

**City of Milpitas
Unapproved Minutes
Telecommunications Commission
July 21, 2014**

I. Call to Order & Roll Call:

Telecom Chair Dinesh Gupta called the meeting to order.

Members Present: D. Gupta, W. Lam, A. Bao, K. Bohan, H. Tran, N. Gupta, S. Singh, D. Lax, I. Munir, A. Alcorn

I.S. Staff: E. Pasion, M. Luu, M. Schwarz

City Council: A. Polanski

Members Absent: E. Bautista (e)

II. Pledge of Allegiance:

The members of the Commission recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Announcements:

Staff announced the Sister Cities Host Families invitation program to support the next planned visit of students to the City scheduled for later this calendar year.

IV. Approval of the Agenda:

Motion to approve the agenda as submitted.

M/S N. Gupta / W. Lam Ayes: 10

V. Approval of the Minutes:

Motion to approve the minutes for May 19, 2014.

M/S N. Gupta / D. Lax Ayes: 10

VI. Citizen's Forum:

No comments made from the public.

VII. New and Continued Business:

1. City WiFi Presentation and Discussion.

Staff introduced Matthias Schwarz telecom manager for the City's Information Services Department. He presented a summary of the City of Milpitas wireless access network history, its operations in the various city departments and the overall use in the Milpitas community from 2003 to present day.

The City initiated a city-only Wi-Fi network for remote camera access operations as part of the City's police department request to observe automobile break-in thefts at the McCarthy Ranch shopping center. Just a few years later in late 2006 EarthLink launch a paid-use Wi-Fi network in the Milpitas community. Within a 12 month period EarthLink had suspended its Wi-Fi

operations and abandoned all its wireless equipment. EarthLink then offered to give the City all of its wireless assets rather than attempt to dismantle and remove the existing equipment operations. By 2008 the City of Milpitas joined in a grant driven operation supported by Google to establish a free-use Wi-Fi network in the Milpitas community. The free-use Google I-net solution was chosen and put into use by 2009. As time and technology progressed over the next two years commercial cellular network communications improved with faster connection speeds while the City's Wi-Fi network equipment and its connectivity began to falter as its band-width began to slow. More and more consumers were using the readily available and faster 3G-4G cellular data networks while the City's Wi-Fi network was experiencing outages and reduction of network speeds. The City's Information Services staff made the several attempts to maintain the City's Wi-Fi network but it became increasingly difficult to maintain due to frequent equipment outages affecting the free-use network.

To date, the current service status of the City's Wi-Fi network is down and non-operational. There is no user traffic being accepted to the Wi-Fi network. As for Google, it has started dismantling the existing Milpitas network and is no longer supporting its operations. Additionally, Google has also suspended any uplink to the internet. Staff has been attempting to contact Google staff who were responsible in the creation of the of the Wi-Fi network operations; however, those staff members have been directed to focus on the development and expansion of the Google Cities high speed fiber operations project.

Currently, staff is evaluating the backhaul equipment at various locations in the City and determining what needs to be shut down due to no network activity. Staff has also completed a complete inventory and analysis of the City's Wi-Fi network infrastructure in order to best determine the future course of the wireless technology goals for the City and the Milpitas community.

Finally, staff added that with new housing developments being brought into Milpitas more light pole placements have been working against any future deployment for the areas in the Milpitas community due to the new design and complexity of the light poles.

Staff provided several options for the future use of the City's Wi-Fi network and provided estimated costs of up to a \$1 million plus to support the existing service.

Staff also reported that the Tropos antennae technology is no longer in the business WiFi access. It was acquired by ABB of Sunnyvale and have focused its technology in the field of automated mining controls and technology specific to the mineral exploration industry.

A third option would be to abandon the network and move forward with a new focus and direction in technology.

A fourth option could be the development of City hot-spots locations and provide it free or pay-per-use locations. The City already offers existing hot spots at several public buildings and locations. Local commercial businesses also offer the same type of services to their visiting customers.

Commissioner Alcorn stated he supported the option of shutting down the network and focusing on the fiber to the home development.

Commissioner Tran stated he was disappointed that the network is no longer operating and that he regularly used the free wifi service and hoped that it could be maintained.

Staff noted that it would take a great deal to revive the WiFi operation and the costs would also need to be taken in serious review per locations in the City. More importantly, staff needs help from Google Engineers on the operational steps and codes to manage the network requiring a great deal of staff time to bring the WiFi network to operability.

CIO Luu added that the backhaul connection has already migrated away from Google to the City's data center with TW Telecom serving as the backhaul. There were major issues in communicating help with Google in getting the network working for basic operation. Staff also discovered that major upgrades are needed adding to the unforeseen new total cost to the operations.

Chair Gupta requested that the discussion be continued to the August 18 commission meeting.

Motion to note, receipt and file and continue the discussion at the August meeting and Google network outage.

M/S

K. Bohan / D. Lax

Ayes: 10

2. May & June 2014 Information Services Report

Staff provided a brief overview of the monthly Information Services report for the month of May and June 2014.

Staff was preparing for a new CAD E911 system upgrade in July and August.

The My Milpitas App for Android deployment was nearing completion.

Staff was preparing for a presentation with the Mayor for a presentation at the California League of Cities presentation in September.

New development with the City's mobile phone payment options was being undertaken for implementation.

Staff was developing an online trash pickup application on the website.

Motion to note, receipt and file the report.

M/S N. Gupta / A. Alcorn Ayes: 10

3. Round Table

Staff will update the commission as developments continue.

VIII. Adjournment of Meeting:

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, August 18, 2014.