

Minutes of the Utility Line Undergrounding Study Committee
Of the City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado
Held on Thursday, August 21, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.
At the Village Center

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called 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, Susan Maguire and Paul Stewart.

Present at the meeting were the following City Council Advisors: Councilor Alex Brown.

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

Absent were Mayor Pro Tem Russell Stewart and Committee Members John Love, Dan Lynch, Jim Tarpey and David Wyman.

AGENDA ITEMS

Undergrounding Draft Ordinance

Ms. Kropf stated that staff was looking for feedback from the Committee regarding a draft ordinance to amend the Municipal Code to require the relocation of existing overhead utilities. She continued that there are a few cities that require the burial of existing utilities, including Greenwood Village and Boulder.

Ms. Kropf asked the Committee if overhead utilities should be relocated for general and minor subdivisions, homes that are scraped and rebuilt and new institutional structures and additions. She also asked if there should be a threshold for exemption.

Committee Member Andy Love said that the majority of new homes have utilities that are located underground.

Committee Member Hoellen stated that it should be required if the City wants to drive a policy for undergrounding throughout the entire community.

Mr. Goldie said that it would be difficult to enforce if there is a minimum of 750 feet for undergrounding.

Councilor Brown asked how many of each the City sees on a regular basis

Mr. Zuccaro replied that there are few subdivisions. Most development results from new homes and significant remodels.

Councilor Brown stated that there are three scenarios in which undergrounding could be required. First, the lines located on lots that are to be subdivided. Second, the lines located adjacent to lots that are to be subdivided. Third, the lines on lots located that are to have a new residence constructed. He added that the City has a green building program in which permit discounts are offered for meeting certain thresholds.

Committee Member Maguire suggested having neighborhoods share the burden of the costs through special improvement districts.

Committee Member Stewart said that City Council should decide if the City should drive a policy for undergrounding throughout the community.

Mr. McAskin stated that the City could enforce undergrounding even if the majority of projects incorporate buried lines. He added that it is a typical requirement.

Committee Member Andy Love asked if the City will pay for the lines located adjacent to the arterials or if home owners will be responsible for the costs. He added that he is comfortable requiring the burial of service lines for new homes.

Committee Member Maguire recommended requiring the burial of services lines to new institutional structures, as well. She added that the costs of lines adjacent to the arterials should be factored into the City's project estimate.

Committee Member Hoellen asked how many feet from the arterials should be included in the City's costs.

Councilor Brown asked staff to draft an ordinance or memo for the next Committee meeting.

Ballot Question

Councilor Brown presented a ballot question that would allow the City to access a fiber optic system and directly or indirectly provide services to the community. He stated that the ballot issue would have to be approved by voters to utilize a fiber optic system that was installed at the same time as burial of the overhead utilities.

Policy Outline and Discussion

The Committee agreed to discuss the policy outline at the next meeting and to start meeting on the first and third Thursday of the month again.

The next meeting was scheduled for September 4, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

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