



**AGENCY:** City Council  
**MEETING DATE:** November 23, 2015  
**DEPARTMENT:** Administrative Services  
**PRESENTED BY:** S. Schneider

## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

**TITLE:**

**RECEIVE UPDATE ON DOWNTOWN WIFI PROJECT AND CONSIDER ADOPTION OF CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION APPROVING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF FORT BRAGG AND MENDOCINO COMMUNITY NETWORK FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DOWNTOWN WIFI PROJECT AND AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SAME**

**ISSUE:**

Earlier this year, the Council formed an ad hoc Technology Committee to explore the possibility of establishing free wireless internet service (WiFi) in downtown Fort Bragg. The Committee completed its investigation and recommended that the Council authorize expending up to \$10,000 from Fund 220 (Waste Management Community Benefit Fund) for implementation of the Downtown WiFi project.

At its July 14, 2015 meeting, the Council unanimously adopted a Resolution appropriating up to \$10,000 for the downtown WiFi project. The Resolution required that an agreement be established between the City and Mendocino Community Network to clarify roles and responsibilities for installation, configuration, administration, and repair of the free public wireless internet service.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Adopt City Council Resolution approving the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Fort Bragg and Mendocino Community Network for implementation of the Downtown WiFi project authorizing the City Manager to execute the agreement.

**ALTERNATIVE ACTION(S):**

1. No action. Do not approve the Memorandum of Understanding.
2. Continue action on the matter and provide direction to staff on moving forward with the agreement with Mendocino Community Network.

**ANALYSIS:**

In order for the free WiFi service to be successful, Mendocino Community Network (MCN) and the City need to work together to ensure the proper equipment and connections are in place and operational. MCN is Mendocino Coast's local internet provider. An agreement, as authorized by the Council, is necessary to identify the roles and responsibilities of both MCN and the City. The network providing the WiFi service requires the installation and configuration of antennas, routing equipment, servers, battery back-up, etc. The City would purchase and install the equipment and MCN would configure it. MCN would provide the internet service and, in exchange, there will be a "splash screen" that identifies MCN and the City as the providers of the free public WiFi service. MCN would provide administrative services (regular maintenance, tech support, etc.) to ensure that the equipment and software is updated as needed. The software will be capable of dividing up the bandwidth and throttling individual workstations to ensure even access. It will also be set to "time

out" periodically, requiring users to re-sign in. The service would be configured to turn off for some time each night. The intent of these disruptions is to discourage downtown businesses and residents from substituting the public WiFi for regular, commercial internet service.

The service, which would be offered in partnership with MCN, would help to brand Fort Bragg as a technology-friendly community, would enable residents and visitors to access the internet for free on cell phones, tablets, and laptop computers from locations throughout the downtown.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The initial start-up costs, including purchase of equipment and installation of cabling, are estimated at approximately \$10,000. On-going costs include nominal monthly charges for two additional DSL phone lines. Those costs would be paid by the City. Future costs would include periodic equipment repairs and upgrades.

**IMPLEMENTATION/TIMEFRAMES:**

Should the Memorandum of Understanding be approved, the City along with Mendocino Community Network will immediately begin purchasing and installing necessary equipment to provide the free WiFi service downtown.

City staff hopes to have the free WiFi service up and running by January 1, 2016. This date is dependent upon delivery of equipment from outside vendors as well as installation and testing of equipment by Mendocino Community Network.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- 1. Resolution
- 2. Memorandum of Understanding

**NOTIFICATION:**

- 1. Sage Statham, Manager of Mendocino Community Network

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Agency Action	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved as Amended
Resolution No.:	_____	Ordinance No.:	_____
Moved by:	_____	Seconded by:	_____
Vote:	_____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Deferred/Continued to meeting of:	_____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Referred to:	_____		