

**Minutes  
Building Codes Committee  
February 1, 2016  
6:00 PM  
5th committee meeting**

**Members present were Chairman Dale Black and Committee member Carol King. Committee member Larry Goodson had an emergency and left. Business and Development Services Director Kim Hamel and City Administrator Trey Eubanks were also present.**

1. Call to order- Chairman Black
2. Public comment- None
3. Reading and approval of minutes- December 7, 2015- Chairman Black asked that we bring these minutes back for approval at the March meeting since Mr. Goodson had to leave.
4. Reports or communications from city officers
  - a. Budget Review- Councilman Black asked where Steven Woods is having training. Kim said different places. He goes where the training is. The state will reimburse us for some of the expenses.
  - b. Department report- ADA inspections are continuing on city buildings. Business licenses are coming in now. A report will come soon regarding who took advantage of the early payment.

The department should go live with the new software by the end of the month.

5. Unfinished business- None
6. New business
  - a. Externet contract- this is new technology. Externet is a wireless communications company. Small antennas will be installed on existing poles. There is a copy of the contract in the packet. We will collect an annual contract fee instead of a business license. Their contract with DOT is almost complete. Most of the ROWs are DOT ROWs. Chairman Black asked about the coverage area. The Externet representative said the initial carrier is

Verizon Wireless, but they will be adding more coverage. This is happening all around the southeast. Existing cell towers can't handle all the traffic with people using so much data and this is the solution to that.

Chairman Black asked how far the signal goes. The representative said that varies. The RF wants to make sure they are no gaps, so these are strategically placed. 6 nodes are proposed initially for the highest problem areas. He said to answer the question, a half mile or quarter mile.

There are a lot of trees, but a pole can be set on Cary Street at the ROW. All other ROWs are SCDOT. Chairman Black asked about John Duggan's approval. Kim said this is the final one approved by him. She will send Chairman Black the marked up version from John so he can see the approval.

Leo Joyce asked if this would have any impact on any other communications systems in the area. Extenet said no.

Joel Ann Chandler asked if this would make the bill go up. Extenet said there is not a direct correlation, but the providers charge for the cost of doing business.

Carriers are broadcasters and are not allowed to interfere with other communications because of the FCC license.

Mayor Raines asked if signal strength would be boosted. The representative said it would, but the main goal is more capacity. Data and video usage chews up bandwidth and the cell towers are barely handling it now.

Mayor Raines asked what brought them here. An RFQ is sent out from the carriers on problem areas and that drives where the company goes.

Mayor Raines asked if we currently get fees from carriers such as Verizon. Kim said they fall under a consent fee.

Councilman Merritt asked if this was exclusive. Extenet said there is nothing to stop us from contracting with someone else as well.

The units are also installed in park benches and other places. The Extenet representative said they do a lot of stealth installations. There is a lot of different technologies for doing that.

Councilwoman King made a motion to send this to council with the understanding that the approval language from the attorney be sent to committee.

Chairman Black seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (2-0).

7. Public comment
8. Committee concerns
9. Adjournment- Chairman Black adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted

Cindy Miller

Municipal Clerk

**NOTICE:** A majority or quorum of City Council may attend a committee meeting.