
CITY OF REDWOOD FALLS

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James Doering
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Memo

To: All City of Redwood Falls Commercial Utility Providers
From: James Doering, Public Works Project Coordinator
CC: Redwood Falls City Council and Keith Muetzel, City Administrator
Date: 7/2/2009
Re: Post utility installation, site restoration requirements in the right of way (ROW)

Commercial Utility Providers

With the annual utility registration information that is sent out each year, a copy of the City Code, Ordinance 28, Chapter 7, Section 7.23 Right of Way Management has been provided to you. As a reminder, all work performed in the public right of way requires a permit as outlined in Subdivision 4. with a few exceptions that are outlined therein. Special attention should be given to Subdivision 5. – Diligence in performing work, Subdivision 6. – Standards during construction and excavation, and Subdivision 7. – Repair and Restoration.

The City of Redwood Falls both in the past and present has in good faith been repairing numerous utility excavations/boring sites in various ROW locations and has charged back nominal fees for performing these services. Subdivision 7, Part C – City restoration outlines that if the utility company requests the City of Redwood Falls to make the necessary repairs post installation, 150% of the cost to make the repair as estimated by the Public Works Project Coordinator must be paid in advance with any overages being credited back. This has not been happening and has put the City of Redwood Falls in the position of making the repairs after the fact and billing for the services provided. We understand that it is hard for utility service providers to pass on restoration costs to clients after the fact and this is not the preferred approach.

A copy of Section 7.23 is attached again for your reference. The City of Redwood Falls hopes to enhance communication and project planning prior to utility installation. Our intention is to clarify who will be doing the repair work, restoration protocols and timelines. An effort will be made to contact all utilities that have implemented substandard restoration techniques in the ROWs to allow for correction of the problem in house. However, if it is deemed a public or traffic safety issue, corrective actions will be taken immediately by the City and appropriately billed to the utility service provider. A penalty fee may be included for blatant negligence.

If there are any questions please contact me utilizing my contact information at the top.