

A. CALL TO ORDER:

A Special Study Session of the Troy City Council was held on Monday, March 4, 2019, at City Hall, 500 W. Big Beaver Rd. Mayor Slater called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

B. ROLL CALL:

- a) Mayor Dane Slater
Edna Abraham
Mayor Pro Tem Ethan Baker
David Hamilton
Dave Henderson
Ellen Hodorek
Ed Pennington

C. DISCUSSION ITEM:

C-1 Use of City of Troy Owned Property and Assets for Telecommunication Towers

Mayor Slater opened the meeting and turned the discussion over to City Manager Mark F. Miller. Mr. Miller introduced the topic and provided a brief summary of the discussion outline for the meeting.

City Attorney Lori Grigg Bluhm discussed presentation slides regarding the governing law of telecommunications.

Mr. Wally Haley, from the Haley Law Firm, discussed the presentation slides regarding the telecommunications industry and service demands. Council Member Pennington asked if 5G will be necessary in order to have autonomous driving. Mr. Haley commented that 5G will be necessary for autonomous driving, but we aren't even close to having 5G yet. He said that there are not nearly enough poles to make 5G work.

Council Member Hodorek commented that she has heard that along I-75, the infrastructure for 5G is being considered during the reconstruction.

Mayor Slater asked if there are maps of Troy that indicate coverage areas and weak spots. Mr. Haley answered that Mr. Savidant has maps of cell sites that will show the coverage areas. He said that there isn't one map that shows all the carriers, but there are anecdotal pieces of information where you could piece a map together.

Council Member Hamilton asked how long it takes to install a macro cell tower or a small cell tower. Mr. Haley answered that the Macro Cell towers could be fully operational 90 days; however, the DAS is more involved and the law does not explain the process.

Council Member Henderson commented that it seems that all of Troy should be well covered, and he wondered if there are gaps in Troy. Mr. Haley said that there are areas, such as along

Beach Road, where residents can't make calls from their homes. He said that no carriers would have enough money to cover the entire residential area with coverage, so they do what they need to in order to put together a coverage map that is economically feasible.

Mayor Slater commented that trying to put a macro cell tower in a residential area in Troy will cause an uproar, but perhaps if a company showed that there was a gap in coverage right near the residents, it might help the company to justify the need for the tower.

Mr. Haley said that general acceptance of the infrastructure has gotten better. He said residents may object to towers in the neighborhoods, but the tradeoff is a lack of coverage in areas or small cells that create new holes in neighborhoods. He question whether it is better to put a stealth application in a park that creates some objection versus trying to create a small cell network in the residential areas.

Council Member Henderson asked if Wi-Fi takes care of a lot of the data issues. Mr. Haley said that he has read that the cable industry is dying so relying on a router in the house to supplement the cell phones may not work forever.

Mayor Slater commented that the industry is eroding local authority, and seems to be able to come into Troy and put poles up wherever they want. Mr. Haley said that locals don't have as much control over small cell sites and the companies have a lot of rights by law for placement of those towers.

Mr. Brent Savidant, Planning Director, discussed the presentation slides pertaining to antenna locations and zoning. He said that cell companies are required to show that there is a need for the tower.

Mr. Scott Finlay, Deputy City Engineer, discussed the presentation slides pertaining to rights-of-way.

Mr. Kurt Bovensiep, Public Works Director, discussed the presentation slides pertaining to existing antenna locations.

Mr. Miller explained that City Administration would like direction from City Council with regard to future proposals from cell companies, such as whether parks are off limits. He said that if any companies come to the City with proposals for new towers, City Council should expect significant public objection, as has been past experiences with these requests.

Mayor Pro Tem Baker asked for clarification on revenue for cell towers. Mrs. Bluhm commented that AT&T pays the City approximately \$20,000. Mayor Pro Tem Baker if there is anything the City can do to preempt installation of small cell towers. Mrs. Bluhm said that there is a provision for the local to protect the health, safety and welfare of its residents.

Mayor Pro Tem Baker commented that there are places in Troy where signals aren't as strong, but he hasn't heard of residents complaining about dead zones. He asked if there is a way to provide a greater benefit for its residents and businesses to make Troy stand out in a positive way. He asked about signals in Bloomfield Hills. Mr. Haley commented that in Bloomfield Hills, there was a deal worked out to install a macro cell tower at the DPW facility that benefitted the City services. Mayor Pro Tem Baker asked what is the City's response when a new request

comes in since there is no policy. Mr. Miller commented that they do not negotiate until they have an opportunity to have a Study Session with City Council.

Council Member Henderson asked if there is a way to use the existing light poles on the baseball diamond since adding more lights could be displeasing to the residents near the park. He said he would like to see where there is a lack of coverage so there would be a justification for future towers. Mr. Bovensiep said that antennas can go on the existing light polls with an extension installed on each. He said that the lights on the soccer field would be in the same area as the baseball diamonds that are already in the park. He said that installing on the existing poles can be looked at. Mr. Haley said that it can be done, and it is done at other locations, such as in Birmingham at the high schools. Council Member Henderson asked what benefit is gained by adding a tower to Boulan Park. Mr. Haley said it is the only location in that area. He said it will add significantly more coverage, but it may not extend all the way to Adams Road.

Mayor Slater commented that with the concerns about green space, he can't see putting towers in Troy parks. He said that it makes more sense to partner with schools and have more towers at the schools or at the DPW yard.

Council Member Hodorek commented that she wants to protect the aesthetics in the parks, and she said that since the idea is to have antennas placed on light poles that are needed anyway, it seems like a win-win. She would like to at least consider ideas like that.

Council Member Abraham asked if MML has taken a position on mitigating impact in residential areas. Mrs. Bluhm commented that Protech is getting funding from MML to work on language.

Mayor Slater said that it seems to him it is obvious that we need a policy, and perhaps City Administration could draft a few different versions to review and discuss at a future meeting.

Council Member Henderson asked if a map of coverage of the entire City is possible to obtain. Mr. Haley said that he could probably gather that information for Council. He said that financially, companies only go through the process of installing a new tower if they've determined a need for it. Mrs. Bluhm commented that she could work on a draft language regarding small cells to protect the DDA and the heavily wooded areas. She said a separate issue is the larger towers, which the legislation does not cover.

Council Member Hodorek commented that the residents could be involved in the discussion and planning of new towers or antennas so that the residents can express their needs.

Mr. Miller said that he has requested this topic be included on the community survey.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT:

E. ADJOURNMENT:

The Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 7:06 PM.



Mayor Dane Slater



M. Aileen Dickson, MMC
City Clerk