

Minutes of the Utility Line Undergrounding Study Committee
Of the City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado
Held on Thursday, September 18, 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, Dan Lynch, Susan Maguire 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; Robert Zuccaro, Community Development Director; Troy Carmann, City Engineer; Marcus McAskin, Assistant City Attorney; and Emily Kropf, Special Projects Coordinator.

Absent were Committee Members Paul Stewart and Jim Tarpey.

AGENDA ITEMS

Jeff Glance, Cable Systems

Mr. Glance introduced himself and said that he has been working in the fiber to home industry for the last 15 years. He operates passive optic networks, which work best in residential areas. Cable Systems is currently working in St. George, Utah where a few developments went through bankruptcy but were financially backed by a new developer. Fiber optics is considered an enhancement to the community and has been supported by the new developer. Cable Systems offers photo, data and video services. The typical customer can receive triple play services for about \$129 per month. The package starts at 10 megabits of data. Customers generally pick an option that has a higher data speed, but the constant flow of 10 megabits for uploading and downloading works well.

Committee Member Wyman asked if there was any value to looping a system.

Mr. Glance said that there are some advantages to looping a system, but most customers will not purchase the necessary equipment to access such a system. He continued that the base package includes 250 channels with about 75 channels in high definition.

Mayor Pro Tem Stewart asked if Cable Systems has a deal with the content providers.

Mr. Glance replied yes. Cable Systems has hundreds of contracts with different content providers. The larger service providers (i.e. Comcast) have better contracts, however.

Councilor Brown asked if services are offered a la carte.

Mr. Glance said yes. Customers can select individual channels. Content providers dictate minimum requirements though. He added that over the last few years most customers have selected the maximum package available.

Committee Member Andy Love asked if there will be a deterioration of current services.

Mr. Glance said that he can only speculate. He continued that larger service providers are trying to continue running on DSL and are not able to meet today's demands. Existing networks are inadequate, and funding is being directed towards the old network.

Committee Member John Love asked if there is a fiber optic line in University Boulevard.

Mr. Glance replied that University Boulevard most likely has a fiber optic line.

Mayor Pro Tem Stewart asked how fiber optics would work in the City.

Mr. Glance said that he has not heard anything out of the ordinary for the area. The City would have to sit down with an engineer and find out where dark fiber can be picked up nearby.

Mayor Pro Tem Stewart asked how many customers Cable Systems has in St. George.

Mr. Glance responded that Cable Systems has about 1,000 customers in St. George and 700 or 800 in Las Vegas.

Assistant City Attorney McAskin asked if it is cheaper to install fiber optics during the initial development process.

Mr. Glance said yes.

Committee Member Maguire asked if the incremental cost to install fiber optics is minimal if in conjunction with another project like undergrounding.

Mr. Glance said yes. He added that burying fiber optics on its own would not be worth it. He added that the City has to decide how involved it wants to be. He does not recommend a system like the Utah Telecommunication Open Infrastructure Agency (UTOPIA) that operates as a middle man for customers and larger service providers. The City can install the conduit and fiber optic cable as a passive system and not install the equipment to power the system, which is what a service provider would do.

Committee Member Wyman asked if fiber optics will become obsolete over time.

Mr. Glance said that he does not think so.

Undergrounding Draft Ordinances

The Committee agreed to discuss the undergrounding draft ordinances and interim report at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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