

Minutes of the Utility Line Undergrounding Study Committee  
Of the City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado  
Held on Thursday, March 20, 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, John Love, Susan Maguire and David Wyman.

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; Marcus McAskin, Assistant City Attorney; Troy Carmann, City Engineer; and Emily Kropf, Special Projects Coordinator.

Absent were Mayor Pro Tem Russell Stewart and Committee Members Dan Lynch and Paul Stewart.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

*Mapping by ICON Engineering and Policy Framework*

The minutes for the March 6, 2014 meeting were approved by the Committee.

City Engineer Carmann presented a map illustrating each roadway category that contains overhead power lines with an overlay of the City's homeowners associations and a table of estimated costs for each category.

Councilor Brown stated that each project meets the 750-foot minimum required by Xcel Energy. He asked staff to research any future roadway improvements planned for Hampden Avenue.

Special Projects Coordinator Kropf presented a table illustrating the impact of each project category on the City's mill levy and the additional property tax that would result for each homeowner.

Councilor Brown said that the Committee can focus on identifying a project based on a specific mill increase or can focus on identifying a mill increase based on a specific project. He asked staff to look at spreading the mill increase out over a longer period of time.

It was suggested that the 2.5 mills that are being directed to South Suburban Parks and Recreation be directed to undergrounding after 2019.

Councilor Brown replied that some members of the community believe that the funding should continue to be directed towards open space.

The Committee discussed what a 1-mill increase would generate. Over a 10-year period, the City would be able to underground the lines along the state highways or arterials.

It was suggested that the Committee focus on higher visibility projects. It was also recommended that City Council consider future road improvement projects that would result in Xcel Energy financing conversion of lines. It was suggested that some traffic calming techniques would not impact the lines along roadways.

City Engineer Carmann replied that the addition of a wider media or traffic islands might impact the lines, which would result in Xcel financing the conversion. However, the road improvements would take many years to complete due to costs.

The Committee discussed increasing the mill levy for properties located closest to project corridors. This occurred for both the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Mall of Denver and the sound retention walls of Greenwood Village.

Councilor Brown asked the Committee Members to review the examples of undergrounding policy framework and to consider what the City might want to include.

The Committee considered what roadways might be a priority for the City. It was suggested that the arterials might be a priority due to their visibility. It was noted that project cost is an important part of prioritization.

Public Works Director Goldie stated that Xcel is willing to provide a cost estimate for projects by performing the required engineering, but the City would pay for the service through its 1% fund.

It was suggested that Community Development Director Zuccaro attend the next meeting to discuss building requirements and revising the Municipal Code to accommodate undergrounding.

Assistant City Attorney McAskin suggested looking at the City's Master Plan and Blue Ribbon Panel Report to compare priorities in regards to the preservation of view corridors.

Councilor Brown responded that there are no specific corridors mentioned in the City's existing policies, but it might be addressed in a parallel process.

It was asked if the audience for the Committee's undergrounding policy is intended to be City Council or the community.

Council Brown said that the intended audience is the community.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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