

**City Council Questions and Answers for
Thursday, December 08, 2016**

These questions and answers are related to the
Austin City Council meeting that will convene at 10:00 AM on
Thursday, December 08, 2016 at Austin City Hall
301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX



Mayor Steve Adler
Mayor Pro Tem Kathie Tovo, District 9
Council Member Ora Houston, District 1
Council Member Delia Garza, District 2
Council Member Sabino "Pio" Renteria, District 3
Council Member Gregorio Casar, District 4
Council Member Ann Kitchen, District 5
Council Member Don Zimmerman, District 6
Council Member Leslie Pool, District 7
Council Member Ellen Troxclair, District 8
Council Member Sheri Gallo, District 10

The City Council Questions and Answers Report was derived from a need to provide City Council Members an opportunity to solicit clarifying information from City Departments as it relates to requests for council action. After a City Council Regular Meeting agenda has been published, Council Members will have the opportunity to ask questions of departments via the City Manager's Agenda Office. This process continues until 5:00 p.m. the Tuesday before the Council meeting. The final report is distributed at noon to City Council the Wednesday before the council meeting.


QUESTIONS FROM COUNCIL


Agenda Item # 11: Approve an ordinance amending Exhibit A to the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 City of Austin Fee Schedule Ordinance No. 20160914-003 to set administrative fees and rental fees for considering, approving, monitoring, and licensing the use of right of way and transportation infrastructure by wireless service providers for small cell networks.

QUESTION: 1) If the staff were to recommend a flat fee (for pole attachment, ROW use for both the antenna and the fiber cabling, and related equipment location), instead of the separate fees as listed in the draft ordinance, what would be the recommended level of that combined fee based on cost of service and when comparing to other cities? 2) Why is the staff recommending that we do separate fees instead of a flat fee? COUNCIL MEMBER TROXCLAIR'S OFFICE

ANSWER: 1) The fee is not based on a cost of service. It is the rental consideration for the private use of public infrastructure. A flat fee given the widely differing needs for fiber-optic cable would be difficult to estimate. It would not capture the full use and would discriminate by charging the same rental fee to a carrier that used less right of way. 2) Staff recommended two separate fees because there are two distinct components to the antenna system. The biggest impact and greatest use of public right of way by small cell networks is that used for fiber optic cabling. There's a rental rate for occupying space on the traffic signal pole and a separate rental rate for the amount of right of way space occupied by the fiber optic cable. A single flat fee makes a broad assumption, that conditions would be the exact same for the installation of each antenna and its associated fiber, which does not encourage joint trenching.

END OF REPORT

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