



AGENDA ITEM ANALYSIS

Project/Issue Name: 24-71 An Ordinance of the City Council Amending Title V (“Building And Construction”), Chapter 515 (“Rights-of-Way Management”) Section 515.020 (“Definitions”) of the Municipal Code of the City of Republic, Missouri and Adding New Section 515.130 (“Utility Damage Prevention”).

Submitted By: Tim Fowkes, Utility & Right-of-Way Inspector

Date: November 19, 2024

Issue Statement

An Ordinance of the City Council amending Title V, Chapter 515 of the Municipal Code of the City of Republic, Missouri by amending section 515.020 (“Definitions”) and adding new section 515.130 (“Utility Damage Prevention”) to allow City staff to enforce fines on contractors who damage utility lines.

Discussion and/or Analysis

City staff has recently seen an uptick in incidents involving damaged utility lines during construction or repair in various parts of the city. These incidents can have effects on a vast part of the community including disruption in utility services or unexpected costs to citizens to repair the issue.

I have met with area contractors and utility companies (Liberty, Spire, AT&T, etc.) regularly to discuss upcoming projects and hurdles that could effect their work. I have discussed the ongoing utility damages with companies and contractors in the area and we have created a solution that will hold these organizations more accountable in the future. This amendment outlines preconstruction requirements, utility damage prevention measures, and penalties for any utility strike that include up to a \$10,000 fine and permit refusals by the City if they fail to comply with this ordinance. I have also discussed this proposed ordinance amendment with utility companies and contractors so that they are aware of upcoming changes and penalties associated with utility damage.

Recommended Action

Staff recommends approval.