

Council Connection



Upcoming meetings:

- Transportation Commission, 6 p.m. Jan. 19
- Park Board, 7 p.m. Jan. 23
- Human Rights & Relations Commission, 7 p.m. Jan. 24
- Planning Commission, 7 p.m. Jan. 25
- Art Center Board, 4:30 p.m. Jan. 26

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We'd like to hear from you ...
If you have any comments, call Communications & Marketing Director Jennifer Bennerotte at 952-833-9520. The text of this publication will be available online at www.CityofEdina.com.



A summary of the Jan. 17 Edina City Council meeting

Council approves two street projects

To update aging infrastructure, the Council approved two more neighborhood street reconstruction projects for the year.

As part of the Countryside neighborhood street reconstruction project, Crescent Drive, Crescent Lane, Highland Road, Hillside Road, Hunter Street, Ridgeway Road and Westridge Road will be reconstructed, curbs will be replaced or added, water services will be replaced and improvements made to sanitary and storm sewer systems. All City-owned utility repairs will be paid from the respective utility funds. The cost of the roadway improvements is estimated to be more than \$1.4 million. Funding for the roadway cost will be from a special assessment. The estimated assessment per Residential Equivalent Unit (REU) is \$12,360.

As part of the Richmond Hills neighborhood street reconstruction project, Normandale Court, Richmond Lane, Richmond Circle and portions of Yvonne Terrace, 56th Street, Warwick Place, Kent Avenue, Windsor Avenue, Richmond Drive and Code Avenue will be reconstructed, curbs will be replaced or added, water main will be replaced and improvements made to sanitary and storm sewer systems. The cost of the roadway improvements and the sanitary sewer service pipe between the trunk pipe and the right-of-way line is estimated to cost nearly \$2.9 million, funding for which was proposed to be from a special assessment of approximately \$16,800 per REU. All City-owned utility repairs will be paid from the respective utility funds.

After hearing testimony from several residents concerned

with the high estimated assessments, Council Members agreed to take another look at the City's Special Assessment Policy, which was adopted several years ago. The Council also directed staff to review the option of extending the assessment payback period for the project.

Bids for the projects are expected to be awarded in March or April, with construction beginning later in the spring. Construction should be completed in the fall.

Council OKs water meter replacement

The Council approved a \$3.6 million water meter replacement project.

During the mid-1990s, the City upgraded its water meters to a radio read system so that the water meters could be read via a vehicle traveling down a roadway. The batteries that energize the radios have passed their lifetime expectancies and are now failing at an alarming rate.

The Public Works Department had planned to replace the batteries, but staff discovered two issues that don't support that type of project. The bandwidth that the FCC has appropriated for the original radios will not be available for public use after Jan. 1, 2013. Also, most of the current meters contain a very small amount of lead in the meter body. Beginning in 2014, any meter containing lead cannot be installed.

Given these issues, staff designed the project to include a total replacement of the City's approximately 14,000 meters to be completed by June of 2013.

The Council approved staff's proposal and awarded the pro-

ject to Ferguson Waterworks, which will replace the meters on behalf of the City.

HRA agrees to expanded walkway agreement

The Housing & Redevelopment Authority approved an expanded walkway easement agreement with Jerry's Enterprises.

There is an existing pedestrian bridge that connects the City's parking ramp in the Grandview area to Jerry's Foods. The bridge is four feet wide and used as an exit from the grocery store.

Jerry's Hardware has relocated to the space previously occupied by Olson Bros. Pharmacy adjacent to the grocery store. Jerry's is requesting that the pedestrian bridge be expanded from four to 10 feet wide to provide a direct access to the hardware store. The new entrance would be used to provide a customer access to the rental and repair area of the hardware store. In doing so, the bridge would be widened for customers bringing in or taking out larger equipment, such as lawn mowers and snow blowers. This access would allow an alternative to bringing in and taking out this type of equipment through the front of the store. Jerry's Enterprises would pay for and construct the proposed new pedestrian ramp. One parking stall would have to be removed from the parking ramp for the widened walkway.

The bridge is located on property owned by the City. As the property owner, the decision to expand the bridge and amend the easement rested with the HRA, which granted the approval.