

Minutes of the Utility Line Undergrounding Study Committee
Of the City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado
Held on Thursday, March 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: Dan Lynch, Susan Maguire, Paul Stewart, Jim Tarpey and David Wyman.

Present at the meeting were the following City Council Advisors: Mayor Pro Tem Alex Brown and Councilor Earl Hoellen.

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

Absent were Committee Members Andy Love, John Love and Russell Stewart.

AGENDA ITEMS

Draft Ballot Language

Committee Member Wyman said that he had been in contact with Arapahoe County to see if homeowners can pay a lump sum upfront rather than a tax increase over a longer time period and was told yes. He also asked if the Committee had considered dividing the total cost of the project by the number of homes in the City to establish a uniform assessment.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown replied that an assessment could be established if a special improvement district was formed. He asked Committee Member Lynch if voters would still have to approve the bond issue.

Committee Member Lynch said that a ballot question would still be required for the bond issue as it is subject to TABOR requirements. He added that an assessment from a special improvement district is typically seen for more traditional improvements.

Committee Member Wyman added that Arapahoe County may have assumed that he was asking if a lump sum could be paid for an assessment rather than a tax.

Committee Member Paul Stewart asked if staff had received an update from Xcel regarding the Quincy design.

Special Projects Coordinator Kropf stated that she had heard from Xcel and was told that the cost estimate should be available in the next week.

Committee Member Lynch presented an updated draft of the ballot language for the tax and bond issue. He said that he had removed a portion of the language due to the existing de-brucing exemption and asked if the Committee had any suggestions for a shorter phrase that would better encompass the scope of work.

Committee Member Tarpey stated that it sounds like the primary purpose of the project is to install fiber optics per the current language.

Councilor Hoellen suggested removing electric and communications and adding overhead instead. He also recommended adding future to broadband service.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown said that he would prefer to limit the mill amount rather than the maximum amount of revenue that can be collected.

Committee Member Lynch stated that he would revise the current draft and circulate it.

Community Meeting/Crier Article

Committee Member Maguire stated that the preliminary results of the community survey seem to suggest that the majority of responses are from the northeast section of the City. She asked if the survey results will be accurate as this area is more densely populated.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown suggested that the Committee schedule the community open house and decide what type of materials should be available. He continued that there should be posters that residents can view and a short presentation. It was recommended that the posters include visual illustrations, overhead line maps, frequently asked questions, financial information, Master Plan goals and survey responses.

Committee Member Tarpey asked what the goal of the open house is.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown replied that the goal of the open house is to provide information to educate the public and receive input.

Committee Member Paul Stewart suggested having hand-outs of the posters for residents to take home and review.

Assistant City Attorney McAskin recommended adding the posters to the website, as well.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown scheduled the open house for Wednesday, May 6th at 6:00 p.m.

Xcel Community Coordination

Mayor Pro Tem Brown asked if the Committee had any thoughts on collaborating with other communities to establish more flexibility with Xcel. He added that he would prefer to meet with Xcel before going to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

Committee Member Tarpey stated that the PUC generally stays out of matters like this, but it might be beneficial to discuss the issue with PUC staff. It would also be helpful to stay in contact with the *Villager* and meet with other communities that have experienced similar issues. Legislation for the issue could not be addressed until next year.

RFI Response Discussion

Ms. Karen Elmont from Pinpoint Services introduced herself and said that while her company did not submit a response to the City's RFI, she would like to discuss its services with the Committee.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown stated that the Committee would like to maintain an open door policy with any firms that are interested in the City's project and suggested that Ms. Elmont schedule a time at a future meeting to discuss Pinpoint's services.

ADJOURNMENT

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