

RESOLUTION 20-018

A RESOLUTION requesting a feasibility study for improved broadband in Clark County by Clark Public Utilities.

WHEREAS, access to broadband internet service is critical to full participation in society and the modern economy; and

WHEREAS, increasing broadband access to unserved and underserved areas of the county serves a fundamental governmental purpose and function and provides a public benefit by enabling access to health care, education, employment opportunities and essential services, providing economic opportunities, and enhancing public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, achieving affordable and quality broadband access for all will require additional and sustained investment, research, local and community participation, and partnerships between private, public, and nonprofit entities; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission has adopted a national broadband plan that includes recommendations directed to federal, state and local governments to ensure efficient allocation and management of assets that the government controls or influences to encourage network upgrades and competitive entry; and reform current universal service mechanisms to support deployment in high-cost areas, ensuring that low-income Americans can afford broadband, and supporting efforts to boost adoption and utilization; and

WHEREAS, sustainable and reliable infrastructure helps build strong economies and equitable communities; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has only increased the pressing need for countywide equitable high-speed broadband internet infrastructure; and

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WHEREAS, reliable broadband bridges the digital divide between urban and rural communities, regardless of neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, new, innovative programs that focus on digital equity and inclusion and target the most underserved residents in our cities is possible; and

WHEREAS, strong cities need protected and improved public authority to provide broadband service; and

WHEREAS, cities can promote greater access to high-quality, affordable internet service by working with public partners, residents, and service providers; and

WHEREAS, the installation of dark fiber optic cables should occur whenever feasible in public works projects to lay the foundation for the region's future economy and community; and

WHEREAS, Washington State has set the ambitious broadband expansion goal that by 2026 all Washington businesses and residences would have access to broadband that provides 1 gigabit per second symmetrical (upload and download speeds) broadband service at anchor institutions like schools, hospitals, libraries, and government buildings;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CAMAS AS FOLLOWS:

1. The City of Camas formally requests that Clark Public Utilities District conduct a feasibility study to develop a plan that encourages, fosters, develops, and improves affordable, equitable, quality broadband within the county in order to:

A. Drive job creation, promote innovation, improve economic vitality, and expand markets for Clark County businesses;

B. Serve the ongoing and growing needs of Clark County's education systems, health care

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systems, public safety systems, industries and business, governmental operations, and citizens; and

C. Improve broadband accessibility for unserved and underserved communities and populations.

ADOPTED by the Council of the City of Camas and approved by the Mayor this _____ day of _____, 2020.

SIGNED: _____
Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

APPROVED as to form:

City Attorney