

REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Date: 8/22/11
Item No.: 12 . a

Department Approval



City Manager Approval



Item Description: Update on Pole Relocations for Dale Street Reconstruction Project

BACKGROUND

During the preliminary design process for the Dale Street Reconstruction project, Staff identified private utilities within the City's right of way that would possibly need relocation as a result of the proposed improvements. Staff identified 9 utility poles that were in potential conflict with the improvements as designed. One of the poles is located in the right of way in front of the residential home at 2782 Dale Street. The residents at that address, Tom and Janine Hadlich, requested that it be relocated as a part of the project as well. The residential lots addressed as 2778 and 2782 Dale Street were created through a minor subdivision in 1999. The power pole existed in this location prior to this subdivision. The new homes were constructed in 2000, and both of them have their underground services fed from this pole. The pole is located in the right of way, approximately 25 feet from the south property line.

During the project information meetings staff committed to the property owner that we would request Xcel to relocate the pole for the reconstruction project because it appeared it may be in conflict with the project. The pole was included on a preliminary list of poles that needed to be verified in the field for relocation by Xcel to accommodate the project. Relocating poles is a cost to Xcel and ultimately their customers. Xcel requests the City stake the project out in the field prior to proceeding with relocations to confirm the pole conflicts and determine the best location for the new poles. When the project limits were identified in the field, this pole was not in conflict with the project improvements. Since it was not necessary to move the pole for the project, Xcel refused to relocate it and two other poles that were identified as potential conflicts during the design process.

Staff has discussed this matter with Xcel twice since the July 16 City Council meeting. They have indicated that since the pole is not in conflict with the project, they will not relocate it at their expense.

The City has an electric franchise agreement with Xcel that requires them to relocate poles when they are in conflict with City improvement projects. The pole in front of 2782 Dale Street was originally identified as being in potential conflict with the reconstruction project, however, upon staking the project limits, it was determined that it was not necessary to relocate the pole. Outside of this agreement there is nothing within City Code that the City could cite to require Xcel to relocate this pole at their cost.

Staff has reviewed both the Public Hearing minutes and the video. Utility undergrounding was discussed during the course of the public hearing for this project; however, the City Council did not order the undergrounding of overhead utilities on this project. This pole relocation was also not identified in project Feasibility Report or project budget.

The City's Assessment Policy does not include private utility relocation costs as an assessable cost.

POLICY OBJECTIVE

The city code requires new utilities to be underground in new subdivisions. New utilities were not required to service this minor subdivision.

FINANCIAL IMPACTS

Xcel has provided the City a cost estimate of \$4,912.64 for relocating the pole to the nearest lot line and re-routing two underground services to the new pole. The City does not have a funding source for private utility relocations.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Paying for the relocation of private utilities to accommodate individual homeowner requests could set precedence if other property owners request relocation of power poles. As a result, staff does not recommend that the City pay for the cost to relocate the pole in the right-of-way in front 2782 Dale Street. Staff could work with Xcel to relocate the pole if the adjacent property owners would agree to covering the cost of this work.

REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION

None at this time.

Prepared by: Debra Bloom, City Engineer
Attachments: None