I. Call To Order

II. Roll Call

PRESENTATIONS

1. Receive a Staff presentation and hold discussion on Community Broadband and provide direction to the City Manager.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOTE: The City Council may adjourn into Executive Session to consider any item listed on this agenda if a matter is raised that is appropriate for Executive Session discussion. An announcement will be made of the basis for the Executive Session discussion. The City Council may also publicly discuss any item listed on the agenda for Executive Session.

2. Executive Session in accordance with:
   1. Section §551.071 of the Texas Government Code: Consultation with Attorney: To receive advice of legal counsel regarding the Purchase and Sale Agreement with Pursuant Ventures Development, LLC for the San Marcos Sportsplex Project
   2. Section §551.071 of the Texas Government Code: Consultation with Attorney: To receive advice of legal counsel regarding the application of HK Real Estate Development, LLC for Proposed Permit for New TPDES Permit No. WQ0015784001; TCEQ Docket No. 2021-0053-MWD; SOAH Docket No. 582-21-1893

III. Adjournment.

POSTED ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, 2021 @ 3:00PM

TAMMY K. COOK, INTERIM CITY CLERK

IV. ADDENDUM
Item 2 was amended after the original posting at 3:00PM on Friday August 6, 2021 to include the following:

2. Section §551.071 of the Texas Government Code: Consultation with Attorney: To receive advice of legal counsel regarding the application of HK Real Estate Development, LLC for Proposed Permit for New TPDES Permit No. WQ0015784001; TCEQ Docket No. 2021-0053-MWD; SOAH Docket No. 582-21-1893

ADDENDUM POSTED ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 2021 @ 12:30PM

TAMMY K. COOK, INTERIM CITY CLERK

Notice of Assistance at the Public Meetings

The City of San Marcos does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to its services, programs, or activities. Individuals who require auxiliary aids and services for this meeting should contact the City of San Marcos ADA Coordinator at 512-393-8000 (voice) or call Texas Relay Service (TRS) by dialing 7-1-1. Requests can also be faxed to 855-461-6674 or sent by e-mail to ADArequest@sanmarcostx.gov
AGENDA CAPTION:
Receive a Staff presentation and hold discussion on Community Broadband and provide direction to the City Manager.

Meeting date: August 3, 2021

Department: Information Technology

Amount & Source of Funding
Funds Required: Click or tap here to enter text.
Account Number: Click or tap here to enter text.
Funds Available: Click or tap here to enter text.
Account Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

Fiscal Note:
Prior Council Action: Click or tap here to enter text.

City Council Strategic Initiative: [Please select from the dropdown menu below]
Choose an item.
Choose an item.
Choose an item.

Comprehensive Plan Element(s): [Please select the Plan element(s) and Goal # from dropdown menu below]

☐ Economic Development - Choose an item.
☐ Environment & Resource Protection - Choose an item.
☐ Land Use - Choose an item.
☐ Neighborhoods & Housing - Choose an item.
☐ Parks, Public Spaces & Facilities - Choose an item.
☐ Transportation - Choose an item.
☐ Core Services
☐ Not Applicable
**Background Information:** During the Council’s Visioning and budget workshops, Council requested a presentation on the affordability, accessibility and reliability of broadband within the City of San Marcos.

**Council Committee, Board/Commission Action:**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Alternatives:**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Recommendation:**

Click or tap here to enter text.
Presentation

Item 1

Receive a presentation regarding Community Broadband services and provide direction to the City Manager.
City of San Marcos

City Council Work Session

Community Broadband

August 17, 2021
Purpose

Seeking Council direction on how the City can assist in providing citizens affordable, accessible and reliable internet services.
Agenda

• Today we will review the following:
  – Brief overview of how broadband is defined
  – Current service availability
  – Review other programs and initiatives
  – Considerations for Council
  – Hold discussion and provide direction
Definition of Broadband

• Broadband is the technology of transmitting data in a continuous flow over a wired or wireless internet connection

• Federal Communication Commission (FCC) defined broadband speed is a minimum of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload
Current City Services

Fiber

• In 2000, the City signed a franchise agreement with Grande Communication for 12 strands of dark fiber to connect city facilities.
• In 2018 the City contracted for a Master Fiber Plan to connect City facilities, critical infrastructure, and field assets.
• Project is funded by General, Water, and Electric capital improvement project funds.
• Started fiber installation in 2020.
Current City Services

Wireless

• All city facilities provide public wireless access
• In 2014 public wireless was installed to provide internet service in Rio Vista park, San Marcos Plaza, Veramendi Park, and City Park
• Two city owned cellular towers have been installed to services City owned field assets – City Cemetery and new Public Service Complex
• American Recue Funds have been approved by Council to expand public wireless access at the Library and in city parks
San Marcos Internet Services

• Currently 8 internet providers servicing San Marcos

• San Marcos is the 39th most connected city in Texas

• Less than 6.3% of consumers in San Marcos only have access to 1 or fewer wired provider

• The average download speed in San Marcos is 127Mbps.

Source of information -- BroadbandNow.com
Study performed in 2021- This data is calculated from FCC datasets which providers are legally required to supply twice a year.
San Marcos Internet Services

Types of Available services:

• Digital Subscriber Line (DSL): Slow, reliable, and often the most affordable.
• Cable: A balance of speed and value.
• Fiber: Limited availability, fast speeds, and higher pricing.
• Wireless – LTE, Point to Point, or Satellite

Source of information -- BroadbandNow.com
Study performed in 2021- This data is calculated from FCC datasets which providers are legally required to supply twice a year.

sanmarcostx.gov
## San Marcos Internet Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ISP</th>
<th>Service Type</th>
<th>Availability</th>
<th>Speed up to</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Century Link</td>
<td>DSL</td>
<td>92.7%</td>
<td>100mbps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Century Link</td>
<td>Fiber</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>940mbps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spectrum</td>
<td>Cable</td>
<td>95.1%</td>
<td>1,000mbps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grande</td>
<td>Cable</td>
<td>68.5%</td>
<td>940mbps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grande</td>
<td>Fiber</td>
<td>*Information not available</td>
<td>1,000mbps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rise Broadband</td>
<td>Line of site Wireless</td>
<td>60.3%</td>
<td>50mbps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viasat</td>
<td>Satellite</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100mbps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hughesnet</td>
<td>Satellite</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>25mbps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ranch Wireless</td>
<td>Wireless</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>25mbps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VTX1</td>
<td>Wireless</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>6-30mbps</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source of information – Broadbandnow.com
This data is calculated from FCC datasets which providers are legally required to supply twice a year.
## San Marcos Internet Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ISP</th>
<th>Service Type</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Speed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Century Link</td>
<td>DSL</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>100mbps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Century Link</td>
<td>Fiber</td>
<td>$65.00</td>
<td>940mbps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Spectrum</td>
<td>Cable</td>
<td>$18-$110</td>
<td>30-1,000mbps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>**Grande</td>
<td>Cable</td>
<td>$10-$65</td>
<td>25-940mbps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grande</td>
<td>Fiber</td>
<td>$89.00</td>
<td>940Mbps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rise Broadband</td>
<td>Line of site Wireless</td>
<td>$35.00</td>
<td>Up to 25mbps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viasat</td>
<td>Satellite</td>
<td>$70.00</td>
<td>25mbps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hughesnet</td>
<td>Satellite</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>25mbps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ranch Wireless</td>
<td>Wireless</td>
<td>$120.00</td>
<td>25mbps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VTX1</td>
<td>Wireless</td>
<td>$35.00</td>
<td>6-30mbps</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Spectrum - Internet Assist program is available to qualifying low-income families and senior citizens, $17.99/mo, 30mbps
** Grande Comm - Internet First program is available to qualifying low-income families – per Grande Comm. Service is $10/mo. 25/3

Source of information – Broadbandnow.com
San Marcos Internet Services

While each household will have their own definition of what good internet speed is based on their needs, below are industry guidelines on different speeds and what they can handle:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Internet Speed</th>
<th>Users Supported</th>
<th>Speed Summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25 Mbps</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>Basic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 Mbps</td>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 Mbps</td>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>Fast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 Mbps</td>
<td>5+</td>
<td>Very Fast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000 Mbps</td>
<td>5+</td>
<td>Gigabit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source of information -- BroadbandNow.com
## San Marcos Internet Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speed</th>
<th>At least one provider</th>
<th>At least three providers</th>
<th>At least two providers</th>
<th>Only one provider</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25/3 Mbps</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100/10 Mbps</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250/25 Mbps</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: broadbandmap.fcc.gov Area Summary for San Marcos, Texas
Service Availability

Internet Service Offerings
Speeds at or Greater than
25 / 3 Mbps

Number of Service Offerings

- 1 - 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7 - 10
- No Service Offering

Source: FCC
Data as of June 30, 2020
Geography: Census Blocks
Service Availability

Internet Service Offerings
Speeds at or Greater than
100 / 10 Mbps

Number of Service Offerings

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 - 6
- No Service Offering

Source: FCC
Data as of June 30, 2020
Geography: Census Blocks
Service Availability

Internet Service Offerings
Speeds at or Greater than 250 / 25 Mbps

Number of Service Offerings

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 - 6
- No Service Offering

Source: FCC
Data as of June 30, 2020
Geography: Census Blocks
Review other programs and initiatives

School District Initiatives

• San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District
  – AT&T free Wi-Fi hotspots to all students
  – Grande Comm. Internet First Program free to all qualifying students - $10/mo. for qualifying family’s
  – School subsidized cost

• Lockhart Independent School District
  – Partnered with third-party provider to manage and provide students free wireless point-to-point service at their homes
  – School subsidized cost
Review other programs and initiatives

Cities

• Mont Belvieu
  – Citizen Survey
  – Feasibility study
  – Initial $13+ Million bond funded
  – $75 per month fee (1gb connection)

• City of College Station
  – Council directed staff to not heavily invest City funds to build the fiber infrastructure
  – Solicited new provider to self fund and install new service
Review other programs and initiatives
Cities cont.

• City of Bryan
  – Feasibility study
  – Council voted against due to estimated $120 Million project cost
  – Solicited new provider to self fund and install new service

• City of Victoria
  – Performing a citizen survey on internet accessibility, affordability, and reliability
## Census Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>City Limit (area = square miles)</th>
<th>Median Household income</th>
<th>Poverty rate %</th>
<th>Average Household Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mont Belvieu</td>
<td>52% urban</td>
<td>7,278</td>
<td>16 sq mi</td>
<td>$94,560</td>
<td>3.82%</td>
<td>2.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of College Station</td>
<td>99% urban</td>
<td>121,663</td>
<td>51 sq mi</td>
<td>$45,820</td>
<td>29.59%</td>
<td>2.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Bryan</td>
<td>98% urban</td>
<td>89,194</td>
<td>54 sq mi</td>
<td>$45,771</td>
<td>22.76%</td>
<td>2.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Victoria</td>
<td>98% urban</td>
<td>67,078</td>
<td>37 sq mi</td>
<td>$54,192</td>
<td>17.47%</td>
<td>2.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of San Marcos</td>
<td>98% urban</td>
<td>66,952</td>
<td>34 sq mi</td>
<td>$40,370</td>
<td>32.15%</td>
<td>2.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Review other programs and initiatives

State

• Texas SB5/HB5 – 87th Legislative Session
  – Created the State Broadband Development Office
  – Financial incentives to promote and expand access to broadband in Texas
  – Award money only to commercial providers unless no commercial provider is available.
Review Other Programs and Initiatives

Federal

• Texas received $362 million for rural broadband connection
  – Two providers in Hays County received just over $1.3 Million to support 2,527 rural residents

• FCC established the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program
  – Provide qualifying households with a discount (up to $50 per month) on Internet bills and a one-time discount (up to $100) on a computer or tablet.
Review Other Programs and Initiatives

Federal

- **FCC announced Emergency Connectivity Fund**
  - Provides funding to libraries and school districts to purchase laptops and Wi-Fi hotspots; partner with San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District

- **American Rescue Plan**
  - Allows funds to be used for broadband infrastructure funding for unserved and underserved households and businesses

- **Infrastructure Plan 2021**
  - Recipients of funds must offer a low-cost affordable plan
  - Create a permanent federal program to help low-income households access the internet
Key Considerations

City Funded and Owned Broadband Utility

- Startup business in a well-established market
- Competing with local businesses/providers
  - Difficult to provide competitive rates due to more narrow service area
- Large initial capital infrastructure cost (easements, service contracts, pole attachments, underground work)
- On-going maintenance, repairs, and operational expenses:
  - Staffing & Office Space
  - Consulting services
  - 24/7 technical service and support
  - Annul Maintenance/expansion – CIP
- Limited-Service Area – City Limits
- Multi-year implementation
Alternative Options

1. Local partnerships:
   - Participate in School District’s established programs
   - Partner with local providers for infrastructure expansion in targeted areas
   - Assist local providers with qualifying for state and federal funds

2. Establish Funding Support Programs:
   - Use American Rescue Funds to assist with payment of internet bills for qualifying citizens
Council Direction Requested

• Maintain current service delivery through private providers?

• Continue to explore implementation of alternative options?
Questions?
AGENDA CAPTION:
Executive Session in accordance with:

1. Section §551.071 of the Texas Government Code: Consultation with Attorney: To receive advice of legal counsel regarding the Purchase and Sale Agreement with Pursuant Ventures Development, LLC for the San Marcos Sportsplex Project