



WILDWOOD

Rural Internet Access Committee

Minutes from the Meeting of
Thursday, November 1, 2018

I. Welcome and Roll Call by Chair Kallaus

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kallaus, at 6:30 p.m., in the Community Room, 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:

Larry McGowen
Cheryl Jordan

City Staff and Officials:

Council Member Woerther
Council Member Shea
City Administrator Ryan Thomas
City Attorney John Young
Director of Planning and Parks Joe Vujnich
Assistant Director of Planning and Parks Kathy Arnett

Wireless Providers:

Chris Bay – Bays ET
David Crabtree – Wisper ISP

Committee Member Hitzeman was absent.

II. Approval of Minutes from the Meeting of July 30, 2018

A motion was made by Committee Member Jackson, seconded by Committee Member Trunko, to approve the minutes. A voice vote was taken on the motion and, hearing no objections, the motion was declared passed.

III. Department Update of Rural Internet Activities since the July 30th Meeting

Director of Planning Vujnich began with introductions of the additional City officials in attendance. He noted the three (3) newest pole locations have gone through the review process for zoning and building permits. These sites are located on Rocky Ridge Road, Old Wild Horse Creek Road, and Babler Forest Drive. All have been approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Board of Adjustment and the poles have been purchased and are in storage. Once the survey crew marks the pole locations, they can be installed and service completed. Two (2) of the poles are new additions in Bays network and one (1) is a replacement for Wisper ISP due to extensive woodpecker damage.

The Department continues to work with Bays ET on additional locations for short poles to be used for relay, while Wisper ISP has been looking in the Shiloh and Homestead Estates Subdivisions for expanded service and are proposing two (2) - one hundred (100) foot poles in each location.

Discussion that was held among the Committee Members included the following: the availability of smart pole vendors that provide metal types, which would not be damaged by woodpeckers, but have much higher cost (approximately five thousand dollars (\$5000.00) more per ninety (90) foot pole) and lower aesthetics. These poles could be used, if the Committee wishes to try a metal pole, but Department staff is hesitant, because of the cost and aesthetics. However, if the Committee wants to pursue, it could be considered; the addition of two (2) providers (AT&T and Verizon) seeking right-of-way agreements with the City for small cell locations. The City cannot require colocation on these types of proposals; the plan for the survey crew be out to Rocky Ridge Road on Monday; and how Ameren deals with damaged poles, which is by replacement.

Chris Bay, with Bays ET, provided an update noting in addition to the poles in progress (Rocky Ridge and Old Wild Horse Creek Road), the next project is a fiber-to-the-home test project in the Hawks Rest Subdivision. Anticipated speed will be up to a gigabit to house and the target date of the project launch is April 1st. He noted that, by the beginning of February, the new fiber will be available to the tower. The price tag on the gigabit service will be eighty-nine dollars (\$89.00) a month, with no data caps. He added he will be working with Ameren Missouri to get pole attachments, which will keep costs down. The project will be accomplished by having millimeter transmissions wirelessly to the poles and then a fiber drop to the home. The majority of the subdivision will have aerial wires and then buried to the home. With the size of Hawks Rest Subdivision, two (2) strands of fiber will be needed, but he would install twenty-four (24) for future buildout. He noted other, similar, projects in Wildwood will require City participation in cost of laying conduit. Finally, he noted, he will also be testing LTE technology in the future.

Discussion that was held among the Committee Members included the following: the

quickest assistance the City could offer Bays-ET is providing conduit laid for fiber installs; Mr. Bay noted he would be agreeable to partnering with the City, if it owned the fiber and he provided the service; the Committee requested he provide an amount to provide fiber-to-the-home service for all unserved areas in Wildwood; the potential for entering into private-public partnership for internet deployment; the law that allows the City to get into the internet business, but would not allow the rental of facilities to telephone or wireless companies; and the fact that no additional poles would be needed at this time, since he can reach ninety-nine percent (99%) of homes that need service with existing poles.

Dave Crabtree, with Wisper ISP, noted Homestead Summit Drive could get service with a one hundred (100) foot pole located off the cul-de-sac in the City's property that connects to Three Sisters Farm. He noted Wisper ISP has started working on that pole and they will be reevaluating other poles. Currently, the company owner, Nathan Stooke, is working on evaluating the ongoing list of customers and available options.

Discussion that was held among the Committee Members included the following: if the pole in Homestead Subdivision would also provide service to Shiloh; those residents in attendance, who reside in Shiloh, are not able to get service from Wisper ISP and the reasons cited included either no response from the company or a neighbor's tree blocking service. The resident noted the tree was one hundred fifty (150) yards from his house; Wisper representatives noted they are getting ready to send technicians to drone training, so they can conduct evaluations with that technology; if the list of customers who are seeking service could be provided to the Committee from the providers, which both agreed to deliver the list of addresses of residents looking for service that have contacted them; the question if the City has mapped locations of people seeking service; the identification of unserved addresses in 2012-2013, all of which were given to the wireless providers to build the network and the work taking place now in last mile locations; question if Charter and AT&T would disclose areas they cannot provide service; the question if the providers could provide data of existing service areas, which the City could use in GIS to determine who is unserved; and the issuance of a ¼ of a billion dollars of funding to Wisper ISP from federal government, which has to be spent in specific areas, and the lack of assurance, if any is in Wildwood.

Les Conover, resident of Ward 6, noted he works for Ameren Corporation and Senate Bill 564 now allows Ameren Missouri to make infrastructure investments and allocates an additional two hundred million dollars (\$200,000,000.00) more for such, passed, which provided capital to Ameren Missouri to provide things such as internet access. The company is looking at extending this service to rural areas. Based upon Ameren Missouri's transmission asset through Wildwood, and its allowance for cellular providers to mount onto them, along with the ongoing rural internet access project, Wildwood is on the interest list. Smart metering would be included in the new service too. Mr. Conover noted he would arrange a meeting with City representatives and the Ameren Missouri's operations department.

Discussion that was held among the Committee Members included the following: Mr. Conover's familiarity with airgig, but he noted Ameren Missouri has concerns with security and reliability and prefers to deploy their own assets; and Mr. Conover's willingness to work with helping Bays-ET and Wisper ISP obtain easements through Ameren Missouri for their deployment.

IV. Other Options for Expanded and Improved High-Speed Service to Rural Areas

Director of Planning Vujnich reviewed the memorandum provided to the Committee, noting the consultant's assessment, who spoke to the Committee in July, and the Department's effort to proceed with next steps, based upon Ms. Hovis' information. The first of which is contracting with a consultant, potentially Ms. Hovis, to complete a study and undertake the steps outlined. City Attorney Young is in attendance to provide direction on the process the City must follow in providing public financing within the framework of a private partnership to offer service.

Discussion that was held among the Committee Members included the following: the availability of grants and funding options, of which there are a number of new sources coming in 2019; the best practice, when deploying fiber, is getting business leaders, churches, etc. within the community to commit to utilizing fiber; the potential access to Ameren Missouri fiber or at least easements; and Ms. Hovis' projection of \$35,000 to \$50,000 cost for this type of study, plus extra fees for grant work.

A motion was made by Council Liaison Jordan, seconded by Chair Kallaus, to request a proposal from Joanne Hovis on providing a report on direction on how to achieve a successful internet buildout. A voice vote was taken on the motion and, hearing no objections, the motion was declared passed.

City Attorney Young explained to the Committee the State does not currently prohibit the City providing internet type services, but does prohibit other services. He cannot predict if the State will change this allowance to a prohibition and what risk the City would have for losses, if it already started the process. He outlined that, if the City's project cost is six million dollars (\$6,000,000.00) and wanted to pursue that amount in financing, it has several options: general obligation bonds, which the City places its full faith and credit or bonds would have a prerequisite of either 2/3 or 4/7 voter approval. This proposal would be an unsecured bond; revenue bonds, which the City would dedicate a source of revenue to pay off that debt, such as taxes or utility payments, etc. This type requires a simple voter approval and is an unsecured bond; lease holder bonds, which don't require voter approval, but are probably not available to Wildwood. This would be a secure bond, but the City does not have an asset to provide; or Neighborhood Improvement District (NID) or a Community Improvement District (CID) can be used in some instances, but not as likely. He then noted bonds usually have a twenty (20) year payoff timeframe.

Discussion that was held among the Committee Members included the following: if there are grants available to fund the study, which no one was aware of; if money is in the City

budget for completing the study; the lack of support among Committee Members for waiting for a grant to complete the study; the City Attorney will confirm, if the City can negotiate with consultant and don't need to solicit additional bids for study work; the desire of the Committee to meet more regularly; the need to invite Mr. Conover to future meetings to participate; and the suggestion for the Committee to make a motion to request coverage reports from providers.

A motion was made by Council Member Jordan, seconded by Council Member McGowen, to request coverage reports from both providers. A voice vote was taken on the motion and, hearing no objections, the motion was declared passed.

V. Next Steps for Committee

Discussion was held regarding the next steps in seeking a proposal from Ms. Hovis and setting a meeting schedule for 2019.

VI. Other Items for Consideration

None

VII. Public Comments

Michelle Reed, Summit View Place, noted she is in the lowest end of the subdivision and borders Rockwoods Reservation. She has eight (8) acres and her home has been on the market for 10 days, with an interested buyer, but may not be able to sell because of internet service. She noted her service to her home is through Bays-ET and 13 Mbps download speed, but the buyer currently deals with Charter. She noted her service isn't bad, but it can't compete with other options.

Mike Marsh, Shiloh Subdivision, noted Bays-ET is exploring fiber options and he questioned if Wisper ISP is doing the same. Mr. Crabtree noted they do have a fiber pilot project in Kansas City, but within a new subdivision.

Julie Oberrieter, trustee of Shiloh Subidivison, noted she was in attendance to bring her disappointment to the Committee with lack of priority that has been given to subdivisions that have been appealing for internet for years.

VIII. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

A motion was made by Council Member Jordan, seconded by Committee Member Jackson, to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Kallaus at 8:46 p.m.