

ITEM#: 19
DATE: 03-22-22

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: BEACH AVENUE - ELECTRIC UTILITY EASEMENT ON STATE OF IOWA PROPERTY

BACKGROUND:

Electric Services is planning to replace a buried electric line along the east side of Beach Avenue between Sunset Drive and Country Club Boulevard in spring 2022. The existing line has failed and been repaired several times. The replacement line will be more reliable and have increased capacity to accommodate projected electric load growth in the area.

Due to the distance between Sunset Drive and Country Club Boulevard (approx. 900 ft), two pull boxes will need to be buried along the line. The pull boxes will enable Electric Services crews to install the new line in shorter sections to avoid damaging the line.

Multiple buried utility lines (gas, telephone, CATV, etc.) on the east side of Beach Avenue prevent the placement of the pull boxes in public right-of-way. The Iowa State Center is located on the east side of the Beach Avenue right-of-way and would provide a suitable location for the installation of the pull boxes. **To accomplish this, the City and ISU must approve an agreement for an electric utility easement. ISU is willing to grant a 50-year easement.**

Staff from Iowa State University Facilities Planning & Management is supportive of the placement of the pull boxes on the Iowa State Center site. The State Board of Regents is expected to approve the easement at the April 2022 Board meeting in exchange for \$1 in consideration. **The easement agreement does require the City to move its facilities if ISU requests so in the future, but ISU would pay the cost of relocation on a prorated basis over a 30-year period (i.e., ISU covers 100% of the relocation if it takes place in year one, decreasing to a 0% obligation at 30 years).**

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the Electric Utility Easement on State of Iowa property for the installation of the electrical pull boxes.
2. Do not approve the Electric Utility Easement on State of Iowa property and direct Electric Services' staff to find an alternative location for the electrical pull boxes.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Electrical load is projected to increase in the area south of the Iowa State University campus. The replacement of a buried line with one having greater capacity will allow

Electric Services the ability to maintain the quality of service to the area. An easement on ISU property is required to install the two electrical pull boxes for this project.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as noted above.