



Item No. 20 Town of Atherton

CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT – REGULAR AGENDA

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: GEORGE RODERICKS, CITY MANAGER

DATE: JULY 15, 2015

SUBJECT: TOWN-WIDE FIBER PROJECT PRESENTATION AND FRAMEWORK DISCUSSION

RECOMMENDATION

Review a response to the Town's Request for Information from Atherton Fiber and direct staff follow-up as appropriate.

BACKGROUND

As the Council is aware, in late 2014 the Town sent out an Informal Request for Information to numerous technology agencies with the goal of investigating various options to establish Town-wide connectivity and provide optional high-bandwidth services to residents. The Town did not receive any formal responses to the request for information. There was no specific deadline for response.

Upon learning that the Town had not received responses, a local resident opted to begin participating in the Town's Technology Committee and offered to provide a response. The Council heard a preliminary presentation by Atherton Fiber (Mike Farmwald) in early 2015 and Atherton Fiber is present this evening to present a more refined proposal and options for the Town to consider.

ANALYSIS

A few of the issues for City Council discussion and direction this evening are -

- 1) Is the City Council supportive of moving forward with Atherton Fiber to develop a Town-wide fiber network?
- 2) If so, the City Council should provide a framework to guide staff in future discussions with Atherton Fiber.
 - a. Is there a preference for an above-ground or below-ground system?
 - b. Are there priority areas for implementation?

- c. Are there concessions the Council would like to see in exchange for authorized use of the right-of-way?
- d. For an above-ground system, is the City Council comfortable with the Town installing poles where necessary?
- e. Is the City Council comfortable with the installation of vaults where appropriate or necessary within the right-of-way?

If after hearing the presentation from Atherton Fiber, the City Council is interested in moving forward, staff asks that the Council provide feedback to help staff develop a framework for future meetings with Atherton Fiber. The above list is not all-inclusive and if the City Council finds other relevant issues to discuss it would be appropriate to add them to the framework.

Next Steps

If the City Council is desirous of moving forward, the following is a recommended action:

Direct staff to begin discussions with Atherton Fiber keeping in mind the framework issues provided by the City Council and direct the City Attorney to develop a Development Agreement with Atherton Fiber to install a fiber network in the Town of Atherton.

It is anticipated that it could take several months to hammer out an acceptable development agreement that would be returned to the City Council for approval before implementation of any project.

POLICY FOCUS

Development of a non-dedicated town-wide fiber network is a significant project. The project is to be undertaken by a private entity via a development agreement with the Town. Implementation of such a network would provide Atherton residents with “choice” for their broadband fiber services making the Town a model for such projects.

Policy issues relevant to the discussion include risk, use of the Town’s rights-of-way, and ownership of the network.

FISCAL IMPACT

None at this time.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with this agenda item being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting in print and electronically. Information about the project is also disseminated via the Town’s electronic News Flash and Atherton Online. There are approximately 1,200 subscribers to the Town’s electronic News Flash publications. Subscribers include residents as well as stakeholders – to include, but be not limited to, media outlets, school

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districts, Menlo Park Fire District, service provides (water, power, and sewer), and regional elected officials.

ATTACHMENTS

None.