

Public Forum: December 3, 2019  
Cell Tower Permit Moratorium

He's back and it isn't Arnold Schwarzenegger. It's AT&T. In 2010, Ashland citizens led by Rod Newton and Jim Fong let the city council know of all the ways that it was wrong and immoral to let AT&T put a cell tower on the Ashland Cinema roof. The council listened and found good reasons to reject AT&T's permit none of which were based on health effects.

Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, Smartlink representative Sharon Getch rolled out the new proposal for AT&T to have a 105' tower on a small piece of property leased from SOU. She met her match. Expecting a dozen or so folks, she was surprised when Pioneer Hall filled up with people sitting and standing to listen to what she had to say. She was to report to AT&T what she heard from Ashland residents. She "heard" us. She also was quite frank with us when she said this is a done deal and there is no plan B and most likely no desire to work with citizens to find another site.

This brings us to tonight – December 3, 2019. The application for a permit will be submitted in early December or maybe late December. So, I'm representing those folks who came out on a cold, wet Monday evening on November 25 and the hundreds of people who are signing petitions that we don't want a wireless tower in or near our schools or residential areas. We honestly would like to collaborate with AT&T, but were given no hope for that.

Nevertheless, in order to collaborate, we need our land use ordinances regulating cell towers to be brought up to date. The Oregon for a Safer Technology group presented you with specific ideas for revising these ordinances in May of this year. In fact, Councilor Tonya Graham and Mayor John Stromberg have had these revisions in hand for a while with their promise to run them by Planning and legal before presenting them to council.

With a revision of the city regulations governing cell towers well under way, we are asking for the council to consider a moratorium on cell tower permits until these revisions are considered by council. The short term moratorium on land use permit approvals would effectively stop all new tower construction until the council has had a chance to analyze the overall planning issues and to decide where, and under what conditions, tower construction may proceed given the new ordinance proposals presented by Southern Oregon for a Safer Technology.

I have samples of what other cities and states have done in regard to such a moratorium. I'm happy to share that information with you for your consideration.

Dr. Carol Voisin  
Ashland