

sls

Dailey, Janet

From: Dailey, Janet
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2011 9:23 AM
To: 'Kate and Todd Johnson'
Cc: 'sdrucker@gmail.com'; 'sls@oharemc.com'
Subject: RE: Pickford St.
Attachments: Funding Policy Undergrounding Adopted CC 20110329.pdf

Todd,

I'm copying Sherry Smith and Sean Drucker on this email as they had similar concerns/questions.

I've asked about the burying of the powerlines as I know this is something the neighborhood is interested in. The bottom line is that it does not appear to be a realistic option at this time. I am not an expert on the undergrounding rules/requirements so bear with me as I try to explain further.

We have reached out to MG&E regarding this project and we were told that they would not be able to bury the lines with this project. It was asked if it would be possible to install a conduit ahead of time with the hopes that the line may someday be buried and they said it was not prudent to do this either. The cost for the conduit alone would be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$70,000 and that does not even take into account the actual burying of the utilities. The chances of undergrounding in the future would be very small since 2/3rds of the homes are not ready for undergrounding and that would add an additional few thousand dollars for each owner aside from the cost to underground the mainline wires. A conduit would not be very useful - you have to do more than get it down the middle of the street, you have to get it to the terraces in strategic locations. And there are other utilities that hand on the poles besides MG&E that would need to have conduits as well.

With that being said, it's ultimately the decision of the Board of Public Works and the Common Council to determine if the lines should be buried with this project. If they did require it with the project I can't imagine the street work will go forward this year. That is one of the many purposes of the public hearing process to have decisions such as this determined. The City just recently passed a policy for the undergrounding of overhead utilities. As you can imagine there is always a lot of people interested in it, enough so to have a formal policy in place. I've attached the policy that was adopted at the March 29, 2011 Common Council meeting. Due to the cost, the inability of MG&E to actually do this work this year and with the newly passed undergrounding policy in place, the Engineering Division is really left to recommend that the lines not be buried with the project. But again, this is a decision that the Board of Public Works will vote on so I do urge you to attend the meeting to make sure your concerns are heard. The other option you mention is having the project delayed. This is again another decision that the Board will make. I will be there to represent the project and answer questions as well and I hope that you will also attend.

Janet

Janet Dailey, PE
Engineer IV
City of Madison Engineering Division
210 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Room 115
Madison, WI 53703
ph: 608-261-9688
fax: 608-264-9275
jdailey@cityofmadison.com

From: Kate and Todd Johnson [mailto:tjkimj@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Sunday, April 10, 2011 10:04 PM

To: Dailey, Janet

Subject: Pickford St.

Hi Janet,

I understand a number of my neighbors have spoken to you about placing the electrical service underground during our rebuilding project. Janet, through the years the cities poor selection of trees and MG&E's rules about tree pruning have made portions of the street extremely unsightly. The solution to the problem is to bury the lines, and as you know, now is the time to do it. We again ask for an answer as to why the service cannot be buried at this time. If the city and or MG&E would prefer not to bury the lines at this time, the residents of Pickford St. would prefer that the project be postponed until the lines can be buried.

Thank you,

Todd Johnson(645 Pickford)