


CITY OF HALLANDALE BEACH, FLORIDA
MEMORANDUM
CM18-012

DATE: October 23, 2017

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Commissioners

FROM: Roger M. Carlton, City Manager 

SUBJECT: Surfside Special Meeting Presentation

There has been much discussion recently about the merits of undergrounding utilities. While the discussion has focused on FPL, the reality is that undergrounding also deals with phone and cable. The debate seems to have evolved from the merits of undergrounding to the time needed for recovery being quicker for underground systems in relation to above ground systems.

By way of background, Surfside was close to working out a process with FPL for undergrounding the entire Town before I retired. The energy went out of the project (bad pun) after I left. The City Manager and some of the Commissioners have re-energized the effort (another bad pun) and, as a result, held a Special Town Commission meeting late in September. ACM Steve Parkinson attended with me.

As a corollary to this, FPL informed staff that they intended to accomplish a hardening project on Golden Isles and Ocean Drive before Hurricane Irma. We stopped that effort to replace old poles with larger concrete poles with the understanding that we would discuss undergrounding as quickly as possible. Hurricane Irma intervened and it is now time to begin the discussions with FPL.

The attached document is a presentation made to the Surfside Commission during their Special Meeting by a professor from the University of Florida. While I don't agree with the entire presentation, reading it would be informative.

My thought is to establish a citizen committee of representatives from Golden Isles with a member from Ocean Drive since their project is only 12 poles while Golden Isles is much larger. Please consider providing two names from Golden Isles and one from Ocean Drive so that we may establish a committee to advise on this project. The people should have expertise in construction, public finance, utilities and other areas such as special taxing districts.

All meetings would be open to the public so that interested parties could attend. This project could be a demonstration for other areas of the City.

Att: Surfside Special meeting Presentation.