

Minutes of the Utility Line Undergrounding Study Committee
Of the City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado
Held on Thursday, February 19, 2015 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: Paul Stewart, Russell Stewart, Jim Tarpey and David Wyman.

Present at the meeting were the following City Council Advisors: Mayor Pro Tem 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 Councilor Earl Hoellen and Committee Members Andy Love, John Love, Dan Lynch and Susan Maguire.

Present at the meeting was resident Charles Watkins and *Villager* reporter Jan Wondra.

AGENDA ITEMS

Charles Watkins Introduction

Mr. Watkins introduced himself and said that he has worked in the broadband industry for many years and would like to offer assistance to the Committee if any questions arise.

Villager Article

Special Projects Coordinator Kropf stated that Ms. Wondra was present to learn more about the history of the project and begin work on an article in the *Villager* regarding the results of the RFI.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown suggested scheduling a meeting with Ms. Wondra, Special Projects Coordinator Kropf and Public Works Director Goldie for the following week to answer any questions and provide a more comprehensive background of the project.

Ms. Wondra said that her deadline is typically Tuesday morning.

Undergrounding Policy

Public Works Director Goldie presented a draft policy for undergrounding on private property, which would allow the City to use public funds on private property.

Committee Member Wyman asked what facilities the policy refers to.

Public Works Director Goldie replied that the policy could be for private service lines or secondary poles.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown suggested adding a reference to the City's Master Plan. He asked if there should be a spatial limit for the use of funds.

Public Works Director Goldie recommended leaving it on a case-by-case basis for City Council to decide.

Mr. Watkins stated that input from homeowners should be included.

Assistant City Attorney McAskin suggested changing the cost to underground to the cost or partial cost to underground in case the City would like to negotiate, which may result in a higher level of participation from homeowners.

Committee Member Russell Stewart suggested incorporating the existing cost-sharing policy into the new document.

Bond Issue Discussion

Mayor Pro Tem Brown stated that there was a meeting with Committee Member Lynch, public finance specialist David Bell and staff to discuss a possible bond issue election question. Committee Member Lynch has agreed to draft a single proposition that focuses on the general subject of utilities.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown continued that the question will ask voters to authorize a tax increase that will expire after a set period of time. The tax will be used to cover the construction and soft costs related to undergrounding and broadband and will comply with all TABOR provisions. The question will not specify how revenue is to be used, which can be addressed in a companion resolution that is approved by Council.

Committee Member Tarpey asked if the question will specify how much revenue is to be spent on each portion of the project.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown responded that the question will include a maximum amount to be collected but is not sure how to address allocation. He added that he will ask Committee Member Lynch.

Committee Member Tarpey asked if it would be beneficial to split the question into two propositions.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown stated that the cost chart and cash flow chart have been updated to include Mansfield, as well as the fiber costs. It seems as though a 3-mill increase for a period of 10 years will not be sufficient to cover all of the expenses of the project if every arterial road and state highway is to be included. He suggested increasing the mill amount or extending the collection period. He added that he is partial to the latter.

Committee Member Paul Stewart asked if there are any thoughts on using the revenue that is currently being directed to South Suburban.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown replied that it will not be available until 2020.

Community Survey/Photos

Mayor Pro Tem Brown presented the revised community survey and asked for feedback from the Committee. He suggested removing the question regarding the local improvement district to avoid confusion. He also recommended testing the arguments for undergrounding individually and adding minimization of tree trimming.

Mr. Watkins stated that preserving scenic views should be changed to improving.

City Engineer Carmann presented a few photos along Quincy that had been photoshopped to show the removal of overhead facilities. He said that can continue working on the photos to create realistic depictions of the line drawings.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown suggested also using photos from other streets like University.

Mr. Watkins asked if the Committee had received input from the Public Utilities Commission in regards to the project.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown replied that it seems as though the Commission may be able to help in relation to project management and allowing the City to construct certain phases of the project rather than only using Xcel's contractors.

Committee Member Russell Stewart stated that similar cost issues have been experienced by Centennial and Greenwood Village.

Committee Member Tarpey said that as the issue becomes publicized the City may be able to reach an agreement with Xcel.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.