



Legislation Text

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TO: Board of Mayor and Aldermen

FROM: Eric Stuckey, City Administrator
Vernon Gerth, Assistant City Administrator - Community/Economic Development
Shauna Billingsley, City Attorney

SUBJECT:

Consideration of Ordinance 2017-04, An Ordinance Establishing Standards For Small Wireless Facilities In The Public Rights-Of-Way (5/25/17 Special Work Session; 8/22/17 1ST BOMA Reading 5-0) SECOND AND FINAL READING

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information to the Franklin Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BOMA) concerning the updating of Franklin's telecommunications regulations as they pertain to Small Wireless Facilities within the public right-of-way.

Background

In May, staff provided a general overview of Small Wireless Facilities and of our intention to draft an ordinance that provides reasonable oversight for the installation of Small Wireless Facilities within the City's public right-of-way. There is an increasing trend towards more dense telecommunication networks that better support end-user data demand, particularly in high-traffic areas. In providing this type of capacity and coverage, operators have begun using Small Wireless Facilities rather than the larger-scale "tower-type" deployments that have not kept pace with the increasing demand due to the challenges of finding acceptable tower sites (locations).

Based on staff research (including dialog with mobile network operators), staff has determined successful small cell deployments involve coordination and cooperation between jurisdictions and operators to ensure operators have access to existing pole facilities, including traffic signals, street lights and utility poles and any new installations are sensitive to the character of adjacent neighborhoods.

Equally important, staff has been monitoring the Federal Communications Commission's conversations regarding the deployment and regulations of Small Wireless Facilities to ensure our ordinance aligns with federal law and changes in the telecommunications field.

Financial Impact

In addition to ensuring new installations are not proliferating unnecessarily within our public right-of-way, the

fee structure proposed in Ordinance 2017-25 is intended to cover the City's administrative cost for reviewing plans and preparing right-of-way use agreements (\$500), issuing permits and performing inspections (\$100), and an annual lease (\$100 per location).

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of Ordinances 2017-04 and 2017-25 relative to monitoring the installation of Small Wireless Facilities within the public right-of-way and other City property.