



STAFF REPORT

SAUSALITO CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA TITLE:

Approve appointment of Planning Commission Liaison to the Sausalito Undergrounding Committee.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Adopt, by motion, appointment of Planning Commission Member Stout to the Underground Committee for a term not to exceed three years.

SUMMARY

The Sausalito Undergrounding Committee is comprised of 5 members. One member is a Planning Commissioner. The former Planning Commission Liaison resigned in February of 2009, citing family and professional demands.

A new liaison needs to be appointed. This appointment is especially critical as the Undergrounding Committee has two other vacancies and without an appointment, business cannot be conducted as there is a lack of quorum.

On March 18, 2009, the Planning Commission nominated Planning Commissioner Eric Stout to serve as Liaison. Commissioner Stout accepted this nomination.

Staff recommends that the City Council appoint Eric Stout as Planning Commission Liaison and member of the Sausalito Undergrounding Committee.

BACKGROUND

The Undergrounding Committee has been in existence since 1974, as a result of the adoption of Ordinance No. 851.

Section 18.08 of the Sausalito Municipal Code created regulations for Utility Undergrounding in the City. The regulations require all new extensions of existing utility distribution facilities be placed underground. The policies also require new homes to have utility services provided through underground facilities. The policies also require property owners or property tenants that alter their utility service to underground.

Item #: 486
Meeting Date: May 5, 2009
Page #: 1

Section 18.08.060 of the Municipal Code creates a committee to advocate and assist with the undergrounding of utility distribution and supply facilities (Electricity, Telephone, Cable TV, Internet). The Committee also has the responsibility to evaluate waiver exception requests to the Utility Undergrounding requirements. The ordinance allows waiver exceptions due to hardship.

The Committee is comprised of 5 members. A full term appointment lasts three years. One member of the Committee must be a member of the Planning Commission.

Planning Commissioner Stan Bair had been the Planning Commission member on the Committee. Personal and professional demands had increased, and as a result Commissioner Bair resigned his membership on the Underground Committee. Commissioner Bair continues to be a member of the Planning Commission. At the March 18, 2009 Planning Commission meeting, the Commission approved the nomination of Eric Stout to be the new Planning Commission liaison. The Underground Committee currently has three vacancies and cannot conduct business until at least one additional member is appointed.

The Legislative Committee recently discussed revisions to Section 18.08 of the Municipal Code, as there has been increased resistance to comply with all of the Municipal Code requirements mandating utility undergrounding. Frustration has been expressed about current variance guidelines, which only allow variances for owner occupied homes and permitting processes that may provide inadequate notice regarding service lateral undergrounding. Direction was given for staff to provide greater support to the Committee with regard to amending Utility Undergrounding Guidelines and permitting processes. The Legislative Committee also gave direction for the Committee to evaluate the current Municipal Code and to consider potential amendment recommendations.

FISCAL IMPACT

This appointment will not increase costs to the General Fund. Administration and support for the Committee is done by City staff which is funded by the General Fund.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Adopt, by motion, appointment of Planning Commission Member Stout to the Underground Committee for a term not to exceed three years.

PREPARED BY:



Todd Teachout, City Engineer

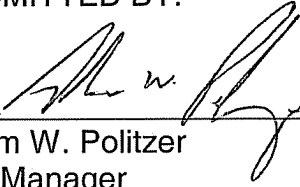
REVIEWED BY (Department Head):



Jonathon Goldman, Director of Public Works

Item #: 436
Meeting Date: May 5, 2009
Page #: 2

SUBMITTED BY:



Adam W. Politzer
City Manager

Item #: 426
Meeting Date: May 5, 2009
Page #: 3