

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
DECEMBER 16, 2013 CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Barna called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL & CERTIFICATION OF A QUORUM

City Secretary, Kristi Gilbert, certified a quorum with the following Councilmembers present:

Mayor Eric Barna
Mayor Pro Tem Owais Siddiqui
Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Ben St. Clair
Councilmember Scott Bradley
Councilmember Betty Nichols Spraggins
Councilmember Bernard Grant
Councilmember Rob Thomas

Councilmembers absent: None.

3. INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

A. Discussion with Oncor representatives concerning electric service delivery in Murphy.

Mayor Barna asked to hear from the residents in the audience.

Genie Smith, 704 Summer Pl – Ms. Smith stated that she and her husband had lived in Murphy for 13 years with numerous power outages over several days throughout the years. Ms. Smith expressed concerns regarding the smart meter and why the meters were not notifying Oncor. Ms. Smith also commented that her neighborhood should be hand

Mark Harless, 709 Summer Pl – Mr. Harless stated that he had been in the area since 1981. Mr. Harless stated that the problems seem to be worsening over the years. Mr. Harless stated that Phase 1 is older, but appears to have half the number of outages as Phase 2 where he lives. Mr. Harless stated that other neighbors who had similar problems in the past had been related to trees. Mr. Harless expressed concerns regarding the usage of smart meters. Mr. Harless stated that his electric bill indicated that he was using power on days that the power was out. Mr. Harless inquired as to who should take responsibility for the expenses associated with the outages.

Sheila Wilkinson, 600 Horizon - Ms. Wilkinson commented regarding Oncor's notification to residents as to when service will be returned. Ms. Wilkinson stated that trees were trimmed in the summer, as a result of a separate power outage.

Larry Lee, 600 Sunrise Ct – Mr. Lee stated that there had been three outages so far this year. Mr. Lee stated that the outages had been more frequent. Mr. Lee stated that his smart meter had indicated that he had used power during the outage. Mr. Lee reiterated the comments of the others.

Matt Chalmers, 505 Horizon - Mr. Chalmers stated that he had lived in Murphy for 15 years and had lived in many different countries. Mr. Chalmers stated that living conditions were better in

some third world countries that he has visited. Mr. Chalmers stated that he was planning on installing a \$10,000 diesel generator at his house.

City Manager James Fisher stated that Barry Young with Oncor was available to provide a presentation to Council. Mr. Fisher stated that Mr. Young was committed to do everything he could to fix the situation.

Mr. Young apologized to the residents and stated that he hoped there would be a resolution at the end of the meeting.

Mr. Young stated that, at the peak of the storm, there were approximately 320,000 without power. Mr. Young stated that, beginning the Monday before the storm, contacted reinforcements from Mississippi and Florida that arrived Thursday before the storm.

Mr. Young reviewed Oncor's process in restoring power. Mr. Young stated that the main feeder lines, followed by public safety and public utilities were the first priority. Mr. Young stated that more resources are designated to areas that have a large population. Mr. Young stated that ice storms are different than thunder storms in that there is a more widespread outage.

Mr. Young stated that the City of Murphy had approximately 3,300 residences without power. Mr. Young stated there were approximately 50 people dedicated to restoring service in Murphy. Mr. Young stated that first outage report was Friday morning at approximately 2:30 am. Power restoration began on Saturday and was completed on Sunday at approximately 2:00 pm. Mr. Young referred residents to the Oncor storm center website that provides up to date information with regard to current power outages. Mr. Young referred residents to a text number of 66267 and stated that if 'reg' is texted to the number that can provide status updates.

Residents in the audience expressed concerns that the features were not working during the storm and were incorrectly reporting that their power had been restored.

Mr. Young reviewed the plan for Travis Estates. Mr. Young stated that Oncor will begin extensive tree trimming in Travis Estates in January 2014. Mr. Young stated that anything within seven feet would be removed, which could include trimming up to the trunk. Mr. Young stated that Oncor technicians will also patrol the lines to determine other courses of action that may be able to be taken to improve the situation. Mr. Young stated that residents would be notified three to five days prior, most often with a door notice.

Mr. Young stated that the primary cause of the recent outage was tree limbs. Mr. Young stated that in the summer a minor tree trimming had been completed, with the planned January trimming being a major trimming.

Discussion was held amongst Oncor and the residents.

Mayor Barna asked Oncor to bring back the data from the patrolling of the lines in March.

4. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

APPROVED BY:



Eric Barna, Mayor

ATTEST:


Kristi Gilbert, City Secretary