

Work Session Meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on Tuesday, October 6, 2015, at 8:15 p.m., Mayor Rusty Paul presiding.

Councilmembers present: Council Member John Paulson, Council Member Ken Dishman, Council Member Graham McDonald, Council Member Gabriel Sterling, Council Member Tibby DeJulio, and Council Member Andy Bauman.

STAFF DISCUSSION ITEMS

CMO

1. 15-393 Google Network Installation Presentation

Assistant City Manager Bryant Poole stated the team with Google Fiber is in attendance this evening. In early 2014, Google made an announcement that they will be bringing Google Fiber to Georgia, to nine cities in the metro Atlanta area, and that Sandy Springs is one of those cities. In May 2014, Council adopted a resolution that provided staff the opportunity to move forward with working with Google Fiber to reach an agreement to allow them to install their network system in Sandy Springs.

Amanda Shailendra, Google Fiber Project Manager, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Google Network Installation.

Council Member Andy Bauman asked about a Google Fiber hut being installed inside I-285 and will the planned huts cover service for the whole City.

Ms. Shailendra stated the locations of the huts were chosen in order to serve all of the residents of the City.

Council Member Bauman asked if there are any service deficiencies.

Ms. Shailendra responded no.

Chris Carpenter, Google Public Affairs Consultant, introduced himself.

Scott Simcox, Google Fiber Construction Manager, stated a hut is approximately 30 X 12 feet in size. The compound the hut is located in, including the supporting infrastructure, is 50 X 32. There are certain distance limitations from the hut to the end user. That is why the huts are strategically located throughout the various local municipalities.

Council Member Tibby DeJulio asked if the people in the southern part of the City may get their service from a hut in the City of Atlanta.

Mr. Simcox responded yes.

Council Member John Paulson stated he walked the property last week with Assistant City Manager Poole. He does not see on the plans where the City's boundary is located. The back part of the driveway behind the Fire Station is actually in DeKalb County. He asked to know where the property line is located, but he does not believe it will impact the plan. The photograph shown depicts the building being brown. There was discussion about a fence to go in front of the hut. He suggested the fence color be similar to the stone colored retaining wall, so that they blend together.

Mr. Carpenter stated he has worked with staff to come up with measures to make the huts less visible.

Council Member Gabriel Sterling asked how much the parking at the tennis center will be affected during the construction time.

Ms. Shailendra stated Google has been working on the construction and staging plan. Google contacted Junior Achievement and they do have parking that is potentially available for use.

Council Member DeJulio asked what the time frame is on this whole project.

Ms. Shailendra stated in order to design the rest of the build in Sandy Springs, it has to be identified and confirmed to move forward with engineering and permitting of the two huts. Once that is finished, Google will be able to finish the backbone design and be able to begin building out the distribution fiber that goes into neighborhoods. Once the hut locations are confirmed and Google knows where they will be located, the engineering and permitting process will follow to move forward with the buildout. After that, customer signup and installation will begin.

Council Member DeJulio asked about the anticipated time frame.

Ms. Shailendra stated she does not have dates at this time. It will depend on how quickly the hut license agreement is in place and how long it takes for design and build out. Google is trying to move as quickly as possible. Google is dedicated to getting their services to the customers in Sandy Springs as quickly as possible.

Council Member DeJulio asked if the time frame will be 2017 or 2018.

Ms. Shailendra stated she is not able to say at this time. Google will come back to Council to provide as much timing detail as they can once they have it confirmed from the design team.

Council Member Ken Dishman stated AT&T just came to his neighborhood to install the U-Verse product and it was pretty disruptive and there were issues. He asked if that will happen within the next couple of quarters or a year from now with Google Fiber.

Ms. Shailendra stated Google is committed to making this the least disruptive process possible. Some neighborhoods will receive aerial service and others will be receiving underground fiber. The decision depends on the neighborhood. Not in this case, but in many situations, Google works with partners such as AT&T, Comcast, and Georgia Power for joint builds.

Mr. Simcox stated Google is being very cognizant of relationship with communities. Google has a community impact manager that sends out notifications to community interest groups and property management groups to keep people aware of the process. The next step is to complete the hut construction, once the leases are approved and engineering is completed. He hopes that will be done during the off season for tennis, which would be this winter from November to March 2016. It will be a 90 to 120 day period for construction of that hut. The time frame from the other hut will be shorter than that, but will occur in parallel. The fiber optic route will be completed to connect all the huts and tie them back to the sites in downtown Atlanta. From that point, Google will simultaneously engineer the spider web of fiber optics that go from the hut sites into the communities. If there is existing aerial infrastructure, Google prefers to use that because it creates less of an impact on the community. Google can convey their desire for getting the huts placed, but everything else follows.

Council Member DeJulio asked if Google will be installing 7,000 miles of fiber optic cable in the whole metro area.

Mr. Simcox responded yes, that is for the entire metro Atlanta area for the nine municipalities.

Council Member DeJulio asked what the speed of the cable service will be.

Mr. Simcox responded one gigabit per second. This is the product offered today, but it will be upgradeable through the years.

Ms. Shailendra stated in order to put the one gigabit speed in perspective, if you have Google fiber TV and internet service you can watch TV, use the internet, and also record up to eight TV shows at one time. The service to be offered is about 70 to 100 times faster than what you currently have at home. The service will be reliable with the one gigabit speed at all times, not just when other people are not using the network.

Council Member DeJulio asked how often this type of service goes down.

Ms. Shailendra stated one reason Google is doing its own build in the City it is to keep the service from going down. Every home that receives the service will receive two fiber cables to the home, just in case one cable goes down. There were questions on timing and how much the service will cost. Google Fiber's website for the Atlanta updates is <https://fiber.google.com/cities/atlanta/>. If anyone signs up on the website, they will be sent out an alert for future information.

Mr. Simcox stated regarding the reliability, the fiber optic backbone that connects the huts is fully diverse and goes to diverse hop sites downtown Atlanta, then through diverse routes to the backbone. Each hut is equipped with a backup generator in case of a power outage. It is a natural gas powered generator that will provide power indefinitely. In the case of an interruption to the natural gas supply, Google can bring in a propane tank truck and connect it directly to the generator to feed the hut as well.

Council Member Paulson asked if the huts provide electromagnetic waves to the neighborhood.

Mr. Simcox responded no. The huts are not like a cell tower or microwave tower.

Council Member Bauman asked if noise will be emitted from the huts.

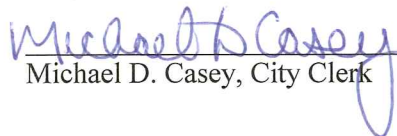
Mr. Simcox stated once a month Google does generator testing to make sure the unit is functioning properly. He has already spoken with City staff about doing the testing at the Tennis Center at times that are not during the middle of a tennis tournament. The sound level of the testing will be about 80 dB. There are also four HVAC units for each hut and those will emit sound at about a 60 dB level. He is not a sound level expert, but he read that everyday vehicle traffic is rated at about 85 dB.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Date Approved: October 20, 2015



Russell K. Paul, Mayor



Michael D. Casey, City Clerk