

# VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



**BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

**DATE OF MEETING: August 8, 2023**

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**To:** Village President and Board of Trustees

**Through:** Napoleon Haney, Village Manager

**From:** Tyler Hall, Assistant Village Manager

**Topic:** Extension of Downtown Outdoor Speakers

## **PURPOSE**

Approve the purchase of equipment related to the extension of downtown outdoor speakers project. Major equipment purchases include (1) one directional antenna and (10) ten weatherized 5" speakers. A budget amendment is required to allocate American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to cover the cost of this purchase.

## **PROCESS**

This ARPA project was proposed by elected officials and would be implemented by both IT and Public Works. The additional speakers would be purchased by IT and installed by Public Works on pedestrian poles along Ridge Road from Dixie Highway to the Post office, and on Dixie Highway from Chestnut Road to Olive Road.

There are currently 16 radio relay units with attached speakers spread throughout the downtown area of Homewood. The radios receive their source signal from an omnidirectional antenna located at Village Hall that is repeated at the corner of Martin Avenue and Ridge Road for radios that are out of line of sight. These radios communicate on a 900mghz radio network that is coordinated with the software StreetSounds for scheduling and playing music through the radio network. The music is provided by Custom Channels which provides mixed playlists and the required licensing. This configuration allows for one source to be played over the radio network at a time, although there is the ability to also use a mobile station as a public address system .

Recent developments in the downtown area, such as the Hartford building, have changed the topography of the radio network. This, coupled with more devices operating on the 900mghz frequency, has caused interference and disruption with some of the relay units. There has also been demand for a larger coverage of the speakers down Ridge Road towards the post office and down Dixie Highway towards Olive Road, but there are limitations with the current radio antenna and available channels needed to make this expansion possible.

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There are two phases involved with overcoming these challenges. The first is upgrading the omnidirectional antenna at Village Hall to a directional antenna and relocating it from the roof of Village Hall to the Auditorium to provide better line of sight down Dixie Highway while still hitting the relay at the corner of Martin Avenue and Ridge Road. The second would be upgrading the radio relay located at the corner of Martin Avenue and Ridge Road to repeat the signal cleanly down Ridge Road. This will greatly boost signal strength for both the current configuration as well as allow for the additional relays and speakers in the requested areas.

We will be using the same vendor, AirNetix of Smyrna, Georgia, who provides and maintains the existing downtown outdoor speaker system.

### OUTCOME

Extension of the music coverage in the downtown area would positively impact people walking along the streets either shopping, attending events, or dining in the downtown.

### FINANCIAL IMPACT

- **Funding Source:** ARPA Funding
- **Budgeted Amount:** \$0
- **ARPA Allocation:** \$30,000
- **Cost:** \$30,000 (\$22,905 for equipment & \$7,095 for unforeseen installation costs)

### LEGAL REVIEW

Not Required

### RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Approve a budget amendment allocating \$30,000 of ARPA funds for the downtown outdoor speaker project; waive competitive bidding due to a sole source provider; and, approve the purchase of equipment from AirNetix of Smyrna, GA in an amount not to exceed \$22,905 and \$7,095 for unforeseen installation costs related to the downtown outdoor speaker project.

### ATTACHMENT(S)

- Quote for (10) ten outdoor speakers
- Quote for (1) one directional antenna and related equipment