

An update on the Small Cell Facilities:

As many of you know, technology is moving forward at an ever increasing speed. One of the ways our City is handling this is by allowing the wireless telecommunication companies to add additional cell towers and/or small cell facilities, over 100, for increased range and to prepare for the roll-out of 5G. Maybe you received a public notice in the mail for a conditional use permit for a small cell facility to be placed on your street or in-front of your house, or saw the sign posted on a the proposed lamp post. What this means is the current lamp post will be removed and a taller, wider lamp post with an antenna will be installed within 3 feet of the original lamp post and utility boxes placed in the sidewalk.

We heard from residents who had concerns about how the City was handling this matter. It seemed the Planning Commission felt helpless to deny any permit applications, even when residents made legitimate arguments about the placement of a particular lamp post. In response, MVCI sent a letter to the City Council, in late June, asking the Council to pause and look at how this technology is going to be managed by the City in the next 5 years, 10 years, 20 years and beyond. We asked them to look into developing a long range comprehensive plan for the management of the technology and the equipment.

Currently, the City has agreed to hold a study session on this issue. The Council has requested the residents, who spoke at the Council meetings and offered to provide copies of other cities Municipal Code sections developed specifically for this issue, to provide copies of those Code sections to the Council. Twice the Council has had an agenda item on this topic and twice it has been not been heard in the Council meetings. The date for the study session has not been set.