



City of Lucas

## Technology Committee

Regular Meeting

July 9, 2019

7:00 PM

City Hall – 665 Country Club Road – Lucas, Texas

### MINUTES

#### Call to Order

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Chairman Paul Rathgeb called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. It was determined that a quorum was present.

#### Committee Members Present:

Chairman Paul Rathgeb  
Member George Brody  
Member Dennis Scully

#### City Staff Present:

City Manager Joni Clarke  
City Secretary Stacy Henderson  
Assistant to the City Manager Kent Souriyasak  
Bill Baxter, City IT Consultant

#### Committee Members Absent:

Vice Chairman Trey Sleeper  
Member John Frazier

#### City Council Liaison Present:

Councilmember Debbie Fisher

#### Regular Agenda

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##### 1. Citizen Input.

Ilene Mougel, 651 Stinson Road, stated that she had fiber and was very pleased with her service. Ms. Mougel wanted to ensure that the Committee was not considering the removal of fiber.

Chairman Rathgeb assured Ms. Mougel that the City nor the Technology Committee was considering removing fiber in the City.

##### 2. Consider approving the minutes of the May 30, 2019 Technology Committee meeting.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Member Brody, seconded by Member Scully to approve the minutes of the May 30, 2019 Technology Committee meeting. The motion passed unanimously by a 3 to 0 vote.

##### 3. Presentation by Rise Broadband and discuss resources to improve internet service in underserved areas.

This item was not discussed as no one was present from Rise Broadband.

**4. Presentation by Signalnet Broadband to provide information on products and services to help improve internet service.**

This item was not discussed as no one was present from Signalnet Broadband.

**5. Presentation by Josh Mercer to provide information on technological services to help improve internet service.**

Josh Mercer with Big Wave Wireless gave a presentation discussing internet services offered by Big Wave Wireless, a wireless internet service provider (WISP) with towers and base stations that provide wireless internet connection. Mr. Mercer discussed spectrum challenges such as many WISPs that were deployed in unlicensed frequencies, the use of off-the-shelf inexpensive hardware, tower antennas at a 90-degree wide angle, and noise radio frequency environments. Mr. Mercer addressed how to mitigate spectrum challenges that included using RADWIN wireless carrier grade equipment that utilizing true beam forming technology for interference mitigation. Mr. Mercer stated that Big Wave Wireless consisted of base stations that could provide up to 750 Mbps per sector. Mr. Mercer indicated that subscribers can expect to see between 25 Mbps and 100 Mbps and that each tower site can reliably serve up to 200 users. Mr. Mercer explained that a base station on the Winningkoff tower was enough to cover most of the City, while the McGarity tower would be added service and a third tower could provide additional capacity as needed.

Chairman Rathgeb discussed terrain that could be a concern with the equipment referenced which matched existing concerns in the City currently with other providers. Chairman Rathgeb suggested conducting site surveys to ensure the equipment could reach subscribers and be reliable.

Mr. Mercer stated that he would like to have equipment in place by the end of the year.

Member Brody asked the price point proposed for the service.

Mr. Mercer stated that the price point had not been finalized; however, they were estimating \$50 to \$70 per subscriber.

Mr. Mercer stated he would keep the committee informed when the project and equipment were complete and in place.

**6. Discuss the City of Mont Belvieu's fiber network and consider a representative from the Technology Committee to attend a scheduled meeting alongside City staff at the City of Mont Belvieu on August 20, 2019.**

The Committee discussed the City of Mont Belvieu's fiber network with it being Texas' first municipally owned fiber-optic broadband network that offers subscribers internet service up to one gigabyte per second. City staff had been in contact with the City of Mont Belvieu to coordinate a meeting to have a better understanding of the planning and implementation of their fiber network.

The Committee expressed interest in traveling to Mont Belvieu, Texas, in order to meet with their City staff and would coordinate dates for a future meeting.

**7. Discuss progress on data collection from the Internet speed test and promotional strategies to encourage residents to utilize the speed test.**


Chairman Rathgeb discussed data collected from the speed test and the locations of reported internet speeds thus far. Chairman Rathgeb stated that various reports would be created outlining the information collected but that those reports would protect private information. A geographical map was displayed that outlined speed results and provider information collected thus far. Chairman Rathgeb stated that they would continue to collect more data to present a full representation of internet service throughout the City.

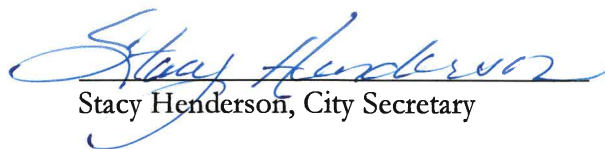
**8. Discuss problem data gathering and analysis, demographic gathering and analysis, and universe of possible solutions.**

Chairman Rathgeb stated that this information had already been discussed in earlier agenda items and there was no discussion on this item.

**9. Adjournment.**

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Member Brody, seconded by Member Scully to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 pm. The motion passed unanimously by a 3 to 0 vote.

  
Paul Rathgeb, Chairman

  
Stacy Henderson, City Secretary

