THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: October 13, 2020

Subject: Verizon Wireless has requested an extension of their license agreement at Royal Pines for two years.

Staff Resource(s): Jeff Reble, IT Services
Nikki Reid, Economic Development Program Director

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to sign an amendment to the existing license agreement with Bell Atlantic Mobile Systems LLC, dba Verizon Wireless to extend the term until September 30, 2022.

Background:

- Verizon has been one of two tenants on the City-owned Royal Pines Cell Tower located at 57 Crestwood Drive.
- The City has its own public safety communications equipment on the tower.
- Verizon has been leasing a portion of the tower since 2009. The current license agreement expired at the end of September 2020.
- A recent Structural Analysis has shown that the tower is near maximum capacity and equipment upgrades recently requested by Verizon could not be installed.
- Verizon has decided to relocate to a tower owned by Duke Energy in the vicinity but the transition period could be as long as two years.
- Staff recommends allowing Verizon to stay on the tower during the transition period, with an extension of the existing agreement for 2 years..

Council Goal(s):

- A Thriving Local Economy

Committee(s):

- None

Pro(s):

- The presence of Verizon on this tower strengthens the signal for the many users of Verizon in the city.
- Allowing Verizon to remain on the tower during the transition will give the City time to plan for the tower usage after they relocate.

Con(s):

- None

Fiscal Impact:

- The City receives approximately $3,666.67 per month or $44,000 per year in revenue.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to approve the resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an amendment to the license agreement with Bell Atlantic Mobile Systems LLC, dba Verizon Wireless.

Attachment(s)

- Resolution
- Map showing the location of the tower

RESOLUTION NO. 20-_____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE EXISTING LICENSE AGREEMENT BETWEEN BELL ATLANTIC MOBILE SYSTEMS LLC DBA VERIZON WIRELESS AND THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THE CELL TOWER AT 57 CRESTWOOD DRIVE

WHEREAS, N. C. Gen. Stat. 160A-272 authorizes the lease of City owned property for communication purposes upon such terms and conditions as the council sees fit, for periods of up to 25 years; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville is the owner of real property located at 57 Crestwood Drive in Arden, NC; and

WHEREAS, Bell Atlantic Mobile Systems LLC, dba Verizon Wireless, a telecommunications company, has requested to extend their license agreement for two more years while transitioning to a new site related equipment near the property at 57 Crestwood Drive in Arden, NC under the same terms and conditions of the existing agreement; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Asheville proposes to accept/approve the license agreement and the aforementioned terms,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

The City Manager is hereby authorized to execute a Lease Agreement between Bell Atlantic Mobile Systems LLC, dba Verizon Wireless and the City of Asheville for property located at 57 Crestwood Drive in Arden, NC. In addition, the City Manager is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to give effect to this resolution, subject to approval by the City Attorney, and compliance with applicable North Carolina law.

Read, approved and adopted this 13th day of October, 2020.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

_____

City Attorney