

Falls City Council Approves Policy on Underground Electric Lines

(KTNC)--The Falls City, City Council, approved a resolution Monday night, as recommended by the Board of Public Works that creates a formal policy regarding maintenance of primary and secondary electrical lines in the city – specifically underground wires.

Utility Superintendent Alan Romine said the BPW has been discussing underground utilities, but had not adopted a formal policy on the matter.

Romine explained that the policy essentially stipulates that all new residential subdivisions will have primary and secondary electrical lines installed underground, unless underground installation is technically or economically impossible.

The Falls City Electric Department is responsible for installing primary electric lines and residential secondary lines to customers serviced by the city's electric distribution system.

The resolution stipulates that the city would supply service lines up to 100-feet, with anything over that at the customer's expense.

The resolution also sets a charge of \$200 for the first 100-feet, and \$7.23 per foot after that, when a customer requests installation of a secondary service line.

The city electric department would be responsible for replacing dirt in any trench for secondary service lines, and property owners would be responsible for the cost to replace shrubs, trees, sod, or concrete that results from the installation.

Romine said placing electric lines underground offers more protection from the elements and people tend to prefer the appearance of underground lines as opposed to overhead wires.

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