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128 S Main St.  
PO Box 445  
Condon, OR 97823  
P: 541-384-2711  
F: 541-384-2700

**CITY OF CONDON  
WORK SESSION AGENDA  
FIBER COUNCIL  
Wednesday, February 10, 2021, 3:00 PM  
CONDON CITY HALL**

**1. Fiber Council - Meeting Location & Zoom Link**

**1.1. Location - Condon City Hall, Council Chambers, 128 S. Main Street**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83793644284?pwd=akVId0JmeE1MU3M0Y2E2T1F3aTBPdz09>**

**Meeting ID: 837 9364 4284**

**Passcode: 395045**

**2. Call the Meeting to Order & Roll Call**

Fiber Council Chair Rita Rattray called the meeting of the Fiber Council to order at 3 p.m.

Present:: Council members Rita Rattray, Jan Stinchfield, Donald Jamieson and Elizabeth Farrar-Campbell; staff Kathryn Greiner, Marcus Bott, Home Telephone Operations Manager.

Absent: Fiber Council member Josh Hendricks.



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### **3. Discuss Home Telephone Company Proposal to City of Condon**

The Fiber Council was gathered to discuss the proposal returned by Home Telephone Company (HTC) on the City of Condon's Request for Proposal (RFP). Councilor Stinchfield stated that the proposal didn't really match the City's strategic plan for open access. She added that although it had good things in it, it was sounding more like a construction proposal. Councilor Jamieson stated that one of the reviewers stated that it is important for the City to have a closed system between their facilities that is not shared by any other company or individual. He noted that the City may work with them (HTC) on stringing a line between the City facilities, but it may require it may need to be with Public Contracting Rules.

Bott stated that the fiber network to homes in Condon is 90% of their lines which was privately funded and could not have open access without more money changing hands. Councilor Stinchfield said she understood and asked for clarification on the request to eliminate the franchise fees and the Monthly Recurring Cost(MRC) on the dark fiber line to Arlington what the City would gain from HTC with this arrangement. Bott said that HTC would gain a redundant line and provide the broadband for the City network. Councilor Stinchfield stated that they would like to work with HTC to allow them access to the line to Arlington. Bott explained that having that redundant path would require another circuit at Arlington to get broadband from Portland and to keep the proposed \$40 rates, they cannot have that additional cost.

Councilor Farrar-Campbell asked for clarification on the price list in the RFP. Bott stated that the \$40 plan for 25/3 mbps is a new plan and the other plans are existing. Councilor Stinchfield said that the language that HTC would be the sole partner of the City with this proposal was concerning and limits the City on future broadband options. Bott stated that they did not want to be selected then have the City go out for another RFP for the system that they built. Councilor Jamieson stated that the franchise fee is actually a tax that is added to the bill of the residents and is a pass through.

Bott stated that he is not set on anything in the proposal but this is a starting point to work with the City on broadband solutions.

Councilor Jamieson stated that they would not be approving the RFP as submitted and Councilor Stinchfield stated that she is not opposed to negotiating parts of the RFP. Greiner stated that she would check with the City attorney, but thought that some parts of the RFP could be taken out and negotiated without going out for bid on part of the construction projects.

Councilor Jamieson asked that the next step be a design of of a system dedicated to City facilities. Councilor Farrar-Campbell asked if HTC is interested in vaults on the fiber line to the north of Condon on the the Fiber Council's leased lines. Bott stated that they are interested to allow them to offer services to others off those vaults and would need another two fibers to accomplish that project. The Council stated that there are plenty of fibers if HTC needs there are plenty of them available.

The Fiber Council recommends to the Condon City Council to table the the RFP from HTC and work to negotiate construction of a City network after it is designed for HTC to use the middle mile fiber to Arlington.

Councilor Stinchfield thanked Bott for having patience with the City of Condon.



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#### **4. Other**

Greiner asked if the Fiber Council was looking how to extend broadband to the rural residents in Gilliam County. Councilor Jamieson asked if Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative was doing any projects in Gilliam County. Bott said that he was not aware of CBEC doing any work in Gilliam County at this time, but had projects in Morrow County. Greiner stated that she had a conversation with CBEC Director Lori Anderson and CBEC CEO Andy Fletcher and they are still working to facilitate companies to get broadband to the rural customers in their service area. Councilor Farrar-Campbell stated that the Gilliam County Court has identified fiber access in their recent strategic plan and was going to circle back with the Court members, specifically new Commissioner Pat Shannon to determine next steps. She hoped to identify the spots in Gilliam County that were under served and determine if there are federal funds to assist with getting broadband to those residents. She added that they were open to working with private companies but realized that the public sector will need to be involved to provide funds to get this completed.

Councilor Rattray noted that two of her grandchildren worked from home in rural Gilliam County and have had difficulty getting internet to do their jobs. Councilor Farrar-Campbell added that her sister struggled with having adequate internet to connect to her office in Texas. Councilor Stinchfield stated that the fiber effort has been flatlined lately and they need to pick up the pace to get internet to all county residents. Greiner asked if a survey may not be helpful to all county residents to determine what internet they were using, speeds, reliability and cost to determine the direction needed for adequate service. She added that the City is looking to send out a survey for the community swimming pool and asked if this should be added to have combine the information for one survey. It was the consensus that would be good to combine the subjects. She will gather the old survey and questions for the swimming pool questions and hope to determine how to get out to all residents in next six weeks.

Bott asked where they would connect to the Council's dark fiber in Condon. He would prefer to connect at his central office in Condon. It was noted that CBEC has offered their communication shelter on the north end of town, but Bott said that they had issues with working to get connection at that point. Bott added that they will evaluate what they can provide north of Condon to residents along the dark fiber route. He asked for a KMZ of the dark fiber vault locations and Greiner will get those and email it to him.

#### **5. Adjourn**

Council Chair Rattray adjourned the meeting at 3:44 p.m.