



AGENCY:	City Council
MEETING DATE:	July 13, 2015
DEPARTMENT:	Admin
PREPARED BY:	L. Ruffing/L. Bengtsson-Davis
PRESENTED BY:	L. Ruffing/Tech Comm.

## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

### **TITLE:**

**RECEIVE UPDATE ON DOWNTOWN WIFI PROJECT AND CONSIDER ADOPTION OF CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION AMENDING THE FY 2015-16 BUDGET TO APPROPRIATE \$10,000 FROM THE WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DOWNTOWN WIFI PROJECT (BUDGET AMENDMENT #2016-01; AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000; FUND 220, WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND)**

### **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 has completed its investigation and recommends that the Council authorize the expenditure of up to \$10,000 from Fund 220 (Waste Management Community Benefit Fund) for implementation of the Downtown WiFi project.

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Adopt City Council Resolution amending the FY 2015-16 Budget to appropriate \$10,000 from the Waste Management Community Benefit Fund for implementation of the Downtown WiFi Project (Budget Amendment 2016-01; Amount Not to Exceed \$10,000; Fund 220, Waste Management Community Benefit Fund).

### **ALTERNATIVE ACTION(S):**

1. No action. Do not proceed with the Downtown WiFi Project.
2. Continue action on the matter and identify additional information to be provided by the ad hoc Technology Committee or City staff to help inform the Council's decision.

### **ANALYSIS:**

The ad hoc Technology Committee consists of Mayor Turner, Councilmember Deitz, John "Bubba" Naulty, Jr., Barry Daost, Sage Statham, Lynda Bengtsson-Davis, and Ginny Feth-Michel. The Committee met several times over the past six months to investigate the possibility of establishing free, public WiFi service in downtown Fort Bragg. The service, which would be offered in partnership with Mendocino Community Network (MCN is the Mendocino Coast's local internet service provider), 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.

The network would require the installation and configuration of antennas, routing equipment, servers, battery back up, etc. The City would purchase the equipment and MCN would install and 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 also provide administrative services 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 also 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.

**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:**

If the Council authorizes the Downtown WiFi project and approves the budget amendment authorizing the expenditure of up to \$10,000 from the Waste Management Community Benefit Fund, work will begin immediately to get the service up and running. The City will need to enter into a service agreement with MCN to clarify roles and responsibilities for installation, configuration, administration, and repair of the free public wireless internet service.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Resolution

**NOTIFICATION:**

1. Technology ad hoc committee members
2. Dan Heimann and Deborah Hock

**City Clerk's Office Use Only**

Agency Action      ☐ Approved      ☐ Denied      ☐ Approved as Amended

Resolution No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Ordinance No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Moved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_

Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Deferred/Continued to meeting of: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Referred to: \_\_\_\_\_