

Minutes of the Utility Line Undergrounding Study Committee
Of the City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado
Held on Thursday, April 16, 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, Gene Watkins 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: Jay Goldie, Public Works Director; Marcus McAskin, Assistant City Attorney; and Emily Kropf, Special Projects Coordinator.

Absent were Committee Members Andy Love, John Love, Dan Lynch, Susan Maguire, Russell Stewart and Jim Tarpey.

AGENDA ITEMS

Final Report Discussion

Mayor Pro Tem Brown asked if the final report outline is based on the interim report.

Special Projects Coordinator Kropf replied yes and added that there are a few new sections like the Broadband Request for Information and community input.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown stated that former mayor Jeff Welborn had expressed concern regarding the Committee's positioning of the issue in relation to the Master Plan and is planning to meet with him. He suggested including some discussion in the final report of a 10 to 15-year time period for the tax increase.

Committee Member Wyman asked what the interest rate is for the bond in the cash flow chart.

Special Projects Coordinator Kropf responded that it is 4%.

Public Works Director Goldie stated that the cash flow chart shows that a 3-mill increase will not cover the total project cost.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown replied that there will likely be a 10% increase in property values due to next year's reassessment.

Committee Member Watkins said that it should be mentioned that property values will likely increase with the installation of broadband.

Committee Member Wyman responded that broadband may have some effect, but it may be little as the community has high property values.

Ms. Karen Elmont with Pinpoint Services said that there is a study from Boulder in which there was an average of \$3,000 in property value increase for a \$250,000 home due to fiber.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown asked if the total project cost at the 75% estimate would be covered by a 3-mill increase.

Public Works Director Goldie stated that the 100% estimate should be used.

Councilor Hoellen said that his neighbors negotiated a 20% discount with Xcel when they buried their overhead lines. He continued that Xcel may not be willing to discuss such a scenario with the City until it is prepared to fund the project.

Committee Member Wyman stated that it may not be prudent to move forward with the proposal until it can be determined what Xcel is willing to do.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown suggested including the cost estimate issues in the final report and letting Council make a decision.

Committee Member Watkins said that Xcel might be willing to work with the City if there was discussion of statewide restrictions as a result of the project.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown stated that he has drafted a letter to send to the president of Public Service Company of Colorado regarding the issues the Committee has faced with Xcel while working on the project.

Public Works Director Goldie asked if the Committee would like to include several alternatives in the final report with one recommendation for Council.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown replied that the recommendation could be a hybrid of the alternatives.

Councilor Hoellen asked if broadband can be found anywhere in the Master Plan.

Public Works Director Goldie responded no, but it could be considered a facet of a safe and healthy community. He added that he would see if there is an applicable reference.

Open House Materials

Special Projects Coordinator Kropf presented the posters for the open house.

Assistant City Attorney McAskin suggested allowing residents to only place three stickers on the street priority order that signified first, second and third priority.

Special Projects Coordinator Kropf stated that she would try to incorporate broadband into the Master Plan goals poster.

Councilor Hoellen recommended using an image with more impact for the before and after visual poster.

Special Projects Coordinator Kropf said that she would alphabetize the streets on the cost estimate poster.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown suggested coordinating a rehearsal of the open house and presentation on April 30th in the Joint Public Safety Facility.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.