



Common Council Agenda Item

Meeting Date:	September 15th, 2026
Agenda Item:	Starin Park Recreational Center fiber extension
Staff Contact (name, email, phone):	Cris Crane, CCrane@whitewater-wi.gov , 262-473-1364

BACKGROUND

The City and City IT services is tasked with providing internet to the various occupied City buildings. To do so, we use a few different methods, mainly fiber and point-to-point (PTP) wireless connections.

Primarily, the City utilizes a “dark” fiber network owned and operated by Win Technologies (WIN). Their network traverses the city, connecting City Hall to our Water and Streets Departments, as well as farther out buildings such as the Innovation Center and Whitewater Aquatic and Fitness Center. These fiber lines are used solely by the City.

Where it has not been feasible for the City or WIN to run fiber, the City has utilized PTP connections. Given a clear line of sight, these can provide a robust, secure, network connection between two places. PTP connections have generally been used to connect accessory buildings, such as the Armory, the Cravath Lakefront Building, and the Starin Park Recreational Center (SPRC), home to the Seniors in the Park (SITP) program.

When the PTP connection between our Water Department and the SPRC was installed, there was a clear line of sight between the two buildings. Over the last 10-15 years forestry improvements to the park, as well as general tree growth, has inhibited that line of sight. Internal monitoring has shown the link to be at best 60% efficient during the best of months. This causes regular bandwidth slowness, including the dropping of or inability to make phone calls on our phone system, an activity that requires very low bandwidth.

At the same time, the SITP program has only grown. They offer services such as virtual fitness and dance courses that rely upon the City’s internet connection. Since the SPRC primarily serves seniors, we also want to ensure that our phone system can maintain 100% uptime in the event of an emergency.

With all of that in mind, City IT services sought bids to bring a dedicated fiber line to the SPRC. Early on, it was determined that there were obstacles in the way that required us to run this fiber along the street as opposed to a direct line . The Water Department was chosen as the closest suitable point of demarcation (the starting point). IT services engaged with several partners, but settled on using our primary and preferred fiber vendor to do this work. WIN is able to provide access to existing ducts, conduit, and hand holes that would otherwise need to be duplicated in the work process. Additionally, they have knowledge of the fiber routes along Starin road, as well as being the original partner that brought fiber to the Water Department.

We now ask to move forward with this project as outlined in the attached quote estimate.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS – COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS
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With the passage of the 2026-2027 budget, council approved this upgrade project budgeted at a value of \$75,000. It was pared back to \$35,000 prior.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Single quote for \$35,000, a one time fee for the labor and materials involved in bringing fiber to the SPRC.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends moving forward with quote for \$35,000.
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ATTACHMENT(S) INCLUDED

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| 1. Win Technology's Quote |
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