



Lowell City Council

Regular Meeting Minutes

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: Feb. 28, 2017
Time: 5:30 PM
Location: City Council Chamber
375 Merrimack Street, 2nd Floor, Lowell, MA

Technology & Utilities SC February 28, 2017.

Discussion between Verizon and the City of Lowell regarding FIOS and alternative.

PRESENT:

Present on roll Call were Chairman Leary, C. Leahy, and C. Elliott. Also present were Kevin Murphy (City Manager), C. Mercier, C. Belanger, John Myers (MIS), City Solicitor O'Connor, C. Milinazzo, C. Belanger and C. Samaras. From Verizon there were Atty. Thomas Hildreth, Atty. Victor Manougian, Stephanie Lee, Sean Conway and Andrew Allen.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairman Leary called the meeting noting the attendance and purpose of the meeting.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Ms. Lee noted that the discussion would concern the small cell canisters and installation of FIOS. Ms. Lee referenced prior discussion concerning FIOS and indicated that she did not have all the information at that time to indicate where FIOS was going. C. Elliott questioned the changes that were being done in Boston and why weren't those changes coming to Lowell. Ms. Lee indicated that FIOS was being installed in parts of Boston and that some parts of Lowell did have it. C. Elliott questioned why fiber could not be run in all parts of the City. Ms. Lee indicated that consumers are moving to wireless and that fiber is most cost effective if wired into mills or apartment buildings. C. Leary questioned move to wireless. Mr. Allen indicated it was really subjective to site and that in future wireless will enable more broadband into the City. Ms. Lee outlined history with Verizon and the City and commented on future relationship.



C. Leary recognized that relationship as well. The body was shown a video presentation regarding placing small cell canisters throughout the City. Ms. Lee noted how first responders benefit from the presence of these canisters. Mr. Allen spoke of the benefits of wireless system and the goal of bringing the best broadband into the City. C. Leary commented on capacity of the system. Mr. Allen noted it was an important investment for Verizon and that installation takes time to complete. C. Samaras commented on the need for competition in this area to best benefit the consumers. Mr. Allen noted use of wireless would trickle down to residential users. C. Elliott questioned the number of canisters being placed in the City. Mr. Allen noted there would be fifty to start. Manager Murphy noted discussions with Verizon and that there is a location for a canister at Gage Field. Atty. Hildreth commented on permitting process and how it has moved forward in other communities. Mr. Myers commented on use of 5G. Mr. Allen noted need the canisters in order to get to 5G. C. Leahy questioned if improved wireless will lower costs for consumers. Atty. Hildreth noted that is should drive costs down. **Motion** to accept the report as a report of progress by C. Leahy, seconded by C. Elliott. So voted.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by C. Elliott, seconded by C. Leahy to Adjourn. So Voted.

Meeting adjourned at 6:29 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk