

SOUTH WEBER CITY CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE OF MEETING: 21 September 2021

TIME COMMENCED: 6:02 p.m.

LOCATION: South Weber City Office at 1600 East South Weber Drive, South Weber, UT

PRESENT: MAYOR:

Jo Sjoblom

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Hayley Alberts
Blair Halverson
Angie Petty
Quin Soderquist (arrived @ 7:01 pm)
Wayne Winsor

COMMUNITY DIRECTOR:

Trevor Cahoon

CITY RECORDER:

Lisa Smith

CITY MANAGER:

David Larson

CITY ENGINEER:

Brandon Jones

Transcriber: Minutes transcribed by Michelle Clark

ATTENDEES: Paul Sturm

Mayor Sjoblom called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

1. Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Sjoblom

2. Prayer: Councilwoman Alberts

3. Fiber Network Options

Mayor Sjoblom explained South Weber City researched options related to potential high-speed broadband for the community. A Request for Information (RFI) for Fiber to the Premises (FTTP) was published in June. Six companies responded to the city's request, including: Comcast, Connex, EntryPoint, STRATA Networks, Syringa, and UTOPIA. On August 6 the Municipal Utilities Committee members met to discuss the information and begin preparations for a full Council discussion.

City Manager David Larson presented additional background of the various options. A general summary of the responses is provided in the table below. (Blanks indicate no information was provided):

Name	Ownership	Resident Monthly Cost	Resident Speed	Schedule	City Obligation	Project Cost
Comcast	Company		Up to 100 Gbps		No	
Connex	City or Company	\$35-\$65	100Mbps-1Gbps	2 years	Maybe	
EntryPoint	City	\$27-\$55	Up to 1 Gbps	2 years	Yes	\$6.6M
STRATA	City or Company	\$65-\$75	250Mbps-1Gbps	3 years	Maybe	
Syringa	City	\$60.95-\$155.95	100Mbps-10Gbps	1 year	Yes	\$45M
UTOPIA	Company* (Intergovernmental entity)	\$65-\$200	250Mbps-10Gbps	2 years	Yes* (Unless 34.4% take rate)	\$6.4M

David communicated varied options are available to the community depending on what core philosophy the Council supports. Multiple companies can provide the service and in various models. The committee found it difficult to even entertain recommending a single company when larger questions shape which company and even which options within various companies would meet the need of providing FTTP.

David addressed the first question is who owns and maintains the physical infrastructure. There are options for the city to own and operate, or the city to own and hire someone to maintain, or a company own and operate the network.

David expressed there are various ways in which the city obligation works according to financial contribution. If the city decided on UTOPIA, they would be the bonding agency and the city would be obligated to backstop the bond. The take rate is the breakeven point where the city would not have to provide financial support, but if it is above 34.4% of what the city is today, then no city money would go towards the project. Councilman Winsor explained the city would have two years to get the take rate above 34.4%. He acknowledged there is also a hookup fee which varies according to company.

David asked the Council to consider if the city should facilitate FTTP to all members of the community as a utility or should the service be delivered using a subscriber model? David identified the difference between subscriber and utility models. A subscriber is only those who choose the service pay and receive the service. A utility is all members of the community have access to the service and pay for the service whether it is used or not. What is the proper role of the city in providing FTTP, and is the city willing to obligate itself financially?

Years ago, a city survey included the question: “Are you supportive of the city building a fiber-to-the-home network if it can be paid for only by those that voluntarily sign up for services (no taxes or fees for non-subscribers)?”. 261 answered the question and 90.80% responded yes, 4.60% no, and 4.60% other. Councilman Halverson asked if the Council feels there should be a

high-speed option for everyone in the city. He felt if the city plans to facilitate fiber, then there should be public input on which model would be preferred.

Councilwoman Petty questioned if the city invests then what happens when there is new technology down the road. David replied all wireless options have a backbone of fiber and that is what is relied on now and will continue in the future.

Councilwoman Alberts asked about the infrastructure and if there were an expiration date. David replied there are options from the city owning, operating, and maintaining to the companies doing everything. There can also be something in the middle where the city owns it, but contracts with a company to maintain it. Councilman Winsor expressed if the city owns it, maintains it, etc., then the city can eventually profit from it as well. David explained there is a cost to install the network, but there is also the monthly bill to the internet service provider and the network owner, which is conditional on the number of subscribers.

Councilman Halverson declared the real question is what the city is willing to do. Councilwoman Petty replied it is not wise for the city to maintain and operate a utility system when the city does not have the manpower or capital to make that happen. She suggested going with the subscriber model. Councilman Winsor agreed, but he could be swayed depending on public input.

Community Director Trevor Cahoon reminded everyone there will be several who will just want it done and they do not care how. He suggested a survey to the public is a great way to start, along with an open house to allow for individuals to ask questions. He affirmed the need for educating the community and getting feedback. David suggested random sample data rather than self-selection data.

Councilman Soderquist arrived at 7:01 p.m.

David asked the Council if they were interested in having some of these companies attend a Council Meeting to help answer questions. It was decided a meeting will be held on October 5, 2021 with the various companies. In the meantime, citizens will have the option to submit questions. Councilman Soderquist queried why the cost to South Weber City is so expensive. Councilman Halverson replied that question was asked by the committee but was not answered clearly.

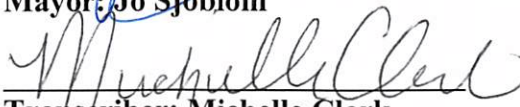
ADJOURN: Councilman Winsor moved to adjourn the Council Meeting at 7:18 p.m. Councilwoman Alberts seconded the motion. Mayor Sjoblom called for the vote. Council Members Alberts, Halverson, Petty, Soderquist, and Winsor voted aye. The motion carried.

APPROVED:



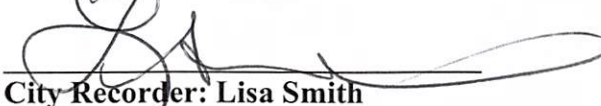
Mayor: Jo Sjoblom

Date 10-26-21



Transcriber: Michelle Clark

Attest:



City Recorder: Lisa Smith