|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Planning Commission**Meeting of March 23, 2023** |
| **Topic: Undergrounding Ordinance Code Amendment** **Staff Report****Agenda Item #** |  [ ]  Public Hearing [x]  Work Session [ ]  Other Business [ ]  Information [ ]  Miscellaneous |
| Staff Contact: Yeyi Chen, Assistant Planner |

**Summary**

The proposed code amendment to LMC 12.20 Undergrounding of Overhead Electric Wires will require development to underground overhead facilities including electrical and telecommunication within the Lynnwood Regional Growth Center (RGC) and City Center Subarea.

**Background**

The undergrounding of utilities is an important component for the development of the Regional Growth Center and City Center Subarea for the City of Lynnwood. This element serves as a vital safety factor since overhead wires carrying electrical energy, including but not limited to telephone, cable television and electrical service wires, are a source of possible danger.

**Proposed Amendment**

The purpose of this ordinance is to expand the existing requirement in the City Center to the entirety of the Regional Growth Center. This amendment implements Goal 8 of the Community Character Element of the Lynnwood Comprehensive Plan.

Community Character Goal 8: Protect and enhance Lynnwood’s aesthetic and visual character through landscaping, tree preservation, public art and code administration and enforcement.

*Policy CC-8.3 Where feasible, work with utility companies to underground overhead utility lines upon redevelopment.*

The proposed code amendments:

1. All new service wires shall be placed underground.
2. Upon development or redevelopment of real property all overhead wires shall be relocated underground.
3. In conjunction with a street-widening project that requires reinstallation of service wires, all existing overhead wires shall be relocated underground.
4. Existing high-capacity transmission lines along I-5 and the Interurban Trail providing critical regional service are exempt from Chapter 12.20.

The code amendment will allow the exemption of undergrounding utilities for existing high-capacity transmission lines along I-5 and the Interurban Trail providing critical regional service.

**Administrative Recommendation**

Provide staff with feedback.

**Attachments**

1. Draft Ordinance