

Policy Briefing Summary

City Council



Regarding:	Resolution to Appropriate \$100,000 for Utility Line Remediation Facilitation (2nd reading)
Staff Contact(s):	Brennen Duncan, City Engineer
Presenter:	Brennen Duncan, City Engineer
Date of Proposed Action:	April 20, 2026

Issue

The City of Charlottesville, Virginia ("City"), has several double utility poles that require removal to come into compliance under the American with Disabilities Act ("ADA"). Several attaching utility companies are not performing the required work needed to transfer their lines so that the poles can be removed. City Public Works desires to procure an on-call contractor to perform this necessary work.

Background / Rule

Dominion Energy ("Dominion") has a perpetual Franchise Agreement ("FA") with the City which grants it the authority to install and maintain utility poles within the City's Public Right-of-Way. Over time, coordination challenges between Dominion and multiple telecommunications attachers have resulted in a significant number of double poles. The result of these conditions is ADA non-compliance and public safety concerns.

Analysis

The City also has enforcement authority under City Code Section 31-6, which authorizes the City Manager to require replacement of defective or dangerous poles.

Dominion cannot remove the offending utility poles until all the attaching utilities have removed their wires. Some utilities are working on it, and some are not. All FAs require compliance with City standards and provide enforcement authority when expectations are not met. In anticipation of having to perform the transfer work, City Public Works has decided to move forward with getting on-call contractors in place now.

Financial Impact

The City will invoice the utility companies for this work, and the resulting funds will be maintained in a rolling account to offset costs in future years.

Recommendation

Following satisfying the two (2) reading requirement, City Public Works Staff recommends City Council adopt the attached Resolution authorizing the appropriation of \$100,000 to be used for on-call contractors to perform remedial utility pole work.

Recommended Motion (if Applicable)

Not applicable at this time (first reading only at tonight's City Council Meeting).

Attachments

1. Resolution to Reallocate \$100,000 for Facilitation of Utility Line Remediation1