

**CITY OF COLUMBIA
ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
MEETING REPORT
FEBRUARY 25, 2014 – 9:00 A.M.
CITY HALL 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
1737 MAIN STREET**



Members of the Columbia City Council conducted an Environment and Infrastructure Committee Meeting on Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine (Chair) called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. The Honorable Leona K. Plough, The Honorable Cameron A. Runyan and The Honorable Moe Baddourah (Non-committee member) were present.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. Underground Utilities

Ms. Melissa Gentry, P.E., Assistant City Manager of Operations presented the proposal for undergrounding utilities and cost estimates for residential areas. She said the advantages of undergrounding utilities include: power reliability during storms and severe weather events; it improves safety and allows room for shaded trees; and it removes poles from the streets. The challenges include: SCE&G and Mid Carolina Electric's transmission and distribution with the primary and service lines, telecommunications, cable television, fiber optic and infrastructure undergrounding with water, wastewater/sewer, storm drainage, undergrounding communication, gas, trees and construction inconveniences. The roads identified for consideration include: North Main Street (Penny Project), Harden Street between Gervais and Read Streets, Assembly Street, Elmwood Avenue, Gervais Street between Main and Harden Streets, South Main Street, Rosewood Drive, Devine Street, Millwood Avenue, Huger Street and Taylor Street. The Columbia Tree and Appearance Commission recommended an annual funding commitment by a way of a resolution to include an increase in franchise fees.

Councilor Runyan asked if there is a timeline.

Ms. Melissa Gentry, P.E., Assistant City Manager of Operations said if money becomes available, the application will be complete in April.

Councilor Plough asked is there funding in the penny sales tax.

Ms. Melissa Gentry, P.E., Assistant City Manager of Operations said not at this time.

The committee received this report as information. No action was taken.

2. Owens Field Park (Rosewood Park)

Mr. Buddy Atkins, Richland County Conservation Department introduced Mr. Bud Amundson, Rosewood Community and Ms. Betsy Kaemmerlen, Fuss & O'Neil.

Ms. Betsy Kaemmerlen, Fuss & O'Neil briefed the committee on the potential improvements and proposed funding for Owens Field Park. The objectives includes: maximizing the park's value by improving and expanding the trail system, controlling stormwater with green infrastructure and providing educational opportunities to include engaging the stakeholders.

Mr. Bud Amundson, Rosewood Community gave an update on the storm water issues affecting the trails at the park.

Councilor Plaugh said the field has a lot of dust. She asked if it has an irrigation system.

Mr. Allison Baker, Senior Assistant City Manager said no; the field is dry and needs to be redone.

Councilor Runyan asked can maintenance come out of the stormwater fund.

Ms. Dana Higgins, City Engineer said no; it has to be budgeted.

The committee received this report as information. No action was taken.

3. [Water and Sewer Line Warranty Program](#)

Ms. Shannon Lizewski, Contracts Administrator for the Utilities and Engineering Department reported that three (3) vendors submitted and three (3) proposals were accepted and opened on February 21, 2014. A selection committee has been identified and is currently reviewing all submittals according to the criteria outlined in the RFP document.

The committee received this report as information. No action was taken.

- **The meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Niki Daniels
City Clerk's Assistant