



AGENDA ITEM ANALYSIS

Project/Issue Name: 22-22 An Ordinance of the City Council Authorizing the City Administrator to Execute a Participation Agreement with City Utilities and Various Other Surrounding Communities as part of a Regional Broadband Initiative Dedicated to Extending Broadband High-Speed Internet Services to Republic and Surrounding Areas.

Submitted By: David Cameron, City Administrator

Date: April 19, 2022

Issue Statement

To enter into a participation agreement with City Utilities of Springfield (“CU”) and various local municipalities and counties for installing a Regional Broadband Initiative Board (“RBI Board”) to facilitate the required broadband feasibility analysis and other necessary steps toward potential installation of high-speed broadband internet to Republic and the surrounding regional area.

Discussion and/or Analysis

City Utilities of Springfield has initiated a Regional Broadband Partnership with Republic and other local counties and municipalities to explore the opportunity to provide broadband high-speed internet options for the region. The following cities and counties have been identified to participate in the initiative:

1. Christian County
2. Nixa
3. Ozark
4. Republic
5. Strafford
6. Willard
7. Greene County

The Council previously authorized the City Administrator to enter into a cost share agreement with the participants for City Utilities to facilitate the identification and potential retention of a qualified broadband consultant to perform the study. Republic’s projected shared cost for that agreement is \$1,521.77, as identified and authorized in Resolution 22-R-17. That was the first step in the process of working toward bringing the high-speed internet services to the area.

This Ordinance seeks authorization for the City to proceed with the next step in the process, which involves the creation and installation of the RBI Board, which, with the assistance and guidance of CU, will identify and retain a qualified consultant to conduct the Feasibility Study, and in the event the Feasibility Study finds that expanding broadband into Republic and the surrounding areas is feasible under such



conditions as are acceptable to the Participants, will then manage and direct all such expansions. The RBI Board is necessary as it is the proper means through which the Participants will be able to collaborate their efforts and otherwise receive the bargained for value from the RBI Board.

By its terms, this Agreement can be terminated at a participant's election if at any time it determines it does not have the costs to proceed with the initiative. For Republic, if the City's financial obligation under this Agreement were to exceed \$60,000, the City Administrator intends to terminate Republic's participation in the Agreement (which is expressly permitted without penalty).

This expense will be included in the upcoming budget amendment for 2022.

Recommended Action

Staff recommends approval of this agreement.