

From: [Bonnie McMurry](#)
To: [_CityCouncilListPublic](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Agenda Item 11.1
Date: Monday, March 15, 2021 6:50:34 PM

Please see below. This email I sent to the Santa Rosa City Council today was returned undelivered due to incorrect email address. Please read and consider my original email below.

Thank you!

Bonnie McMurry

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bonnie McMurry** <bonnie.mcmurry@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Mar 15, 2021 at 4:07 PM
Subject: Agenda Item 11.1
To: <cc-coment@srcity.org>

Hello Santa Rosa City Council Members,

I am writing because *with regard to Agenda item 11.1: Approval of Minutes from July 21, 2020 Meeting*

The public needs to know the status of the City's Small Cell Policy, needs to know the date of a council vote, and needs to see the actual policy. The wider Bay Area and State all benefit from being informed.

Thank you.

Bonnie McMurry

From: [McGlynn, Sean](#)
To: [Williams, Stephanie](#); [Manis, Dina](#)
Cc: [Osburn, Gabe](#); [Rose, William](#); [Hartman, Clare](#); [Gallagher, Sue](#)
Subject: FW: Wireless Small Cell and 5G Deployment Update
Date: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 5:18:51 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi Stephanie and Dina:

So that you can upload for the public record.

Thanks,
Sean

From: Osburn, Gabe <GOsburn@srcity.org>
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 5:46 PM
To: @010000 - City Council <010000@srcity.org>; _EXEC - Executive Staff <exec@srcity.org>
Cc: Rose, William <WRose@srcity.org>; Oswald, Jesse <JOswald@srcity.org>
Subject: Wireless Small Cell and 5G Deployment Update

**** Information Only – Please Do Not Reply All****

Good Evening Mayor Rogers and Council Members,

The following summary is intended to provide an overview of the current status associated with the deployment of small wireless facilities (small cells) within the City's public right-of-way. The information below addresses the concerns presented in recent public comments regarding small cells, an update on current permit activity and the next steps associated with preparing policy and code amendments to address the placement and design of small cells:

Health Concerns - Radiofrequency Exposure

- The majority of the community concerns received to date have been associated with radiofrequency emissions from cellular installations. Under the Federal Telecommunications Act, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) completely occupies the field with respect to radiofrequency (RF) emissions regulation. The FCC established comprehensive rules for human exposure to RF emissions and all new telecommunication facilities are required to demonstrate, through an RF exposure report, compliance with the FCC Guidelines prior to construction. The local jurisdiction cannot deny an application for a new telecommunications facility due to RF health concerns if the applicant has demonstrated that the site will operate within the FCC guidelines.

Fifth Generation Networks (5G)

0. Small cell facilities are currently being installed to increase the coverage or capacity of the

existing 4th generation (4G) networks. Cellular providers are currently not deploying 5G networks within the city limits and have not presented any plans to do so in the immediate future. All new and existing antenna sites provide an overall benefit to the cellular networks and will likely be utilized to deploy any future service upgrades. 5G network upgrades will require equipment replacements and modifications at all existing small cell locations prior to deployment. The Planning and Economic Development Department (PED) will continue to work with the various cellular providers to gain a better understanding of the timelines associated with future 5G deployments.

Permit Activity - Small Cell Installations During the Shelter in Place

- Joint Utility Poles (wooden poles providing power and telecommunication services)

Current Activity:

The City does not own or maintain joint utility poles and the current City Code places limited restrictions on joint pole installations. Verizon Wireless has installed small cells on a number of joint pole locations throughout the City. These installations occurred prior to the County's Health Order and the specific locations were presented during previous Council Study Sessions. Verizon has not applied for additional permits.

AT&T has applied for encroachment permits associated with 7 new joint pole locations in both residential and commercial areas. Adjacent property owners have been notified and PED has addressed a number of community responses triggered by the notification process.

AT&T has requested issuance of 1 of the 7 applied for and approved permits. Work has not commenced under the issued permit and AT&T has not notified PED of an anticipated date for the start of construction.

- City Street Lights

The City has full control over installations placed on City owned poles. To date, small cells have not been installed on any City owned street light poles or traffic signal poles within the public right-of-way. Previous Study Sessions focused on allowing a limited deployment that would grant each cellular provider the ability to perform installations on 6 individual City poles in non-residential areas.

Current Activity: AT&T and Verizon Wireless are currently working with City staff to determine the appropriate designs for City street light installations associated with the limited deployment. AT&T is actively pursuing a master license agreement with the City to allow for the deployment on City owned streetlights and has submitted 5 encroachment permits for their proposed City pole locations.

Next Steps – Policy and Code Amendments

Potential solutions to address the community's concerns regarding the deployment of small cells in residential areas, or adjacent to specific uses such as schools and day care facilities, were discussed during a Council Study Session held on July 21, 2020. Current City codes,

policies and standards do not require specific distance buffers between small locations and any specific zoning districts, land uses or other telecommunications facilities. Under current Federal Law, the City may only impose more stringent design or siting requirements through the permit review process when the following criteria is met:

1. All development standards enforced during the review process are adopted and published prior to application submittal.
2. Development standards do not restrict placement to the point in which they effectively prohibit overall deployment.

Any newly adopted design standards cannot be retroactively applied to existing issued permits or any applications currently progressing through the review process.

Local agencies throughout the nation have recently adopted specific requirements associated with the deployment of small wireless telecommunication facilities. PED staff has been able to leverage the existing available resources and documents associated with small cell installations and begin the development of modified policies and procedures that will attempt to maximize local control over the placement of small cells and streamline the review process. Telecommunications law is a specialized field and PED is currently working with the City Attorney's Office to acquire the appropriate professional service assistance to ensure that any modified policies are consistent with both Federal and State law. It is anticipated that a revised telecommunications policy addressing design guidelines, siting requirements and permitting processes for small cell installations will be brought forward for consideration and adoption by the Council prior to the end of the current fiscal year.

The adoption of a modified small cell policy will represent an interim approach to the development of more compressive codes and standards regulating the placement of all telecommunication facility types within the city limits. A comprehensive ordinance will be needed in the future to update aging code sections associated with the placement of larger telecommunication facilities on private property and to align permitting and RF testing processes across all wireless telecommunication facility types. The creation of a more comprehensive ordinance will require a significant dedication of staff hours or professional services budget in order to incorporate all of the required elements and community engagement.

Members of the public can view the status of permits associated with small cell locations and learn more about the requirements governing small cells at srcity.org/smallcells.

Gabe Osburn | Deputy Director of Development Services

Planning and Economic Development Department | 100 Santa Rosa Ave | Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Desk: (707) 543-3853 | Cell: (707) 328-7066 | Fax: (707) 543-3936 | Email: gosburn@srcity.org



