



TO: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
FROM: Gwen Schuler, Media and Communications Director
Jeff Lueders, Cable Communications & Franchise Services Manager
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Ordinance for Telecommunications Franchise Agreement with Mashell Telecom, Inc.
d/b/a Rainier Connect, July 26, 2016 City Council Agenda
DATE: July 13, 2016

SUMMARY:

Request for an ordinance related to telecommunications and franchise services, granting a ten-year Telecommunications Franchise Agreement to Mashell Telecom, Inc. d/b/a Rainier Connect to construct, operate, maintain, remove, replace, and repair fiber-optic communications facilities within public right-of-way areas within the City of Tacoma. This is a new agreement and is needed for them to gain permits and operate within the City’s public right-of-way, which will allow for technology growth in Tacoma.

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

- Encourage and foster a diverse, productive, and sustainable economy
- Encourage and promote a high-performing, open, and engaged government
- Strengthen and support a safe, clean, and attractive community

By allowing telecommunications providers to utilize our right-of-way, we continue to foster competition in the market place, increase choices for our residents, and allow for the growth of technology in our city.

BACKGROUND:

The Mashell Telecom, Inc. d/b/a Rainier Connect Telecommunications Franchise Agreement will be brought before the Government Performance and Finance Committee on July 20th, 2016, where staff will seek a recommendation by the Committee to forward to the full City Council for adoption. After a thorough negotiation process between the City of Tacoma and Mashell Telecom, Inc. d/b/a Rainier Connect, staff negotiated this tentative agreement and recommends adoption.

Mashell Telecom, Inc. d/b/a Rainier Connect is applying for the option to construct its own network within the jurisdictional boundaries of the City of Tacoma by way of directional boring, trenching or overhead construction methods.

ISSUE:

This is a proposed ten-year Telecommunications Franchise Agreement. According to Title 16B of the Tacoma Municipal Code a Telecommunications Provider must have a Telecommunications Franchise Agreement with the City of Tacoma in order to gain permits and operate within our public right-of-way.



ALTERNATIVES:

Without this agreement, Mashell Telecom, Inc. d/b/a Rainier Connect will not have access to the public right-of-way to construct, operate, maintain, remove, replace, and repair fiber-optic communications facilities.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the approval of the Telecommunications Franchise Agreement between the City of Tacoma and Mashell Telecom, Inc. d/b/a Rainier Connect.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact