on a road of this nature. The previous road went about 30 years between resurfacing.

Administrator Thongvanh

It's difficult to ensure that roads will last for a certain period of time. Typically, the warranty ends a year after council approves the project and normal wear and tear is expected.

James Kielsmeier of 1892 Tatum Street

I understand there are a lot of variables at play here but I do think we need to take a closer look at one that's within our control; large truck traffic. I also think that an analysis needs to be formalized for the public. If we are going to be assessed, property owners paying the assessment have the right to know all of this information.

Andrew Pleiss of 1697 Fry Street

They were glad to hear similar complaints from other residents. They stated that the contractor is not professional and they also were experiencing the same issues with weeds.

Mayor Gustafson closed the public hearing at 7:29 pm.

Council Member Wehyee moved to approve Resolution 21-37 Adopting and Confirming Assessment Roles for the 2021 Pavement Management Project;
Approved, 4-0.

2. Ordinance Amending Chapter 46 of the City Code Concerning the Authority to Set Speed Limits on City Streets

Administrator Thongvanh

The City received a number of complaints from residents regarding speeding and traffic dangers in 2020 and 2021. The City Council reviewed all complaints at the March 2021 workshop. Staff were directed to conduct more research which lead to conversations with St. Paul who had already changed speed limits to 20 mph on certain roads.

Council Member Wehyee

When would this go into effect?

Administrator Thongvanh

The ordinance still needs to be published. However, the signs are ordered and ready to be installed. I would estimate we are 2 weeks out.

Mayor Gustafson opened the public hearing at 7:40 pm.

Felicia Busch of 1804 Lindig Street

I'm confused as to why we are discussing this since you've already ordered the signs and it sounds like you've made the decision.

Mayor Gustafson

The State sets speed limits but a law was passed recently that allows cities to do so. We now have the power to make this change should we wish to.

Administrator Thongvanh

We have been discussing this for a while now at workshops. The amended ordinance will give the City Engineer the power to establish a speed limit for city streets. This power is conferred to the City through State Statute 169.14 which was passed by the Minnesota State Legislature in a 2019 special session.

Courtney Billing of 1457 Iowa Street

They thanked the council and city staff for bringing this issue forward. They were grateful that thoughts are being heard and change is occurring. They asked how will this be implemented if this policy is approved?

Council Member Wehyee

They agreed and asked what options the city is considering to help residents with this transition?

Mayor Gustafson

We will continue to do traffic surveys and install new signs at every entrance point of the City.

Administrator Thongvanh

I also received 3 other emails in support of the change but they expressed similar concerns about how this change will be enforced. We will collaborate with Ramsey County Sheriff's Office and educate residents through our weekly newsletter and social media posts.

Staff and council would like to thank residents for their feedback and support on this ordinance.

Andrew Pleiss of 1697 Fry Street

They stated concerns with lack of street lighting on sections of Larpenteur Avenue.

Administrator Thongvanh

This has been an ongoing issue. These lights need to be replaced and a bid was received at \$250,000 on the section of Larpenteur from Arona to Fry Street. The Council has discussed this during the workshop and for now the best solution is turning off the lights since they cannot be utilized or replaced at this point in time.

Andrew Pleiss of 1697 Fry Street

They stated concerns about a sheriff vehicle idling outside of City Hall for three hours.

Mayor Gustafson

They suggested either utilizing a complaint form through the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office or a records request to see what the officer was working on during that time period.

Mayor Gustafson closed the public hearing at 8:08 pm.

Council Member Wehyee

Thank you to all the residents that came forward and voiced these concerns.

Motion by Council Member Andrews to approve Ordinance 21-03 Amending Chapter 46 of the City Code Concerning the Authority to Set Speed Limits on City Streets;
Approved, 4-0.

F. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. General Disbursements through: 9/16/21 \$190,714.39
Payroll through: 9/15/21 \$18,716.19
2. Declaration of Health Pandemic Impacting In-Person Meetings of the City Council and Advisory Commissions
3. 6-Month Performance Evaluation – Assistant to the City Administrator Vandara Thammavongsa
4. 6-Month Performance Evaluation – Community Development Coordinator/Planner Paul Moretto

Motion by Council Member Andrews to approve the Consent Agenda;
Approved, 4-0.

G: POLICY ITEMS:

1. Adopt Speed Limit Evaluation Report

Jesse Freidhammer, City Engineer

Now that the ordinance has been approved we will move forward and recommend approval of the speed limit evaluation report. The report is similar to St. Paul's report and the overall process for establishing speed limits is based on their procedures.

Motion by Council Member Andrews to adopt the report and authorize staff to implement it;
Approved, 4-0.

2. Reducing the 2022 Debt Levy Schedule for the \$715,000 2013B GO Equipment Certificates

The City has sold the fire trucks and proceeds will be used to retire the debt obligations for the 2013B GO Equipment Certificates.

Motion by Council Member Andrews to approve Resolution 21-38 Reducing the 2022 Debt Levy Schedule for the \$715,000 2013B GP Equipment Certificates;
Adopted, 4-0.

3. Adoption and Certification of the 2022 Preliminary Levy

Each year, the City must set and certify to Ramsey County a preliminary levy by September 30. This is required by State of Minnesota. There is an increase in the Legal Fund for due to the increase in requests for public data.

Motion by Council Member Leehy to approve Resolution 21-39 for Certification of the Preliminary Tax Levy for 2022;
Adopted, 4-0.

H. INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Council Member Leehy

They gave an update on the Amber Union project.

Mayor Gustafson

The CEC met this past Monday. I want to remind everyone that Human Rights Day event will be held on Monday, December 6th.

I. COMMUNITY FORUM:

Please limit comments to 3 minutes per person. Items brought before the Council will be referred for consideration. Council may ask questions for clarification, but no council action or discussion will be held on these items.

J. ADJOURNMENT: 8:42 pm.

Dated this 12th day of January, 2022


Sack Thongvanh, City Administrator


Randall C. Gustafson, Mayor