

**MINUTES OF
SPECIAL-CALLED COUNCIL MEETING
ORANGE BEACH CITY COUNCIL
AUGUST 28, 2017 – 10:00 A.M.
CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

I. CALL TO ORDER Mayor Tony Kennon called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmember Jeff Silvers
Councilmember Jerry Johnson
Councilmember Annette Mitchell
Councilmember Joni Blalock
Councilmember Jeff Boyd
Mayor Tony Kennon

Absent: None

There being a quorum present, the meeting was opened for the transaction of business.

III. CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

Motion made (Silvers/Johnson) to approve the agenda with the following addition:

1. Resolution establishing fees for wireless telecommunications facilities.

Vote unanimous in favor.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Public Hearing

1. Public hearing for a proposed economic development project with CenturyLink to construct, install, and place fiber optic facilities within the City of Orange Beach.

Councilmember Johnson introduced the CenturyLink proposal.

Cecil Young, resident, stated he would hold his questions until the Mayor's Advisory Committee Meeting on Wednesday, August 30, 2017.

Troy Blaschka, resident, asked if Baldwin EMC would be willing to provide fiber connectivity like the electric cooperative does in Chattanooga, TN. Councilmember Johnson responded that Baldwin EMC has not entered this arena at this time, and that the situation in Orange Beach is different from Chattanooga in that Orange Beach's density is much lower which means there is a higher barrier to entry for service providers when it comes to the cost of infrastructure. Mr. Blaschka asked if any federal funding was involved. Trey Lutrick, Director of Corporate Strategy & Business Development for CenturyLink, responded that there is no federal funding for the proposed project.

Pete Peterson, resident, stated concerns regarding the resiliency of CenturyLink's infrastructure in storm events, citing issues he has had with CenturyLink's service since Hurricane Ivan in 2004. Mayor Kennon explained that CenturyLink's current copper-based system is in a state of disrepair, and that many area providers have been unwilling to invest in upgrading existing infrastructure. Mayor Kennon stated that CenturyLink has been strongly warned about the hurdles that must be overcome regarding public perception based on past poor performance and service. Councilmember Johnson further explained that current service is limited by the dated copper-based system, and a fiber infrastructure should equate to better performance and service along with providing the capacity for future growth.

Mr. Blaschka asked about how RV parks are calculated into CenturyLink's proposal. Kit Alexander, Engineering and Environmental Director, explained that residences in RV parks or condos may be "packaged" or they may be individually owned lots with individual addresses.

Ken Grimes, City Administrator, clarified that the purpose of today's vote is to approve the economic development initiative which allows the City to move forward to partner with CenturyLink.

There being no further comments, the public hearing adjourned.

Resolutions

1. Resolution authorizing fiber optic broadband project. **Motion made (Mitchell/Silvers) to adopt the resolution.** City Attorney Wanda Cochran stated that because this item is of a permanent nature, the Council must vote to suspend the rules for immediate

consideration. **Motion made (Mitchell/Silvers) to amend their motion to suspend the rules for immediate consideration of this resolution.** Vote unanimous in favor. **Motion made (Blalock/Silvers) to adopt the resolution.** Roll call vote revealed: Silvers, aye; Johnson, aye; Mitchell, aye; Blalock, aye; Boyd, aye; Kennon, aye. **Passed. (6-0).**

2. ADDITION: Resolution establishing fees for wireless telecommunications facilities. Kit Alexander, Engineering and Environmental Director, presented the request to amend the current \$2,000 flat fee to fees that are more accurately reflective of staff time related to the application review process. Motion made (Mitchell/Blalock) to suspend the rules for immediate consideration of this resolution. Roll call vote revealed: Silvers, aye; Johnson, aye; Mitchell, aye; Blalock, aye; Boyd, aye; Kennon, aye. **Passed. (6-0).** **Motion made (Johnson/Boyd) to adopt the resolution.** Vote unanimous in favor.

V. ADJOURN

Motion made (Mitchell/Blalock) to adjourn. Vote unanimous in favor.

Time: 10:42 A.M.

APPROVED this 19th day of September, 2017.

Renee Eberly
City Clerk