



City Commission Work Session Minutes

August 24, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

City Hall, Commission Chambers
401 S. Park Avenue | Winter Park, Florida

Present

Mayor Phil Anderson; Commissioners Sheila DeCiccio; Kris Cruzada and Todd Weaver; City Manager Randy Knight; Assistant City Manager Michelle del Valle and Deputy City Clerk Kim Breland. Absent: Marty Sullivan.

Also Present

Broadband/Smart City Ad-Hoc Committee members: Michael Poole, Janelle Ward, Chris Johnson, Paul Conway, and James Everett; Courtney Violette, Magellan Consultant; Director of Information Technology Parsram Rajaram

1) Call to Order

Mayor Anderson called the meeting to order 1:03 p.m.

2) Discussion Item(s)

a. Presentation by Magellan Advisors on broadband and smart city initiatives.

Mr. Violette gave a presentation on project findings and recommendations based on the RFP scope of work. He reviewed the ordinance that formed the ad-hoc committee, its intent and goals, objectives and priorities. He spoke about efforts the Magellan team has made to develop a market analysis for the city and connectivity master plan and smart city strategic master plan which is in draft form. The strategic plan will be completed once the team receives consensus on the priorities and roadmap from the commission.

Mr. Violette reviewed market analysis key points including data from FCC national broadband maps. He said the broadband map considers Winter Park to be nearly 100% serviced as it relates to high speed service, but not fiber which is mostly provided to the city by Spectrum at this time. He spoke about future plans by Spectrum, Lumen and Frog to deploy 10 Gbps fiber-based services in the city and fixed wireless access by cellular providers (T-Mobile, Verizon). The construction phase of the city's backbone as part of the private fiber network construction and maintenance agreement with Frog is expected to be completed by October 2023 and will connect 18 city facilities and sites. He spoke about challenges with assessing the IT conduit that was deployed as part of the electric undergrounding program, lack of documentation has resulted in this effort being a reduced value to the city until such time it can be fully audited.

In response to questions Mr. Violette spoke about the differences between cellular and mobile 5G services and said that AT&T is providing cellular normal 5G in the downtown area using towers such as the one outside city hall. He said he has not seen any reliable data comparisons between cellular providers in the current market. Discussion followed.

Mr. Violette reviewed the three different areas of the Connectivity Plan: Fiber to the Premise, Backbone Extension, and Wireless Overlays. He highlighted key findings and project recommendations for each.

Mr. Violette said the team did a design for fiber to every home in the city but did not utilize any of the existing conduit that has been placed as part of the electrical undergrounding as they were not able to assess its use. The team outlined different business plans for fiber to home, as it relates to a city being a retail provider versus building and leasing the network and working with a partner. Project recommendations based on the scenarios were that the city should not consider a city-owned/operated Full Retail ISP and joint venture model due to competitive landscape, high costs and high risks. Additionally, the city should continue to communicate and work closely with private ISPs to ensure expedient deployment of upgraded services to all areas of the city.

Committee member Michael Poole added that the committee reviewed this topic in-depth and stated the mandate that the city is required to cover 100% of city was not feasible with the number of existing competitors. Discussion followed on the city's role in providing faster service levels.

Mr. Violette noted the city's current backbone was developed to connect sites and facilities, providing a more secure network, providing faster and less expensive connections. Discussion was held on the current backbone extension design, capacity and fiber needs for the city versus what the anticipated need was in 2016. Additional discussion followed on solutions for the refurbishment of Aloma/Brewer Curve project and other priorities such as traffic control. Mr. Poole noted the committee's recommendation is for the city to begin design of the backbone as soon as possible in an effort to add priorities to the system and determine timing and funding.

Director of Public Works and Transportation Charles Ramdatt said staff is in discussions with FDOT about providing fiber to half of the city traffic signals and building a Traffic Management Center on Canton Avenue which would connect all the signal there to provide smart traffic. Mr. Violette noted smart traffic is first on the prioritization list of smart city functions.

Mr. Violette reviewed connectivity recommendations and suggested the city designate a connectivity and infrastructure coordinator to oversee projects and investments, and continue to engage a consultant. He recommended the city not entertain or enter into any new conduit or fiber usage agreements.

Mr. Violette reviewed spoke about existing assets for the utilities undergrounding project and recommends the city suspend installation of telecommunications conduit in conjunction with undergrounding, begin fielding assessment of existing conduit, fiber and all assets installed, and house all as-builts construction drawings and notes into a digital GIS and future Fiber Management System. In dept discussion followed on potential suspension recommended, backbone design, conduit as it relates to the undergrounding project, assessing and documenting existing conduit to determine what additional conduit is needed, project costs and strategies to move forward.

Mayor Anderson asked that the proposed expanded backbone fiber network be compared with the electric undergrounding effort to identify any areas of overlap. This would assist in making decisions relative to the continued installation of the fiber conduit as part of the electrical undergrounding project. He asked staff to report those findings at the September 13 commission meeting to determine next steps. Agreed by consensus. In addition, Mayor Anderson asked staff to determine if additional capacity can be purchased asked from Frog. He added that consensus is to move forward with the backbone design and spoke about funding sources and said prioritization of projects will be based on the design.

Mr. Poole spoke about costs related to designing the backbone expressed concern that staff does not have the capacity to manage the backbone design projects and the committee recommends hiring an additional staff person. Mayor Anderson is in favor of spending funds to assess the existing back bone and make recommendations. Mr. Poole suggested using funds from sewer, water and electric utilities budgets as opposed to the general fund since the backbone is related to those three areas.

Mr. Violette reviewed the draft Smart City Strategic Plan (Deliverable 3). He explained commission input on priorities is needed to complete Deliverable 3 and finalize for adoption. He reviewed smart city global trends for general use (Digital Twins, data-driven community gov't collaboration), Transportation (Intelligent Curb Management systems, Ride Share, Charger Infrastructure Deployment for EV, AI enabled autonomous transportation), Public Safety (Surveillance Systems, Smart Streetlighting, Predictive Policing), Utilities (Smart Grid/Grid Modernization, Virtual Power Plants, Leak Detection, Enhanced Control and Operation of Critical Utility Infrastructure), and Quality of Life (Digital Citizen Initiatives, Advanced Waste Management, Smart Buildings).

Mr. Violette said smart city trends are being implemented globally and highlighted smart initiatives by City of Orlando, City of Coral Gables and other agencies in an effort to support goals and vision of city councils and city leadership. He reviewed use cases based on smart city pillars and infrastructures and identified use cases the city actively uses today or will be deploying soon for Public Safety (drone integration, body/dash cameras, automated license plate readers, Utilities (remote meter reading, remote asset monitoring), and Quality of Life (Lakes level monitoring, QR code- Visitor Engagement).

Mr. Violette reviewed the three elements that support all the pillars and use cases: digital infrastructure, smart city infrastructure, and common data infrastructure. He said the goal is to deploy technology that fits the city's goals and objectives and create data sets to operate the city and utility assets. He reviewed the top ten priorities of the city's Smart City Use Cases Plan: 1. Smart Traffic, 2. Smart Parking, 3. Environmental monitoring (air and water), 4. Smart Parks, 5. Smart Grid, 6. Water (drinking) Monitoring, 7. Smart First Responder Vehicles, 8. Smart Municipal Buildings, 9. Smart City Poles and 10. Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure. Additional use cases are available as part of the final report. Lastly, Mr. Violette summarized the Smart City recommendations.

Mayor Anderson summarized there is consensus to determine next steps for the conduit as it relates to undergrounding and asked the commission if another work session is needed to focus on other recommendations from the study and prioritization of use cases. Consensus was to have an additional work session in the near future after the Smart City/Broadband Committee reviews Deliverable 3 and makes their final recommendations to the commission.

3) Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

Mayor Phillip M. Anderson

ATTEST:

City Clerk Rene Cranis