

September 3, 2024

COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Harold E. Getty Council Chambers
4:10 p.m.

Roll Call.

Members present: Mayor Pro Tem Ray Feuss in the Chair. Mr. Boesen, Mr. Simon, Ms. Wilder and Mr. Feuss. Mr. Nichols joined the meeting at 4:15 p.m. Ms. Creighton-Smith joined the meeting at 4:41 p.m. Mr. Chiles was absent

Agenda, as proposed or amended.

Boesen/Simon

that the agenda as proposed be approved. Voice vote-Ayes: Three. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of the August 19, 2024, Council Work Session, as proposed or amended.

Boesen/Simon

that the minutes of August 19, 2024, Council Work Session as proposed, be approved. Voice vote-Ayes: Three. Motion carried.

Discussion of as-built documentation for Waterloo Fiber and the City of Waterloo.

Mr. Nichols joined the meeting at 4:13 p.m.

Randy Bennett, Public Works Division Manager, Eric Lage, General Manager of Telecommunications of Waterloo Fiber, and Ian Crowther-Green, Outside Plant Manager of Waterloo Fiber, delivered a presentation to council regarding as-built plans. As-builts are detailed maps of the fiber network. The level of detail in the mapping helps to pinpoint where a break in the network has occurred and speeds up repair time. The network is evolving and changing over time, as new businesses and homes are built. Currently, without this software and detailed mapping, it takes an extremely long time to troubleshoot and test fiber to locate and repair connectivity. The cost of the project would be phased out as different parts of the project are mobilized. The estimated cost of the project for the city portion would be \$80,284 and the utility portion would be \$398,989.

Mr. Nichols requested an update on the implementation time frame.

Randy Bennett, Public Works Division Manager, explained that this would be ongoing for the duration of the project.

Ian Crowther-Green explained that as each task order is handed over to the utility, the consultant delivers all the information so we can begin entering it into the 3-GIS system.

Mr. Nichols explained that we definitely want a fiber network that can be repaired quickly as this creates a service benefit for residents and the city. He further explained the additional benefits of having this information.

Randy Bennett explained that the city is building a state-of-the-art network and cutting edge mapping and technology.

Ian Crowther-Green, Outside Plant Manager of Waterloo Fiber, explained the update process with the software.

Mr. Boesen questioned how the cost would be covered.

Bridgett Wood, Finance Manager, explained the different sources of funding for the as-builts and noted that the project is under budget.

Mr. Boesen questioned who inputs the data.

Randy Bennett explained that the consultants would do that for us as it is being constructed.

Mr. Boesen questioned if we are paying the consultant to enter the information.

Ian Crowther-Green explained that the consultants provide a file that is compatible with our system and city staff would enter the data.

Mr. Simon questioned if the technology was around when Waterloo Fiber was started.

Randy Bennett explained that when the city began building the backbone, no particular software had been specified, as that would be a decision made by them. We were going in comparison with other utilities that our consultant had worked with. Once the Utility Board and Waterloo Fiber staff began to review and vet different systems, it was determined that this is a more advanced system and cost-effective than the original.

Mr. Simon commented on future growth and questioned if thought was put into the boundaries of the backbone.

Randy Bennett commented that the system is designed for expansion and future growth.

Mr. Simon questioned if the number of Waterloo Fiber staff will change with the upgrade.

Eric Lage, Waterloo Fiber General Manager, commented that he didn't think the staff levels would go down, but that they should not need to add additional staff. He explained that it would alleviate the need to hire consultants and other staff to create the plans.

Ms. Creighton-Smith arrived at 4:41 p.m.

Mr. Simon commented that technology quickly becomes outdated and questioned what would be the next thing that would have to upgrade.

Randy Bennett explained that any new business has start-up expenses but once they have these with what we're building out. Of course, they'll need staff, equipment, etc.

Mr. Simon questioned if the system would be worthless should the council decide not to pass it next year.

Eric Lage commented that the system might be obsolete and our ability to troubleshoot efficiently would be severely diminished.

Mr. Feuss commented that fiber will probably be the mainstay for the next fifty years, and this current technology will put us leaps and bounds ahead of anyone in Iowa, and probably most of the United States.

Ian Crowther-Green commented on the difficulty other utilities will go through if and when they choose to upgrade since their fiber systems are already in place.

Ms. Wilder expressed support for adding the as-built information.

Ms. Creighton-Smith as for confirmation that doing this now would be the most cost-efficient way.

Eric Lage confirmed and explained the extensive work that would be required to start from scratch in order to verify and document everything. At this point, everything is already documented by the construction crews and consultants, so now is the cheapest time to do it.

Mr. Boesen questioned if technicians in the field would have access to this information.

Ian Crowther-Green confirmed that field technicians will have access to real-time information on their iPads.

The city council further discussed the project with Waterloo Fiber staff.

ADJOURNMENT

Boesen/Nichols
that the council adjourn at 4:57 p.m. Voice vote-Ayes: Five. Motion carried.

Kelley Felchle
City Clerk