



City Council Report

Date: April 19, 2021
To: City Council
Through: Marc Heirshberg, Deputy City Manager
From: Elizabeth Huning, City Engineer
Marc Ahlstrom, Assistant City Engineer
Subject: CenturyLink Overhead Overlash Facilities Maintenance Agreement
(Citywide)

Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this report is to request Council approval for a CenturyLink overhead facilities maintenance agreement for a twenty-year term.

Staff recommends that Council authorize the City Manager to execute this communications agreement on behalf of the City.

Background & Discussion

CenturyLink applied for a maintenance agreement to work within the City's rights of way and easements to install, operate, and maintain an overhead fiber optic cable network. CenturyLink desires to expand the network of fiber optic service offered to business and residential consumers within the City. The planned facilities would primarily serve low to moderate income neighborhoods as defined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The planned expansion of fiber optic service will occur primarily in established areas within the City, which currently lag other areas of the City in terms of access to options for high-speed internet connections.

In order to facilitate the installation of the fiber optic cables, CenturyLink requested to "overlash" the new cable on the existing copper cable. The term "overlash" generally means to tie or wrap an additional cable to an existing cable spanning between utility poles.

CenturyLink shall maintain its overhead cables and equipment in an orderly and workmanlike manner. The safety of the public and the ability of the City to provide solid waste pickup and fire access shall be a priority and not be impacted by low cables that do not meet National Electric Safety Code or City standards.

Alternatives

City Council could consider different agreement language. Furthermore, City Council could choose not to authorize this communications agreement. City staff does not recommend this because not approving this agreement will limit local business access to additional high speed internet services provided by CenturyLink.

Fiscal Impact

CenturyLink shall arrange its wires, cables, and other equipment to not interfere with the use of the public or private property. CenturyLink shall reimburse the City for all documented costs incurred because of non-compliant conditions, including, but not limited to: Inspection Fees identified on the City's Schedule of Fees, police and fire services, idled solid waste equipment, and damage to the City's real and personal property.

CenturyLink will compensate Mesa Electric for necessary work on poles owned by the City to accommodate CenturyLink's equipment.

CenturyLink will pay applicable permitting and traffic control fees, and all other lawful fees and charges.

Coordinated With

This agreement was coordinated with the City Attorney's Office.