City of Alexandria, Virginia
Commission on Information Technology

January 20, 2022 IT Commission Meeting Minutes
7:00 – 8:30 PM
Virtual Meeting

In attendance: Sara Crifasi (SC), Ricardo Alfaro (RA), Brandon Mosoriak (BM), Catharine Rice (CR), Chris Soghoian (CS), Steve Davidson (SD), Tim Casey (TC), Stephen Morris (SM)

Staff: Vanetta Pledger, Steve Chozick, Smail Farid, Tori Butler, Patrick Eze

Others: Vice Mayor Amy Jackson (AJ)

Absent: Darrlynn Franklin, Michelle Rief, J.D. Maddox, Sundar Kanagarajan

1. **Welcome/Introductions**

    - Vice Mayor Amy Jackson

2. **Approval of December 9, 2021 Minutes: unanimous**

3. **Update on City's fiber backbone project (Patrick Eze)**

    - Updated map was shared.
    - The fiber will go in once construction is complete.
    - No delays, project is going as planned.
    - Still eight miles complete, but handholds are now being installed in the eight miles.

    City's Competitive Provider Proposals

    - City has received four proposals to bring fiber to the home: Shentel, Lumos, Ting, North American Tower Company
    - Committee asked to give feedback on these companies from anything that is publicly available
    - February date for franchise award (tentative
    - SD: Was a formal RFP put out? Yes, there was.
    - CR: This is a right-of-way franchise, they would be using their own fiber.
    - CS: Any other role for committee? VP: This period for comment is our opportunity, most of the process will be private.
    - CS: Lumos uses teaser rates, Ting has a low-cost plan but it is low speed.
    - TC: Is for bids normal, low, high? CR: Has never seen four bids in the past decade. VP: City is happy with this, it has been a lot of work and a struggle to get to this point. We're hopeful this will come to fruition.
    - RA: Concerned that what the IT Commission can/can't do isn't enough input for the importance and magnitude of the process.
    - SD: Can the Commission's charter be rewritten? CR: It needs to go through Council.
    - SC: Could we be included, via a confidentiality letter?
    - SD: Can we play a role in the evaluation stage without violating confidentiality?
    - CS: What's to stop FIOS issue happening again if City awards franchises and they don't deliver? Are we getting commitments that they will build? VP: Inside

the specifications franchise has to provide a bond that they will provide the service. She will take this back to the attorneys.
- AJ to CS: Have you asked the Mayor these questions? CS: Trying to get info here, if I get something interesting I will forward it to the Mayor.
- SM: Can one of the franchises 'claim' a neighborhood? VP: Providers will provide to the entire City, not just certain neighborhoods.
- CS: Will franchises micro-trench, or use the City's conduit, or both? Could use both but City's won't be done for four years.
- SD: Suggest we don't use FIOS/Verizon as an example, they decided to give up on FIOS nationwide, not just in our area.
- TC: Where does franchise fee go? VP: Believe it's to the general fund.

4. **Digital Equity Plan (Kelly Booze and Michelle Rief)**

- Computer Core is creating a help desk.
- $420K of ARPA funds has been set aside for Digital Equity Plan, Broadband Strategist and Policy Analyst.
- A broadband study is planned.
- CS: Can this be paid for by the savings from not using Comcast?

5. **Legislative Committee (Sara Crifasi & Catharine Rice)**

- Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) name changed to Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)
- Final Treasury rules for ARPA disbursement have just come out.

6. **Cybersecurity Committee (Stephen Morris)**
- Digital Self-Defense course available through Computer Core.

7. **Adjourn by unanimous vote at 8:30pm. (Next meeting is January 20, 2022).**