

Council Study Session

May 20, 2019

Agenda Item	Implementation of Nationwide 5G Wireless Networking	
From	Mayor Stromberg	Council
Contact	john@council.ashland.or.us; (541) 552-2104	
Item Type	Requested by Council <input type="checkbox"/> Update <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Direction <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

SUMMARY

Deployment of 5G cellular technology is being ramped up amid promises by providers of breakthrough new services. Yet there are concerns in other quarters about its ramifications, which include health risks, violation of citizens' privacy and pre-emption of local government control. Recent rules issued the Federal Communications Commission to expedite 5G deployment are being challenged in court by a number of major cities, including Portland, but the ultimate decision may end up in the hands of Congress.

Given previous citizen interest in cellular technology's effects in our community, including a Council decision in 2012 to offer an "opt out" policy for radio frequency (RF) meters and thus RF meter reading, an informational presentation of this complex issue seemed appropriate.

POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED

Enhance and Improve Transparency and Communication

Engage with the Ashland community and partner with other key agencies around our value services so we can leverage the experience and knowledge of the people in town, so that they will know our priorities, and how they can help. Increase transparency, collaboration, and utilize Ashland talent.

- Conduct town halls; continue Engage Ashland and Team Ashland; and Commission and Ad Hoc Committee Activities

Ashland Comprehensive Plan, Chapter IX Public Services

Goal: To provide public utilities, services and facilities in an orderly, efficient and environmentally sensible way and in sufficient quantity to meet City needs now and in the future.

BACKGROUND AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This presentation will be provided by a local Ashland organization called "Oregon for Safer Technology". Mayor Stromberg has been helping organize the presentation for optimal understanding by the Council and public. References and handouts will be provided at the end of the meeting.

FISCAL IMPACTS

No specific Council actions are proposed in this session.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The presentation will include opportunities for Council questions.

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS

This subject is of a similar scope to previous issues such as GMOs, Glyphosate and the current debate over compulsory vaccination - in all of which public safety, the extent of corporate influence on scientific research and government regulations are intertwined. The Council may want to give staff direction, based on the presentation, and/or may want to devote a future study session to potential Council actions.

REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS

None