



November 16, 2020

Via Email to <mailto:bissetm@canbyoregon.gov>

Canby City Council

Mayor Brian Hodson  
Council President Tim Dale  
Councilor Greg Parker  
Councilor Sarah Spoon  
Councilor Traci Hensley  
Councilor Shawn Varwig

Re: Council Agenda for 11/18/2020-

*Item 7. PUBLIC HEARING a. Text Amendment (TA) 20-01: Telecommunications Facilities, Amending Title 16 of the Canby Municipal Code.*

*Item 8. ORDINANCES a. Ordinance No. 1539: An Ordinance amending Canby's Title 16 of the Canby Municipal Code adding newly created Code Chapter 16.55 for Telecommunications Facilities and modifying existing Chapters in the Title to be consistent with Chapter 16.55. (First Reading)*

Dear Mayor and Councilors:

On behalf of Verizon Wireless, we would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to its code regarding wireless facilities in the right of way. We first received word that this ordinance was going to the Council for public hearing on Friday afternoon after numerous previous requests to staff asking to be notified of any code updates.

Verizon is requesting that the public hearing for these items be continued and rescheduled for a later meeting. The ordinance, as proposed, upon a hasty review, contains standards that are not technically feasible, such as a requirement to place sensitive radio equipment underground, which impairs the signal and leads to damage and corrosion in the rainy Northwest climate. A number of provisions do not comply with federal law, such as a misstatement throughout as to how federal shot clocks are calculated, and failure to provide a process for Eligible Facilities Requests, which are modifications to existing wireless facilities that must be approved and are deemed granted if the city fails to approve within 60 days of the filing of the initial application. Excessive setback requirements and other technical problems may materially inhibit the ability to meet the network objectives in Canby.

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The ordinance has been developed without the input of the wireless industry. As the end users of this highly technical code, we would appreciate a meaningful opportunity to develop detailed comments and to have an opportunity to discuss them with staff prior to the public hearing.

Verizon is working to stay ahead of the rapidly expanding demand for wireless services to connect people where they need it most. Wireless facilities deliver connections for smart communities services to boost the flow and safety of vehicle traffic, manage resources like light, power and water and improve the quality of life of Verizon's customers. In today's challenging pandemic environment, people are relying on wireless devices to do more things than ever before, like video conference calls for remote workers, medical monitoring, educational interface, and to arrange delivery of food and other goods.

First responders rely on wireless networks to receive calls and to transmit patient information, and robust wireless networks are essential as individuals and small businesses are working from home in residential neighborhoods. While small wireless facilities are a new tool in the toolbox, the macro network of taller towers will remain the backbone of the network, providing voice and data access in the event of outages and emergency, because of the battery and generator back up at those larger towers.

Verizon is committed to working with the city to formulate a code and city policy that will facilitate the deployment of more robust and reliable wireless service at a time when it is most needed. A Verizon representative will be available to answer any questions you might have at the meeting on Wednesday.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kim Allen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kim Allen, Senior Vice President  
Wireless Policy Group, LLC  
For Verizon Wireless