

City of New Meadows

Resolution # TBD-2021

DECLARING BROADBAND INTERNET TO BE AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE

WHEREAS the 2013 New Meadows Comprehensive Plan states its intent, at Economic Development Goal Statement; “To protect and promote the economic vitality of the city so that the city may continue to be the center of civic, social and cultural life and remain the primary source of goods and services required by persons throughout the area, while maintaining the sense of community.”; and

WHEREAS the New Meadows City Council believes the above statement includes Broadband Internet as a tool to keep the economic vitality of the city; and

WHEREAS the 2013 New Meadows Comprehensive Plan states its intent, at Population Goal Statement, “The citizens of New Meadows desire to maintain the existing quality of life and plan for stable growth that is consistent with the city’s character and within the fiscal capacity of the community.”; and

WHEREAS the New Meadows City Council believes the above statement includes Broadband Internet as a utility to help grow the population of the community; and

WHEREAS the New Meadows Comprehensive Plan states its intent, with the Population Goal Statement Policy 1.2. “The city should not approve new residential subdivisions nor commercial or industrial developments without city services (e.g., water, sewer, etc.) available at the time of final approval” to mean Broadband Internet as a city service.; and

WHEREAS the New Meadows Comprehensive Plan states its intent, at Public Services and Utilities Goal Statements and Policies:

- General Policy 1.1 – The city should continue to manage its resources in an economical and efficient manner as a wise steward of the community’s resources.;
- General Policy 1.2 – The city should establish a level of public facilities and improvements that will ensure a continuing satisfactory living environment without undue maintenance costs.;
- General Policy 1.3 – The city should consider improvements to city infrastructure to meet existing and future demands.;
- General Policy 1.6 – The city requires all developers to provide infrastructure and connection to the City’s system, to serve their projects as a condition of approval.; and

WHEREAS the New Meadows City Council believes the above statement includes Broadband Internet as a Public Service and Utility for the community.; and

WHEREAS the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has deemed broadband internet access service to be an essential telecommunications service under Title II of the Communications Act of 1934; and

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WHEREAS broadband internet access service is currently defined by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as internet service with minimum download speeds of 25 Megabits per second (Mbps) and minimum upload speeds of 3 Mbps; and

WHEREAS low population density and other factors hinder private sector deployment of broadband in rural areas, such that 39% of rural Americans lack access to broadband internet access service; and

WHEREAS, when electricity and telephone service first became viewed as essential to society, federal, state and local governments worked in accordance with programs established pursuant to the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 and the Communications Act of 1934 to ensure that citizens have universal access to these essential services; and

WHEREAS federal and state efforts to promote broadband internet access should not erode longstanding requirements to ensure universal access to all essential communications services that are reliable and affordable for residents of the City of New Meadows.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and City Council of the City of New Meadows, Adams County, Idaho:

Section 1: That broadband internet access is an essential telecommunications service that should be accessible and affordable to residents and businesses of the City of New Meadows.

Section 2: That federal, state, and local governments have a role in ensuring, supporting, and facilitating reliable, affordable broadband internet access services.

PASSED and APPROVED this _____ day of _____ 2021.

Julie Good, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Jacob M Qualls, City Clerk