

## **ALP UTILITIES, ALEXANDRIA MINNESOTA INFORMATION MEETING SUMMARY, September 07, 2022**

The Information Meeting of the 2022 Underground Distribution Improvement Project regarding Douglas and Cedar Street concerns was called to order by Mayor Bobbie Osterberg on September 07, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. at Alexandria City Hall.

Members Present: Sara Carlson and Bobbie Osterberg

Also Present: Ted Cash, Lisa King, Josh Waldorf, Megan Chisholm, Tom Jacobson and Kirsten Berger

### **AGENDA**

1. Mayor Bobbie Osterberg Welcome and Rules for the meeting
2. Ted Cash and Josh Waldorf share information on the 2022 Underground Distribution Improvement Project regarding Douglas and Cedar Street.
3. Question and Answer

**WELCOME:** Mayor Bobbie Osterberg discussed the following:

1. Welcomed all that attended the meeting
2. Housekeeping- Douglas and Cedar Street residents attended the ALP Board Meeting on 08/29/2022 to voice concerns
3. Neighborhood information- dissatisfied with communication, design of the project and not having input, concerns about work done on private property with easements/ permissions and no compensation for alleged loss of existing buried line that were privately paid for
4. Rules and expectations on how the meeting will run

**INFORMATION:** Ted Cash and Josh Waldorf discussed the following:

#### **Ted Cash**

1. Discussion on the historic timeline; strategic undergrounding started in 2011
2. Undergrounding and reliability
3. Poles are at the end of their life
4. Discussed primary and secondary lines
5. Right of way and private property
6. Concerns with alleyways, easements and buildings/ fences/ trees in easement areas
7. ALP discussed communications on what was done, and what ALP will do to improve their communications

#### **Josh Waldorf**

8. Undergrounding process and how the project looks from start to finish

#### **Ted Cash**

9. Poles- ALP wants poles to come down; however, if not every company who utilizes the pole undergrounds, that pole might stay due to services still in use. Once ALP vacates the pole, after 60 days the pole is owned by the utility that is utilizing it.

**QUESTION AND ANSWERS:** The following members of the public listed below voiced questions/ concerns on the 2022 undergrounding project.

1. Todd Jensen; 1316 Douglas Street
  - Liability
    - i. It has been ALP's practice to make sure secondary's function properly after installation for the first year
  - Drilling to meter sockets, how does this work
    - i. Drill down 30" or so
  - Markings and who to contact with questions as residents work during the day
    - i. Contact Josh with any questions or concerns and he will find a time that works for both of you to come to your property
2. Rob Thompson; 421 7<sup>th</sup> Ave West
  - Stated Josh and his crew did a good job on his from start to finish it turned out great
  - Has a historic home and it doesn't look that bad, is this project any different than his area
  - Mentioned the cost of obtaining easements
3. Kevin Brovold; 908 Douglas Street
  - Cut out a piece of sidewalk and it hasn't been formed or marked
    - i. Josh will have the ALP crew come and put gravel in the spot and mark it for the time being until concrete gets poured (poured and completed on 09/08/2022)
4. Linda Rhodes; 1202 Cedar Street

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- Concerned about the current buried line and putting in new lines and how the boring will work
  - i. They will use directional drilling as it is the least invasive way to install underground facilities
- 5. Jim Odden; 1212 Douglas Street
  - Would have liked communication when project was starting 11 years ago as they undergrounded their lines
  - Able to charge electric cars
    - i. Yes for off peak and home, no to DC fast chargers as those are commercial loads
- 6. Craig Hornberger; 1420 Douglas Street
  - 200 AMP service
    - i. Talk with Josh and he will check
  - What would happen with the pole/ meter if through the roof
    - i. It is the resident's responsibility to remove the service masthead
  - Flush mounts
    - i. Most of these mounts are not ALP's they are other communication utilities
  - Right of way and how it is found
    - i. Alexandria City Planner, Mike Weber explained how street ROW is 33 feet from center of road
- 7. Dale Erickson; 1022 Cedar Street
  - Lives on a corner lot, hedge between his place and the neighbors where would the placement be
    - i. Talk with Josh to figure out where options could be (completed on 09/09/2022)
- 8. Pat Kalina; 1004 Douglas Street
  - What steps for safety will be taken for fall/ winter since the project won't be completed until next year
    - i. The areas will be covered/ fenced and a possibility of a cone to help make people aware
  - Halloween- will this be covered for trick-or-treating
    - i. Yes- ALP will have these covered/ fenced and a possibility of a cone to help with the safety of trick-or-treaters
- 9. Mel Kuhens; 722 Cedar Street
  - Overhead wires to the pole, how to get them removed
    - i. If there are no existing wires on the poles, ALP will remove. If there are existing wires after 60 days the pole will belong to whichever utility is still utilizing the pole
  - How deep are the primary and secondary lines buried and voltage
    - i. Primary is buried 42" and the secondary is buried 24-30"
- 10. Ann Carrott; 1212 Douglas Street
  - Communications issues
  - Boxes in alleyways seem safer due to traffic compared to the street
  - Already undergrounded and still might have a pole so what is the improvement
    - i. The main circuit is most at risk being overhead, hundreds of homes on the circuit
    - ii. Reliability and safety is being improved by undergrounding system
  - Does not want to have the poles stay
  - Where is the ROW
    - i. Alexandria City Attorney, Tom Jacobson explained that it is cost prohibitive to seek to obtain hundreds of easements from property owners
  - Mentioned how each property owner should talk to Josh about their property
    - i. Always been ALP's process to speak face-to-face and on property with owners as requested
- 11. Susan Anderson; 1208 Douglas Street
  - Working together on this project would have made this project better
  - Parts of the neighborhood are on the national historic registry
  - What can be done to put boxes in the alleys

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- i. Informational meeting was to update owners on the process, undergrounding project will continue as engineered
  - Mentioned a couple examples (807 Douglas St. and Maple St.) in Alexandria that boxes were in an alley
    - i. Josh addressed these examples that were brought up, and stated why those were situational facilities and placed in an alley
  - Would like to see the project paused to talk further on this project
    - i. Project will continue as engineered
  - ALP put the cart before the horse with this project
  - Stated the low cost obtain an easement
12. Cadi Merten; 1022 Douglas Street
- Thanked Ted for his apology on the communication and taking ownership of the issue
  - Would like to talk with Josh to see how it would be at her place (scheduled for 09/12/2022)
13. Sara Slagle; 1204 Douglas Street
- If boxes go in the boulevard what will happen if it gets hit
    - i. ALP would replace the box
  - Would like to discuss where her box gets placed
  - There is less traffic in the alleyway then the street
- Mayor Bobbie Osterberg-** Wrap up to take any comments from residents that have not yet spoken
14. Therese Peck; 909 Douglas Street
- Had concerns, reached out to Josh and he came the next day to talk about concerns
  - Are all alleyways an issue or could some go in the alleys while others are on the boulevard
    - i. All alleyways have similar safety concerns, also there is still the issue of needing easements along with wanting the consistency and doing things in the most cost effective way.
15. Randy Durand; 1111 Douglas Street
- Able to put shrubs or other things around the boxes
    - i. Yes- there are ways to landscape and minimalize visual impact. Beautification project would need to be approved by the ALP Board

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Bobbie Osterberg to adjourn the Public Meeting at 6:50 p.m.