

Minutes of the Utility Line Undergrounding Study Committee
Of the City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado
Held on Thursday, February 20, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.
At the Village Center

CALL TO ORDER

Public Works Director Jay Goldie called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present at the meeting were the following Utility Line Undergrounding Study Committee members: Earl Hoellen, Andy Love, John Love, Daniel Lynch, Susan Maguire, Paul Stewart and David Wyman.

Present at the meeting were the following City Council advisors: Mayor Pro Tem Russell Stewart and Councilor Alex Brown.

Present at the meeting were the following staff members: Jay Goldie, Public Works Director; Marcus McAskin, Assistant City Attorney; and Emily Kropf, Special Projects Coordinator.

AGENDA ITEMS

Introductions, Committee's Charge from City Council, Background Information, Funding Options, Committee Timeline and Future Meeting Schedule

The Committee members, City Council advisors and staff introduced themselves and described their background and experience regarding utility line undergrounding.

Public Works Director Goldie described the Committee's charge, which is to develop a plan to accomplish the City's goal of undergrounding overhead utility lines. The Committee's final report is to focus on the estimated cost of conversion, cost sharing, priority ranking of lines, suggested changes to the Municipal Code or City policies, financing and all other relevant matters.

It was discussed that the deadline for the Committee's final report is July 15, 2014, which allows time for City Council to review the Committee's recommendation and for the City to submit a ballot issue to Arapahoe County for the November election.

The Committee addressed the minimum requirements for converting overhead utility lines, as well as the availability of the City's 1% fund from Xcel Energy. The assessment of costs will be based on the type of funding that the Committee recommends to City Council.

A previous effort by the City to convert overhead lines along main roadways was discussed. The Committee considered why the ballot issue had not been approved.

It was suggested that a pilot project like the E. Quincy Avenue corridor could be successful. The Committee asked how many homes are connected to existing overhead lines. There was also interest expressed in providing matching funds for individual residents who pursue conversion.

The Committee deliberated combining the project with a broader City goal such as improving streets and landscaping. It was suggested that ballot issues that focus on one element seem to be more successful.

Several Committee members brought up the issue of equity. It was discussed that residents who have already paid for conversion of their lines might not want to fund the conversion of lines located on other properties.

Assistant City Attorney McAskin described several funding options for conversion, including special, local and general improvement districts. He added that the Committee can also recommend the formation of a new type of district through the approval of an ordinance.

It was decided that the Committee would meet on the first and third Thursday of every month at 9:00 a.m. until the project's deadline.

The Committee deliberated forming subcommittees to address such topics as finance, prioritization and aesthetics.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.