

December 9, 2009
Joint Council-Utility Board Meeting Minutes

The December 9, 2009 meeting of the Cascade City Council and the Cascade Municipal Utility Board was called to order at 5:15 p.m. by Mayor Staner in the City Hall Chambers. Council members Betzner, Boffeli, Henry, and Nauman answered roll call, Knepper was absent. Motion by Boffeli, 2nd Betzner to approve the agenda – all ayes.

Present from the Utility Board were trustee Reiter, Chairman Gavin, along with Utility Manager Benke. Trustee McDermott was absent. Motion by Reiter, 2nd Gavin to approve the agenda – all ayes.

Council and Utility Board members discussed changes to a new proposed underground utility ordinance numbered and named Chapter 117-Underground Utilities. Section 117.03 would require electrical and telecommunication lines in utility easements and public right of ways to be underground and placed in conduit. Section 117.04 lists exceptions to burial with a recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission and the Cascade Municipal Utility Board to the Council for final approval. Trustee member Reiter indicated that Cascade Communications had already placed the fiber lines that are located in easements and right of ways in conduit although it was not required and going forward sees these changes giving a longer lasting and safer system. Utility Manager Benke stated that infrastructure could be damaged with a spade just by trying to find it, where if it were placed in a duct it normally would not be damaged. Randy Lyons clarified that these requirements would only be in place moving forward. Council member Henry pointed out that an ordinance stays forever and is concerned with additional costs that would be passed on to Cascade citizens if in the future a utility provider were to undertake a large project. Utility Chairman Gavin indicated that section 117.04 number 8A gives the Council the option of waiving the requirement. Dave Gibson with Cascade Communications Company voiced concerns with several areas of the proposed ordinance changes. Council member Nauman suggested getting together with Cascade Communications to address their concerns and get their input in writing the ordinance.

City Administrator Lansing reviewed the agreement between the City of Cascade and the Cascade Municipal Utilities for shared facilities and equipment.

With no other business, motion by Boffeli, 2nd Nauman to adjourn the joint meeting at 6:15 p.m. – all ayes.

Shelley Annis, Deputy Clerk