

cable involves attaching the cable to a rope and winding the rope around a capstan while a worker guides the rope with his/her hands. This method involves some risk of personal injury if the rope should snap under tension, a type of accident which the City has experienced in the past. This piece of equipment is designed for underground pulling only, and the operator sits in a protective cab instead of being exposed to the rope under tension. This piece of equipment also measures the tension in the rope and provides tension readings to the operator, allowing the operator to shut the machine down if dangerous levels of tension are being generated. These added safety features is another reason the City wishes to purchase this piece of equipment as soon as possible. Knowing the tension under which cable is being pulled also allows the operator to avoid damaging new cable by overstressing it during installation.

The Chair asked Mr. Troxell how the City would handle overhead work if it buys a truck useful only for underground work. Mr. Troxell stated that the City can rent such trucks in the interim, but will probably request the purchase of a second cable pulling truck later in the year.

The Chair asked if Sherman and Reilly is the only manufacturer of cable pulling equipment. Mr. Troxell stated that they are not. Mr. Dougherty stated that there is no other company making a truck with the safety features of this piece of equipment.

The Chair asked how the City would know whether it is getting a competitive price. Mr. Troxell stated that a similar machine, but without the safety cab features of this machine, was priced at \$140,000.

The Chair asked if there was state bid pricing for these pieces of equipment. Mr. Troxell and Mr. Dougherty both stated that they did not know whether this is the case.

The Chair stated that the administration is proposing that this purchase would be funded by taking \$129,000 from the current \$400,000 budget for underground replacement work and \$42,000 out of the \$220,000 budget for 12.5kv system upgrades. Mr. Dougherty stated this is correct.

The Chair asked if the efficiencies gained by acquisition of this piece of equipment would allow the department to accomplish its planned underground replacement work with a smaller budget. Mr. Dougherty stated that a project involving fluid retrofit of existing conduits would be reduced in scope and/or delayed until next year.

The Chair asked what percentage of the City's electric system is underground. Mr. Troxell stated approximately 30%.

The Chair asked if this truck can be used to pull cable that is direct buried without conduit. Mr. Dougherty stated it cannot be used for that purpose.

The Chair recognized Mr. Weinhardt, who asked if the purchase of this piece of equipment would affect electric rates. Mr. Dougherty stated that this piece of equipment will pay for itself through avoidance of injuries and latent cable defects due to damage to cable during installation.

The Chair recognized Mr. Mader, who stated that cable pulling is a source of many injuries, and that he supports this legislation as a means of reducing the risk of injury to line workers.

There was no opponent testimony. There was no public comment.

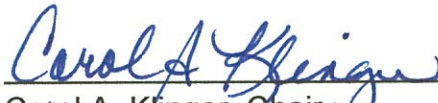
Motion by Mr. Iula to release Temp. Ord. A-37 with a favorable recommendation. Seconded by Mr. James. Motion adopted by acclamation.

Non-Agenda Items

None.

Adjournment

Without objection, the Chair adjourned the meeting at
6:58 p.m.



Carol A. Klinger, Chair



Paul A. Janis, Clerk of Council