City of Wildwood
Rural Internet Access Committee (RIAC)

Agenda for the
Thursday, February 6, 2020 Meeting
6:30 p.m.
Wildwood City Hall – Community Room
16860 Main Street, Wildwood, Missouri 63040
This Meeting will Not be Livestreamed.

1. Welcome And Roll Call
2. Approval Of Minutes From The Meeting Of October 23, 2019

   Documents:

   DRAFT RIAC MINUTES 10-23-19.PDF

3. Discussion Regarding RFP Process
   a. Letters of Intent Received, per Deadline
   b. Remaining Timelines in Process

4. Update From Bays-ET On Fiber-To-The-Home Installations
5. Next Steps For Committee
6. Other Items For Consideration
7. Public Comments
8. Next Meeting Date – To Be Determined
9. Closing Remarks And Adjournment

Note: The Rural Internet Access Committee will consider and act upon these matters listed above and any such others as may be presented at the meeting and determined appropriate for discussion at that time.

Accessibility and Accommodations for All Groups: The City of Wildwood will provide reasonable accommodations for persons attending Rural Internet Access Committee meetings. Requests for reasonable accommodations should be made by contacting Jessica Stirmlinger, City Clerk at 636-458-0440 or email at jessica@cityofwildwood.com at least 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting.
I. Welcome and Roll Call by Chair Kallaus

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kallaus, at 6:30 p.m., in the City Council Chambers, at Wildwood City Hall. A roll call of members was conducted, with the following individuals being in attendance:

Committee Members:
Rick Kallaus
Deb Trunko
Scott Jackson

Council Member Liaisons:
Cheryl Jordan
Larry Brost

City Staff and Officials:
Council Member John Gragnani
Council Member Joe Garritano
Director of Planning and Parks Joe Vujnich
Assistant Director of Planning and Parks Kathy Arnett

Committee Member Hitzeman was absent.

II. Approval of Minutes from the Meeting of May 22, 2019 and June 6, 2019

A motion was made by Committee Member Trunko, seconded by Council Member Jordan, to approve the minutes from both the May 22, 2019 and June 6, 2019 meetings. There being no modifications suggested, Chair Kallaus called for a voice vote on the motion. A voice vote was taken, with unanimous, affirmative results (Council Member Brost abstained) and the motion was declared passed.

III. Discussion Regarding the Final Report from CTC Technology and Energy, the City’s Consultant Engaged to Develop Workable Solutions to Solve the City’s Rural Internet Access Issues.
Director of Planning Vujnich first noted the report handout for the public at tonight’s meeting did not include the appendices, which are available online, but are voluminous and, therefore, were not printed. He added that, if anyone is interested in a printout of the appendices, to please let staff know and a copy will be provided. He then began with a chronology of the study beginning in late 2018 and the desire for the consultant to find a future-proof solution. The consultant then proceeded in studying the City and drafted eight (8) potential approaches to address the rural internet access problem. The Rural Internet Access Committee then pared down the approaches and requested the consultant focus on at least three (3) of them. Tonight, the final report is being presented.

The top two (2) approaches the consultant recommended are those that address the middle mile. The options for full buildout were too expensive and the options for a lesser approach are generally what the City is currently doing and believed to be not satisfactory. The report also noted funding is not currently available due to federal definitions of ‘rural.’ Therefore, the Committee requested the drafting of a Request for Proposals (RFP) by CTC for solicitation of firms to install the middle mile.

Discussion was held regarding the following: the original contract with CTC included a portion of funds for grant writing ($20,000), which was not expended; the amount in the current fiscal year’s budget for rural internet issues, which totals $250,000; the ability of the Committee to recommend to the City Council to pursue next steps and use budgeted funds to complete the RFP process; and the fact the internet has become a necessity, not a desire.

Committee Member Jackson noted he reviewed the final report with colleagues at Nokia, who also considered it, and came up with the same solution as CTC Technology and Energy. As a courtesy, Nokia even contacted AT&T and other providers, but the result was the same. He noted that he also investigated the use of funding specific to schools to try and build the network, but this funding source was not applicable for the City’s purpose.

Discussion continued regarding 5G technology, which requires very close proximity of antennas, with such not necessarily being practical in Wildwood.

IV. Discussion Regarding RFP Prepared by CTC Technology and Energy for Solicitation of Firms to Install the Fiber ‘Middle Mile (Backbone)’ Within the City’s Rural Areas.

The Committee realized, with lack of available grant funding to pursue buildout of a network, its best alternative was to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit firms to install the middle mile in a public-private partnership. CTC provided a proposal to draft this request. CTC also requested the City take action on what it is willing to provide to assist in the process. CTC will draft the RFP and assist in the process and selection at a cost of $39,600.00, $20,000.00 of which is already approved, and unspent, in the original contract. The City Council will need to allocate another $19,600.00 to fully fund this RFP.
process.

Discussion was held regarding the following: what the City's expectations are from respondents; and the hope for multiple firms to respond with a workable amount, that does not change, and the additional cost of drops to the homes that are more difficult to reach.

A motion was made by Council Member Jordan, seconded by Council Member Brost, to recommend to the City Council approval of a contract with CTC for creation of the RFP at the cost of $39,600.00.

Discussion continued regarding the following: the City’s inability in 2011 to spend public dollars on private infrastructure. This issue is addressed in the current broader interpretation of public investment; the recommendation to City Council would be presented at the first meeting in November and a more precise timeframe from the consultant will be determined, prior to its presentation at City Council; and the encouragement of those residents in attendance to voice their concerns during public participation, and via email, at the City Council meeting.

A voice vote was taken, with no opposition, and the motion was declared passed.

V. Next Steps for Committee

If City Council supports the contract with CTC, Department staff will schedule meetings as the process proceeds.

VI. Other Items for Consideration

Director of Planning Vujnich noted the following updates:

- Bays-ET is nearing completion of the buildout of fiber-to-the-home project within Hawks Rest Subdivision. Remaining homes are those locations that requested service, after the project had started.
- Wisper ISP will be completing pole improvements in Babler Forest Subdivision next week.
- Department has requested $250,000.00 in 2020 budget for rural internet.

Council Member Jordan thanked Director Vujnich and the other Committee Members for their continual efforts in seeking a solution to this problem.

A motion was made by Chair Kallaus, seconded by Council Member Jordan, to recommend the City Council support the inclusion of the proposed $250,000.00 for rural internet in the 2020 budget. A voice vote was taken, with a unanimous affirmative result, and Chair Kallaus declared it approved.

VII. Public Comments

John Gragnani, Ward One Council Member, noted there is a great need within his Ward
for high speed internet. He suggests the establishment of a rural internet cooperative.

Bill Young, Wildhorse Valley Subdivision, noted there are 3rd party dark fiber assets in the ground, whose valuation will decrease if Wildwood builds their own fiber network, so he suggested the City contact owners of existing assets to see if they could be integrated into the network. He also noted the Middle Mile plan map from CTC’s report has a large hole in the middle of Ward One and is concerned the proposal would not include the Wild Horse Creek Valley.

Staff will address with CTC the dark fiber locations and gap on the mapping.

Russ, a resident in the Hawks Rest Subdivision, noted the fiber progress is going quite well. He is obtaining speeds up to 300 MB down and will reach a Gigabit by summer. He questioned what resources can be used to funnel funds to Bays-ET, who is making significant progress in bringing improvements.

Ryan, appreciates the progress, and is curious if other Council Members are supportive of this problem.

VIII. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

A motion was made by Chair Kallaus, seconded by Council Member Jordan, to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Kallaus at 7:56 p.m.