



**CITY OF RICHMOND**  
**45 Hall Ave S.W.**  
**P.O. Box 400**  
**Richmond, MN 56368-0400**

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Jim Hemmesch, Mayor  
Mike Mathiasen, Councilor  
Chuck Merten, Councilor  
Pat Evens, Councilor  
Emily Monnens, Councilor

Tesa Tomaschett, City Administrator/Clerk  
Kevin Mooney, Parks & Arena Director  
Gordon Dingmann, Public Works Director  
Jason Buerman, Asst PW, Parks, Arena  
Joanie Engquist, Deputy Clerk

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April 5, 2021

Dear Congressman Tom Emmer,

The City of Richmond is overdue on a very much needed sewer and water replacement project that has been on its capital improvement plan since 2005. The project encompasses 18 city blocks and focuses on improving utilities that have become problematic. The city has had several sewage backups and watermain breaks in the project area since the project was initially planned to be completed in 2018. Updated cost estimates show the project cost at about 4.1 Million Dollars. Richmond is requesting \$2,000,000, or about 48.7% of the project cost in Federal Earmark dollars. The City's match will be taken from a mix of special assessments, refinancing of existing debt, and general tax levy dollars.

The primary reason for the project delay was lack of funding assistance. USDA Rural Development has been the primary agency funding the project, though several MN State programs have also been requested. The project has an approved USDA Environmental Report and an approved preliminary engineering report.

Project plans were developed in 2018 and have been waiting for a more positive funding scenario. The project has been offered \$433,000 in Grant funds or about 10% of the overall project cost. USDA Rural development loan and local bonding make up the remainder of the project budget. That cost with the current City debt is very difficult to finance given the City's high utility rates.

Richmond has very significant sanitary sewer debt and is struggling to afford additional loan costs to complete this very necessary project. Multiple public hearings have been held on the project to encourage public participation. The most recent hearing held in March of 2021 was very positive in nature with very few comments about the special assessments and more comments about the need for the project.

The project is currently scheduled to begin construction in the Fall of 2021 or the Spring of 2022 depending on the funding agency's ability to meet the timeframe. The approved federal environmental and engineering documents are available if they would be of assistance in obtaining this very necessary funding.

Sincerely,

James Hemmesch  
City of Richmond Mayor



Plumbing, Heating & A/C, LLC

*Residential & Light Commercial*

13 Main Street W • PO BOX 249 • Richmond MN 56368  
**320-597-3200**

04/15/21

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this on behalf of a local business owner in the community, the secretary/treasurer of Richmond Civic and Commerce and the treasurer of Richmond River Lakes Days.

The City of Richmond is overdue on a very much needed sewer and water replacement project that has been on its capital improvement plan since 2005. The project encompasses 18 city blocks and focuses on improving utilities that have become problematic. The city has had several sewage backups and watermain breaks in the project area since the project was initially planned to be completed in 2018. As the local plumbing contractor in town, we have seen several homeowners' septic systems hanging by on a thread, per say, waiting for the city road and sewer improvements. Many of these homeowners know their system is deteriorated and needs updating, but they also know they are on the street improvement plan that was designated to be completed in 2018.

As an active business member in the community (with two businesses, the second business being a laundromat) and an active non-profit volunteer, I am aware Richmond has very significant sanitary sewer debt and is struggling to afford additional loan costs to complete this very necessary project. The water bills for our community are significantly higher than other communities our size.

These road improvements also impact our community for our annual festival. As one of the committee members of the event – Richmond River Lake Days – these road improvements would significantly improve the current road conditions around event. The road is deteriorating quickly and with foot traffic being a major part of the event, along with the road being a major path for the parade route, these road improvements are needed sooner than later for safety as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wendy Gilk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Wendy" and last name "Gilk" clearly distinguishable.

Wendy Gilk

President - Gilk Plumbing Heating & A/C, LLC

Secretary/Treasurer – Richmond Civic and Commerce

Treasurer – Richmond River Lakes Days

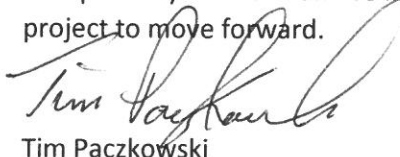
To whom it may concern:

This is in regards to the Richmond city sewer and water project for 2021/2022. This is a much needed project that needs to be completed. The city has had several sewer backups and water breaks since the original plans that were completed in 2018.

Lack of funding has been the major setback on this project. The city had to build a new sewer plant in approximately 2006 to meet the city needs and the state codes. This has put a burden on the city tax payers and having to do a project like this will hurt many of our elder residents.

The project started in 2018 and the city has been working and waiting for much needed funding to move forward. We have had multiple meetings and a recent public hearing that was very positive! We the taxpayers are asking for as much help as possible to complete the project and meet the needs for our city.

As a past city Councilman I've listened to our residents and know that Richmond needs and wants this project to move forward.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Paczkowski", written over the printed name.

Tim Paczkowski

Resident of Richmond and past Councilman

April 15, 2021

To whom it may concern:

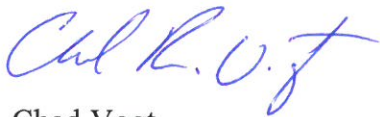
I am writing regarding the City of Richmond sewer and water project for 2021/2022. The city needs funding in order for this project to be completed. I am currently a board member on the Richmond Planning Commission and we have been discussing the issues with our crumbling city sewer and water infrastructure and our streets for some time now.

My wife and I are also avid runners/walkers and there are major safety concerns with the potholes and missing tar on our streets. My property is projected to be part of the construction and I am in full support of this project moving forward to better the street I live on and in support of the improvements of the city as a whole.

Any funding you would consider giving our town of Richmond would be greatly appreciated.

Please accept my sincere thanks for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Chad Vogt  
Richmond Planning Commission  
City Resident



**CITY OF RICHMOND  
RESOLUTION 119-21**

**Ordering Improvement and Preparation of Plans**

WHEREAS, a resolution of the city council adopted the 21<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2021, fixed a date for a council hearing on 2021 Street and Utility Improvements, the proposed improvement of:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NW between Grant Avenue NW and Central Avenue
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NE between Central Avenue and Jay Avenue (CSAH 9)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Street NW between Hall Avenue NW and Central Avenue
- 1<sup>st</sup> Street NE between Central Avenue and Maple Avenue NE
- Hall Ave NW between 1<sup>st</sup> Street NW and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NW
- Fir Avenue between 3<sup>rd</sup> Street SW and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street SW
- 1<sup>st</sup> Street SE between Jay Avenue SE and Maple Avenue SE
- King Avenue between 1<sup>st</sup> Street SE and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NE
- Lion Avenue between 1<sup>st</sup> Street NE and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NE
- Oakwood Avenue between Main St and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NE

WHEREAS, ten days' mailed notice and two weeks' published notice of the hearing was given, and the hearing was held thereon on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021, at which all persons desiring to be heard were given an opportunity to be heard thereon,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND, MINNESOTA:

1. Such improvement is necessary, cost-effective, and feasible as detailed in the feasibility report.
2. Such improvement is hereby ordered as proposed in the council resolution adopted March 18, 2021.
3. Such improvement has no relationship to the comprehensive municipal plan."
4. Short Elliott Hendrickson INC is hereby designated as the engineer for this improvement. The engineer shall prepare plans and specifications for the making of such improvement.
5. The city council declares its official intent to reimburse itself for the costs of the improvement from the proceeds of tax exempt bonds.

Adopted by the council this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021.



Tesa Tomaschett, City Administrator/ Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Hemmesch, Mayor

**Meeting Minutes of the Richmond City Council**  
**August 16, 2018**  
**City Council Workshop and Meeting**

**Item #1: Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Hemmesch called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at Richmond City Hall.

Council Members noted as being present: Jim Hemmesch; Tim Paczkowski, Michael Ricke; Larry Hokanson; Mike Mathiasen

Also present were: Tesa Tomaschett, City Administrator-Clerk; Gordon Dingmann, Public Works Director; Tammy Paczkowski, Cold Spring Record; Karen Heying; Rick Cameron; Rebecca Cameron; Angela Simon; Chuck Theel; Scott Kron; Tucker Plantenberg; Hank Braegelmann; Allen Schaefer; Jenn Wilke; David Wilke; Duane Rieland; Terri Rieland; Harold Hansen; Nam Hansen; June Ricke; Chuck Merten; Cliff Johnson; Duane Gretsche; Joyce Gretsche; Dennis Heying; Lou Heuring; Bernice Evens; Eileen Thomes; Tim Evens; Marilyn Zenner; Clay Zenner; Barb Noll; Rosie Rooney; Terry Meemken; Tyna Meemken; Kristi Warne; Julie Clinton; Dawn Niewind; Troy Niewind; James Worm

**Item #2: Approval of Agenda**

*Motion made by Councilor Paczkowski to approve the Agenda, seconded by Councilor Mathiasen. Motion passed unanimously.*

**Item #3: Open Forum** – will not be held due to all attending are here for the public hearing.

**Item #4: Improvement Public Hearing – 2019 Street Improvement Project**

Open Public Hearing:

Mayor Hemmesch opened the public hearing at 6:32 pm

Overview of Project: Dave Blommel, City Engineer

Blommel explained all parts of the project: street, water, sewer, curb and gutter

Blommel defined Assessments: Street – per foot; Sewer/Water – assessed for each; 25% of the assessment is for the adjacent homeowners. Assessments are for the long side of the corner lot.

Blommel explained that there will be a final assessment hearing – each property owner will receive a notice indicating the date of hearing and the dollar amount.

He explained that once the Council decides to move forward, they will begin surveying, look for funding, (Council may change decision If no funding comes through) then put out for bids, accept bids, project next summer.

Comments:

1. Kristi Warne – 107 Ivy Ave SE: Discussed the 2002 cost of assessment; concerns with drainage; heavy traffic on the street
2. Troy Niewind – 141 2<sup>nd</sup> St: please no sidewalk
3. Lewis Heuring – Maple Ave: was concerned about a road being put in between he and Murphy Granite. Was told that it is water and sewer only not a street.
4. Marilyn Zenner - 59 Jay Ave NE: ask if curbed on 1<sup>st</sup> street; reminded them that she was assessed in the past and should be taken into consideration.
5. Tim Evens – 249 1<sup>st</sup> ST NE (on behalf of Bernice Evens) – asked for a copy of the power point. Asked if the City has a detailed explanation of what is under the streets. He asked about how many complaints of water (3) and sewer (1) in 2018 due to failure of pipes. He asked what the material of each is and Blommel responded that he would be happy to meet with him and go over that at another time, as he does not have the information in front of him. Evens asked how the Council prioritized the project.
6. Julie Clinton – 148 3<sup>rd</sup> ST SE: She stated that she believes that most won't happen because it hasn't happened for years.

Mayor Hemmesch explained that the Council, Engineer, Public Works Director and Administrator have been meeting and prioritizing all streets, water and sewer to determine what needs to be fixed and if adequate funding is available; this map outlines the areas that need to be fixed.

7. June Ricke – 304 1<sup>st</sup> ST SE: backyard is flooded every year and would like to see it fixed.
8. Cliff Johnson – 1<sup>st</sup> ST SE (on behalf of daughter's property): he stated that he did not see any curb and was curious what this will do to water run off for her property. Blommel stated that they will be addressing the runoff.
9. Unidentified person asked about Lions avenue. Another unidentified person asked about restoring driveways. Blommel stated that the driveway will be replaced with what is currently there.

Mayor Hemmesch asked 3 x's if there were any further questions or comments.

Close Public Hearing:

*Motion by Councilor Hokanson to close public hearing, seconded by Councilor Mathiasen to close public hearing. Motion carried.*

Mayor Hemmesch closed the public hearing at 7:42 pm

**Item # 6: Resolution 159-18 – Ordering Improvement and preparation of plans**

*Motion made by Councilor Paczkowski to approve Resolution 159-18 Ordering Improvement and preparation of plans, seconded by Councilor Ricke. Motion passed unanimously.*

**Item #7: Other Matters of Concern and Related Matters**

- a. City hall will be closed Sept. 3 for Labor Day
- b. Next Council meeting September 5, 2018.
- c. Music in the Park – August 21 at 6:30 Centennial Park

**Item #16: Adjournment**

Mayor Hemmesch asked for any additional items.

Hearing none Mayor Hemmesch declared the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Tesa Tomaschett  
City Administrator Clerk-Treasurer

**Meeting Minutes of the Richmond City Council**  
**March 9, 2021**  
**City Council Meeting**

**Item #1: Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Hemmesch called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Olde Coliseum.

Council Members noted as being present: Jim Hemmesch, Pat Evens, Mike Mathiasen, Emily Monnens, and Chuck Merten

Also present were: Joanie Engquist, Deputy Clerk; Dave Blommel, SEH Engineer; Jason Spode, Cold Spring/Richmond PD; Jesse Kollmann, Fire Chief; Ryan Pierskalla, Jan and George Dingmann, Scott Kron, Charles and Darlene Theel; Jim and Kathy Fouch, Duane and Theresa Rieland, Chad Vogt, Julie Clinton, Chris Hopper, Tucker Plantenberg, Dawn Niewind, Laura Nathan, Dennis Heying, Tim Evens, June and Al Rieke, Allen and Doris Schaefer.

**Item #2: Approval of Agenda with additions/deletion**

Mayor Hemmesch asked if there were any additions or changes to the Agenda

*Motion made by Councilor Evens to approve the Agenda seconded by Councilor Merten. Motion passed*

**Item #3: Open Public Hearing – 2021 Street Improvement Project**

Open Public Hearing: Mayor Hemmesch opened Public Hearing at 6:31 p.m.

**City Engineer, Dave Blommel of SEH made the presentation of the 2021 Street Improvement Project and asked if there were any questions.**

1. Mayor Hemmesch read a written comment that was sent in from Lloyd Lucken (614 Main St. East). Mr. Lucken felt the costs were too high because the sidewalk and curb were done already and shouldn't have to do it twice. He was told that it would get looked into.
2. Julie Clinton (148 3<sup>rd</sup> St. SE) had asked what happened from the 2019 project, Mayor Hemmesch expressed that the council was not happy with the funding, and it was decided to do an overlay on Ivy Ave instead of doing the whole project.
3. Dawn Niewind (141 2<sup>nd</sup> St NW) had stated that they had issues with sewer backup in 2002, when Junior was still working for the city, would they have to pay for it again? Would they receive credit for previous work? Unfortunately, this has not been past practice for the city but the city will look into it more before the project.
4. Scott Kron (231 3<sup>rd</sup> St SW) mentioned that 3<sup>rd</sup> Street SW was assessed in 2004, why the overlay again? Blommel stated we would look into past assessments and discuss the possible of changing the improvement type for this street.
5. Tim Evens asked how would the payment terms/interest work for paying? Blommel expressed it is typically 1 ½ - 2% higher than bond.

**Item #4: Close Public Hearing**

Mayor Hemmesch asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing Meeting.

*Motion made by Councilor Merten to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Councilor Monnens. Motion passed.*

Mayor Hemmesch announced that the Public Hearing is closed at 7:26 p.m.



**Item #5: Other Matters of Concern and Related Items**

Mayor Hemmesch asked if there were any questions or comments.

Chuck Theel had asked what type of drains are being put in for 1<sup>st</sup> St SE. The plan is to use cement over plastic.

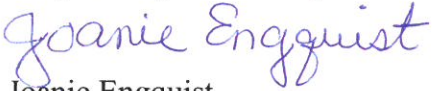
Councilor Evens stated that residents can call City Hall prior to March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting with any questions/concerns.

**Next Council Meeting:** March 18, 2021 Workshop at 6:30pm

**Item #6: Adjournment**

Mayor Hemmesch declared the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Joanie Engquist  
Deputy Clerk



Pictures below indicate areas where drainage improvements are required and also indicate failure of payment.















RICHMOND  
MINNESOTA

2021 PROJECT LIMITS

PROPERTIES ASSESSED

FILE NO.  
RICHM 143278  
DATE  
02/03/2021

FIGURE  
NO.  
7