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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lafayette to hold Community Meetings to discuss the Xcel Franchise Renewal

LAFAYETTE, CO August 7, 2013 – In November, registered Lafayette voters will decide if the existing Franchise Agreement with Xcel Energy should be renewed. Residents are invited to attend a community meeting hosted by the City to better understand this important issue and have any questions answered.

LAFAYETTE COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Saturday, August 10; 10:00am
Lafayette Library / 775 W Baseline Rd

Thursday, August 15; 7:00pm
Lafayette Library / 775 W Baseline Rd

LAFAYETTE BUSINESS MEETING

Tuesday, August 20; 7:30am
Lafayette Chamber of Commerce / 1290 So Public Rd

A list of questions and answers can be found on the City's website until August 20
www.cityoflafayette.com/GoGreen

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Should you renew the Xcel Franchise?



Learn more about
the November
Xcel Franchise
ballot issue

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Sat. 8/10
10:00am

Lafayette Library
775 W Baseline Rd

Thurs. 8/15
7:00pm

Lafayette Library
775 W Baseline Rd

Q: What is the franchise fee?

Xcel's franchise fee is an annual \$720,000 payment to the City for the privilege of providing utility services to Lafayette residents and accessing utility rights-of-way. Through the franchise, Xcel invests another \$180,000 each year into an undergrounding fund to cover the cost of burying power lines. Lafayette's undergrounding fund is currently valued at \$1.2 million. These funding streams will cease if the Xcel franchise is not renewed.

Q: Who will provide Lafayette's gas and electricity if the Xcel franchise is terminated?

Even without a franchise agreement, Xcel will continue to be the service provider for gas and electricity in Lafayette as mandated by the state Public Utility Commission (PUC). However, without the franchise agreement Xcel does not have to pay the annual \$720,000 franchise fee to the City or provide the annual \$180,000 contribution to the undergrounding fund. In addition, the \$1.2 million accumulated in the undergrounding fund will no longer be available to the City.

Q: Is the City restricted from pursuing alternative energy options if the Xcel franchise is renewed?

Absolutely not. The City is free to pursue and provide alternative energy sources. Lafayette has become a leading "green" city in Colorado under the current Xcel franchise. Since 2010 Lafayette has generated over 1,876,330 kwh of renewable energy.

In 2012 Lafayette was awarded an Xcel Solar*Rewards grant to construct a 1 Megawatt solar garden. This installation is planned for completion in 2013. Lafayette is also a participant in Xcel's Community Energy Efficiency Program which is currently in progress to benchmark existing energy use and set community-wide energy efficiency goals. Learn more about Lafayette's sustainable efforts at www.cityoflafayette.com/GoGreen.

Q: What benefits are there for Lafayette residents if the Xcel franchise is terminated?

There are no benefits to residents if the Xcel franchise is terminated.

Q: What are the negative outcomes for residents if the Xcel franchise is terminated?

- Without the franchise fee that Xcel pays annually to the City, the General Fund will be cut. This will impact residential amenities and services such as police and fire protection, library, recreation center, parks, public art, and snow plowing.
- The City will lose the undergrounding fund and future funding to bury power lines.
- The City will lose our agreement with Xcel outlining how the City's rights-of-way are utilized.

Q: Will terminating the Xcel franchise “send a message” to big business?

No. Xcel will continue to be the gas and electricity provider for Lafayette residents. However, without a franchise agreement Xcel would continue to do business in Lafayette without compensating the City through a franchise fee.

Q: What other cities are currently operating under an Xcel franchise agreement?

Some examples are Louisville, Longmont, Broomfield, Denver, Westminster, Arvada, Aurora, Windsor, Lakewood, Golden, Commerce City, Englewood, and Grand Junction.

Q: Is Lafayette looking to create a “municipal utility” similar to what Boulder is currently in the process of trying to do?

No. The City is not exploring the creation of a City-run utility due to steep upfront costs and concern regarding future higher utility rates.

Attend a Community Meeting to have your questions answered about the Xcel franchise renewal



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