



WILDWOOD

May 13, 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 of Planning is waiting for the consultant's planned visit to the City of Wildwood to undertake any new direction in regards to internet access improvements in the community, given the late April meeting had to be postponed due to limited attendance by Committee Members and the lack of the ability to 'livestream' the event. This late April meeting was to be where the consultant team would begin speaking to the results of its research and possible approaches to address the internet issues in certain areas of the community by providing reasonable to excellent internet access to any household seeking such. Importantly, the consultant was allowed to explore all options for this solution.

The meeting has now been rescheduled to May 22, 2019, which the additional time did allow the consultant to be closer to completing the final report by that time and have the latest information included in it. The consultant will be representing the approaches it has studied, which also reflects a series of conversations with all applicable providers. These contacts have led to the consideration of the City of potentially having some stand-alone options, i.e. as an internet service provider (ISP), while partnerships as options with current and future improvements.

⇒ **New Pole or Infrastructure Installations**

While waiting on the consultant's report and associated recommendations, the City has continued to work with individual property owners and the two (2) wireless providers to determine future solutions to their current internet issues. These efforts have not led to any connections, but does again identify areas of need for the consultants to use in their report and associated recommendations. Again, the Department has been somewhat on hold on any major initiative, until the findings of the consultant are published for the community's review and comment

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

Bays ET continues its pilot project in Hawks Rest Subdivision with the installation of its fiber-to-the-home. The intent is still to have the fiber service available to residents within this subdivision by late May.

⇒ **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