



WILDWOOD®

April 8, 2019

The Honorable City Council
City of Wildwood, Missouri
16860 Main Street
Wildwood, Missouri 63040

Re: Update on the City's Rural Internet Project

Council Members:

The Department continues to work on several different initiatives relating to the extension of high-speed internet service to the underserved and non-served areas of Wildwood. Many of these initiatives have been presented to the City Council over the past year, via these regular updates from the Department, with the major current activities summarized below for the purposes of this report. These summaries are as follows:

⇒ **Consultant Update on Assigned Tasks of Internet Study**

The Department has been in discussions with the consultant engaged by the City for the internet project. These discussions have focused on the development of work products for the upcoming April meeting of the Rural Internet Access Committee (RIAC). This meeting is scheduled for April 24, 2019. The Department is hoping the consultant will bring to this meeting new approaches or options for the expansion of gigabyte internet service to the served, underserved, and/or unserved areas of the City, as well as, the least serviceable areas and locations within Wildwood, which would typically have a very low density of households, but limited to no options for internet service at this time, even via the two (2) current wireless internet providers.

⇒ **Fiber Installation by Bays ET – Hawks Rest Subdivision**

The Department of Planning contacted Bays ET about the progress of its fiber installation within the Hawks Rest Subdivision that started at the beginning of this month. Chris Bay, owner of Bays ET, the wireless provider completing the work, noted that progress has shifted from the backbone of the fiber network to the installations through individual lots. Mr. Bay noted the response from subdivision residents has been positive and a large percentage of them are interested in being connected to the fiber network. The intent is still to have the fiber service available to residents within this subdivision by May.

⇒ **New Pole Installations for Bays ET and Wisper ISP**

The Department has also been addressing the issue of woodpeckers damaging the new pole on Rocky Ridge Road. The woodpeckers have created a few small holes in it. Chris Bay, Bays ET, has agreed to address the holes for the City. This situation is not new, but certainly frustrating. Steps are being taken to address this situation on a more permanent approach, with some type of inexpensive sheathing, but durable in this regard.

⇒ **Previously Installed Poles – Orrville Road, by the Meridien Subdivision**

The Department contacted Mercury Communications this past week and requested the work on the Orrville Road pole be addressed with its painting and lighting, per the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) request. This matter was addressed by the City Council at its meeting on March 25, 2019. The City Council sought to have this matter finally resolved by the City, which is the intent of the Department's contact in this regard.

⇒ **Other Efforts – Meeting Results, Budget, etc.**

The Department also continues to assist individual subdivisions and residents with service requests with either Bays ET or Wisper ISP, along with providing information and guidance on extending Charter Communications (a.k.a. Spectrum) to underserved or unserved areas of Wildwood.

If any of the City Council members should have questions or comments in this regard, please feel free to contact the Department of Planning at (636) 458-0440. Thank you for your continued support of this project and the efforts to address the needs of rural Wildwood residents.

Respectfully submitted,

CITY OF WILDWOOD



Joe Vujnich, Director
Department of Planning

Cc: The Honorable James R. Bowlin, Mayor
Steve Cross, Co-Interim City Administrator
Rural Internet Access Committee Members
John A. Young, City Attorney
Kathy Arnett, Assistant Director of Planning and Parks
Chris Bay, David Crabtree, and Nathan Stooke, Service Providers – Bays ET and Wisper ISP