City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 13

Agenda Date: December 9, 2021

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Parks & Recreation Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Homer Garcia III

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: District 7, District 8

SUBJECT:

Execution of a Gas Easement with Grey Forest Utilities

SUMMARY:

This ordinance authorizes the execution of a 2.13-acre gas easement with Grey Forest Utilities granting access to property owned and controlled by the City of San Antonio at Leon Creek and the O. P. Schnabel Park expansion area near Prue Road in Council Districts 7 and 8. This ordinance also authorizes the acceptance of $65,000.00 from Grey Forest Utilities to be utilized by the Parks and Recreation Department for improvements at O. P. Schnabel Park.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Grey Forest Utilities is a gas utility company serving the greater northwest area of San Antonio and surrounding municipalities such as Boerne, Helotes, and Leon Valley. Grey Forest Utilities' service areas are segmented and as a result, they are requesting an easement to install a connecting gas line to better serve their existing customers within the Prue Road community, who are currently serviced by individual feed lines. The easement will allow Grey Forest Utilities access to City-owned property to install and maintain a gas utility line connecting service to the residents located directly north and south of Prue Road mitigating service interruptions and facilitating repairs.

The proposed gas easement will allow Grey Forest Utilities access to Leon Creek Greenway and the O. P. Schnabel expansion area property so they may install and maintain a 4" gas line to connect to existing 2" Grey Forest Utilities gas lines to the north at Parkwood Way and the south at Pembroke Road. Although the installation of the proposed gas line will require Grey Forest Utilities to open-cut at various points, there will be minimal interruption of service for users of the Leon Creek Greenway and the O. P. Schnabel Park expansion area. The location of the proposed gas line runs along the northern boundary of the O. P. Schnabel Park expansion area, outside of the park user footprint. In addition, Grey Forest Utilities will bore underground at all necessary trail crossing points of the Leon Creek trail so that it remains open to the public during regular hours of operation.

The gas easement will include the acceptance of funds in the amount of $65,000.00 to be utilized for improvements at O. P. Schnabel Park. This is above the appraised value of the gas easement which was calculated to be worth $33,800.00 by an independent professional appraiser.

ISSUE:

Shared use of the property provides the most cost-effective manner in which Grey Forest Utilities can enhance gas utility service to residents of San Antonio and other municipalities. The proposed gas easement will allow for Grey Forest Utilities to provide a redundancy in gas utility service to their customers in the Prue Road service area and provides funding for improvements at O. P. Schnabel Park. The execution of this gas easement is consistent with the goals and objectives of the SA Park System Plan which recommends identifying partnerships to expand San Antonio's parks system resources.

The Planning Commission approved the execution of this gas easement on May 12, 2021.

ALTERNATIVES:

Should Council not authorize this easement, Grey Forest Utilities would be required to find an alternate route for a connecting gas line which could include the use of the City's rights-of-way. This would disrupt neighborhood traffic, and eliminate the proposed funds for improvements of the park.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance authorizes the execution of a 2.13-acre gas easement with Grey Forest Utilities granting access to property owned and controlled by the City of San Antonio at Leon Creek and the O. P. Schnabel Park expansion area near Prue Road in Council Districts 7 and 8. This ordinance also authorizes the acceptance of $65,000.00 from Grey Forest Utilities to be utilized by the Parks and Recreation Department for improvements at O. P. Schnabel Park.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the execution of a gas easement with Grey Forest Utilities and the acceptance of $65,000.00 from Grey Forest Utilities to be utilized by the Parks and Recreation Department for improvements at O. P. Schnabel Park.