

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
LADUE CELLULAR SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
CITY OF LADUE, ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020, 4:00 P.M.**

**DUE TO THE CURRENT RESTRICTIONS ORDERED BY ST. LOUIS COUNTY ON PUBLIC GATHERINGS DUE TO COVID-19, THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED BY VIDEO CONFERENCE VIA ZOOM**

Chairman Hiemenz called the meeting to order at 9:04 A.M. The following members were present:

Chairman Charlie Hiemenz  
Anita Chimento  
Tim Reboulet  
Larry Reed  
Eloise Schmitz  
Mike Rupinski  
Chip Wiese

Also present were Andrea Sukanek, City Planner; Anne Lamitola, Director of Public Works and Nancy Spewak, Mayor

**Approval of the November 19, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Reed made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2020 meeting. Mr. Rupinski seconded the motion. All those present were in favor.

**Presentation by Verizon Wireless Manager, Business Development for Missouri, Kansas, and Illinois**

Melody Allen, of Verizon Wireless, gave a presentation to the Committee. She works with municipalities covering three states in small cell deployment utilizing light poles, utility poles or Verizon owned poles primarily in right of ways. The need to expand capacity is growing as consumers are using multiple devices. Public safety is a chief benefit as most emergency calls are placed by cell phones. The components of the macro cell were defined as radio, power, backhaul, battery backup, and antenna. Examples were shared of utility poles, light poles and traffic signals being utilized as cell towers. The signal is transported to the network via fiber. Verizon has an agreement with Ameren for providing the power to the poles. Verizon's engineering team plotted four locations on the south side of the City and four on the east side where small cells were needed. These will be beneficial for both 4G and 5G technology. Current technology only allows one carrier on a macro cell.

Ms. Allen referred to House Bill 1991 and the City of Ladue's ordinance alignment with the statute, the design, and the process. She indicated a need to streamline the process to optimize time and efforts. The City of Ladue is not currently on the Verizon timeline or budget. In 2017 the City was perceived as unreceptive; our application process was lengthy (8 pages) and projects for the City were stalled. Verizon moved forward in areas perceived more responsive. With the addition of this Committee, and in the interest of removing barriers to entry, Verizon will proceed with budgeting for upgrades in the 2021-2022 capital budget.

Ms. Sukanek will send a copy of the new five-page application and the Ordinance.

Discussion included existing tower enhancement, options for sites in municipalities bordering Ladue, opportunities for tower placement, additional carriers on the mono-pine at the mulch site, FCC shot clock compliance and application concerns.

Mr. Hiemenz reported the challenges of the City of Ladue is zoned almost 90% residential, with 35' building height restrictions, a tall tree canopy and rolling topography. It is necessary to find balance with the residents and the carriers.

Mayor Spewak thanked Ms. Allen for her valuable feedback and expressed the City of Ladue's desire to work with the carriers.

### **Website/Apps that show locations and coverage areas of cell towers and/or antennas by carrier**

Mr. Rupinski reported that RF Engineering has assessed Ladue. It would be advantageous to follow up and find out if they will share the information. Multi carrier drive testing for signal coverage indication for the City.

Ms. Allen will ask Verizon what she can share with the committee. The locations she shared were not scheduled or approved. Initially Verizon budgets for improvement, looks for viable sites, then returns with a full design.

Mr. Rupinski confirmed that cellmaper.net is an application that works for android devices. Users sign up and allow data to be monitored. The user can see how the device looks at strength, bandwidth, and capacity to choose the tower.

Mr. Rupinski reported a new find in Worldwide Technology. Multi carrier cards are added in a device that records data. This may allow the committee to collect data without assistance.

### **Update on discussions with AT&T, Verizon and T-Mobile**

#### **T-Mobile**

Mr. Hiemenz reported that Mr. Reed, Ms. Sukanek and he met via ZOOM with the St. Louis Marketing Manager, and the Manager of Construction and Development for the St. Louis Region. Historically the perception was the City was not interested in expanding cell coverage or allowing more towers to be installed. T-Mobile would like to partner with the City of Ladue. They will provide a listing the current towers and antennas and a list of locations where they would like to expand coverage. They are interested in a large tower which is not as easily zoned. A clock tower at a school or a mono-pine are viable options. They would be delighted to work with this committee and partner with The City of Ladue. They would like Ladue to review ways to expedite the permitting process.

#### **A T&T**

Mr. Hiemenz and Mr. Reed are in contact weekly with the AT&T Director of Mobility for Missouri and Kansas. In November and December AT&T launched a small cell coverage in the Old Warson area. Small cells have been added to the following areas:

- Old Warson near DesPeres
- Kenmont and Holliston
- Litzsinger near Overbrook
- Litzsinger east of Log Cabin
- Litzsinger and Warson (coming in January)

AT&T is still working with corporate on a plan to blanket Ladue and the budget to support the plan. The contact is willing to make a presentation at a future meeting.

### Verizon

The following information is from a very candid conversation with Melody Allen. Ladue is not currently in the Verizon 2021 Capital Budget, as Verizon has shifted their priorities to cities with expressed interest in working with Verizon. In 2017 Verizon attempted to work with Ladue to install a tower by Godwin Lane. This effort was met with resident resistance and very little support from the City resulting in the application being withdrawn and removing Ladue from their Capital Budget. After a much discussion, Ms. Allen conveyed the following:

- A Request to present to our committee
- The desire to put Ladue back into the Capital Budget provided that there is a willingness to collaborate with Verizon
- The ability to make available all levels and departments
- The necessity of reviewing, streamlining and simplifying the Ladue permit application process

### Other New Business

Dish network is entering the cell business with their own equipment in Ladue. The mono-pine on Clayton and Price is under consideration.

Mr. Hiemenz reported the three main challenges are real estate, height, and resident support.

Mr. Reed is working on tower information for St. Peters steeple. Zoning approval was granted at a prior date, but the carrier did not pursue. St. Peters is willing to approve again.

Mr. Hiemenz will be updating the City Council at the December meeting.

Discussion ensued, topics included the need to advocate and work with other municipalities, the need for the community to avoid resistance, the necessity of placement, and consistent coverage.

### Schedule next meeting

The next meeting will be held via ZOOM on January 21st at 9:00A.M.

### Adjournment

Mr. Hiemenz adjourned the meeting at 10:18 A.M.

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Mr. Charlie Hiemenz, Chairman