



City of Woodland Park

City Council Work Session

August 4, 2022 at 5:00 PM

AGENDA

1. **Informational Presentation From HR Green**
 - A. Staff Report
2. **City Council Discussion**
3. **ADJOURNMENT**

Key to agenda abbreviations:

(A) Administrative- matters involving day-to-day decisions such as approving contracts, hiring staff and the procurement of goods and services. Administrative actions generally do not require formal actions by the elected body.

(L)Legislative- typically in the policy arena; legislative matters affect large areas and large groups of people, such as enacting dog regulations or amending the City code. Legislative action generally involves motions, resolutions and ordinances.

(QJ)Quasi-Judicial- apply general rules to a specific interest, such as zoning change affecting a single piece of property, or a special use permit. Quasi-Judicial actions generally involve adjudication, sometimes in writing, but not a resolution or ordinance. Decision for Quasi-Judicial proceedings are made exclusively based upon the testimony presented on the record. Ex-parte communication (communication outside the official hearing) between elected officials and citizens is not permitted on Quasi-Judicial



STAFF REPORT

TO: Mayor LaBarre and City Council

FROM: Rob Felts, Assistant to the City Manager

DATE: August 4, 2022

SUBJECT: Staff Report

BACKGROUND: HR Green initially visited with City staff to provide some background information on the evolving world of fiber internet. This conversation led to establishing a contract approved recently by the City Council between our two organizations. HR Green is now working for the City to develop a Telecommunications Master Plan that will include conceptual designs for a fiber optic network that may provide a common backbone for current and future broadband technologies for municipal purposes, and potentially for its anchor institutions, as well as potentially for its residents, guests, and businesses.

This master plan will seek to help the City understand the interplay between common objectives so it will be able to make informed decisions about which of its goals are most important, and how to achieve access to gigabit broadband in a way that makes sense for Woodland Park. To develop this master plan, feedback from City Council and key stakeholders is essential. With the assistance and guidance of City staff, HR Green has already met with many stakeholders in the community and region, including representatives from Teller County, School District, Fire Protection District, Library District, Hospital, Chamber of Commerce, Bible College, CORE, and City staff from various City Departments, including the City Manager's Office, Public Works (Engineering, Utilities, Streets, etc.), Parks & Recreation, Planning, IT, and Police.

During the work session on August 4th, HR Green will be providing a summary of the feedback we have received to date, including the results from the visioning survey that was sent to City Council and City staff. Also, during the work session, council will have an opportunity to provide input to the plan while it is still under development.

The session will also provide the City Council with a clear understanding of the issues involving municipal broadband and develop a "roadmap" which best suits its desires, maintains its competitive position from an economic development standpoint, and best positions the community for the future.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Local governments are positioning for the future of telecommunications by exploring broadband services delivered by "hard wired" connections to the world wide web in many different ways.

On one end of the spectrum, some local governments are passively awaiting the private sector – mainly cellular and telephone/cable companies - to deliver internet speeds that they believe are sufficient with the demands of businesses, technology, and users. To date, the private sector has made some notable progress, but other cities are moving rapidly in the pursuit of "ubiquitous gigabit

service” via fiber optic cables to their communities.

On the other end of the spectrum, some local governments are engaging various initiatives including financing, developing, seeking grants, and/or even directly providing municipal “gigabit” internet to their communities.

Woodland Park has contracted with HR Green to help us determine where along that spectrum we would like to be. They are now in the process of creating a Telecommunications Master Plan, which will help us set the vision of the future technology and internet speeds available to our residents, guests, and businesses. This work session is intended to get insight from Council that will help understand your vision for Woodland Park.

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

ATTACHMENTS: None