

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT: SMALL CELL WIRELESS POLE ATTACHMENT AGREEMENT WITH
VERIZON WIRELESS LLC d/b/a VERIZON WIRELESS**

BACKGROUND:

Verizon Wireless (VAW) LLC d/b/a Verizon Wireless, Basking Ridge, New Jersey is a wireless carrier that is requesting to install, maintain, and operate wireless communications equipment on City utility poles. The equipment is known as “small cells.” **Siting of small cell wireless facilities on utility poles within public rights of way is regulated by a recently enacted Iowa State law (now incorporated into Chapter 8C of the Iowa Cell Siting Act) which gives wireless carriers certain privileges to site small cell wireless within city rights of way and on city structures.**

The City’s Electric utility maintains several thousand distribution and transmission poles. Other utilities and telecommunications providers routinely attach their cabling to these City-owned poles to deploy their infrastructure throughout the City. Verizon has indicated it would initially like to install six small cell wireless installations on Electric Services street light poles with future plans to expand that to an unknown quantity.

Verizon is primarily interested in siting these near large student and event populations (in the vicinity of ISU housing or the stadium, for example) as well as in proximity to the Ames Middle School on Mortensen Road. Other wireless companies have also expressed an interest in the same type of small cell wireless installations. The expansion of 5G wireless networks will likely drive the expansion of small cell wireless installations on poles. Other cities in Iowa are accommodating these same small cell wireless installations.

It is the preference of the wireless providers to utilize existing pole locations owned by Electric Services in lieu of City-owned structures, as there are more sites to choose from in the right of way and these sites also need electric power, which Electric Services also provides. Therefore a pole attachment agreement is necessary to govern the process for attachments to Electric Service’s poles.

POLE ATTACHMENT AGREEMENT:

The pole attachment agreement provides that during the initial network buildout, Verizon will have professional engineers licensed in the state of Iowa perform the design for the attachment applications. Due to an anticipated low volume of these applications, it is

anticipated that the applications will be reviewed by Electric Engineering staff. Poles are inspected before and after the attachment is made.

Provisions exist for the Utility to require Verizon to remove its attachments in the event that the City re-routes poles, or converts overhead infrastructure to underground. If the City receives complaints from the public regarding the condition of Verizon's wireless communications equipment on the poles, Verizon must make repairs within ten days or provide information to the City regarding when the repairs are to be made.

Exhibit 1 shows two drawing depictions of a typical installation above a street light. **If Council elects not to approve a pole attachment agreement, the Iowa Cell Siting Act permits them to install their own poles in available rights of way.** This new law precludes installations in areas zoned historic or single-family residential and limits the size and height of the installations. This agreement with Verizon generally limits the installation of these facilities to non-ornamental street light poles.

In exchange for attaching to the City's Electric poles, Verizon will pay the utility attachment fees as provided in the agreement (and to be included in the Municipal Code) for small cell wireless pole attachments. This fee is currently \$150 per pole, per year. The agreement also states that this fee can be modified annually. Verizon has signed and returned the Master Wireless Attachment Agreement to the City.

ALTERNATIVES:

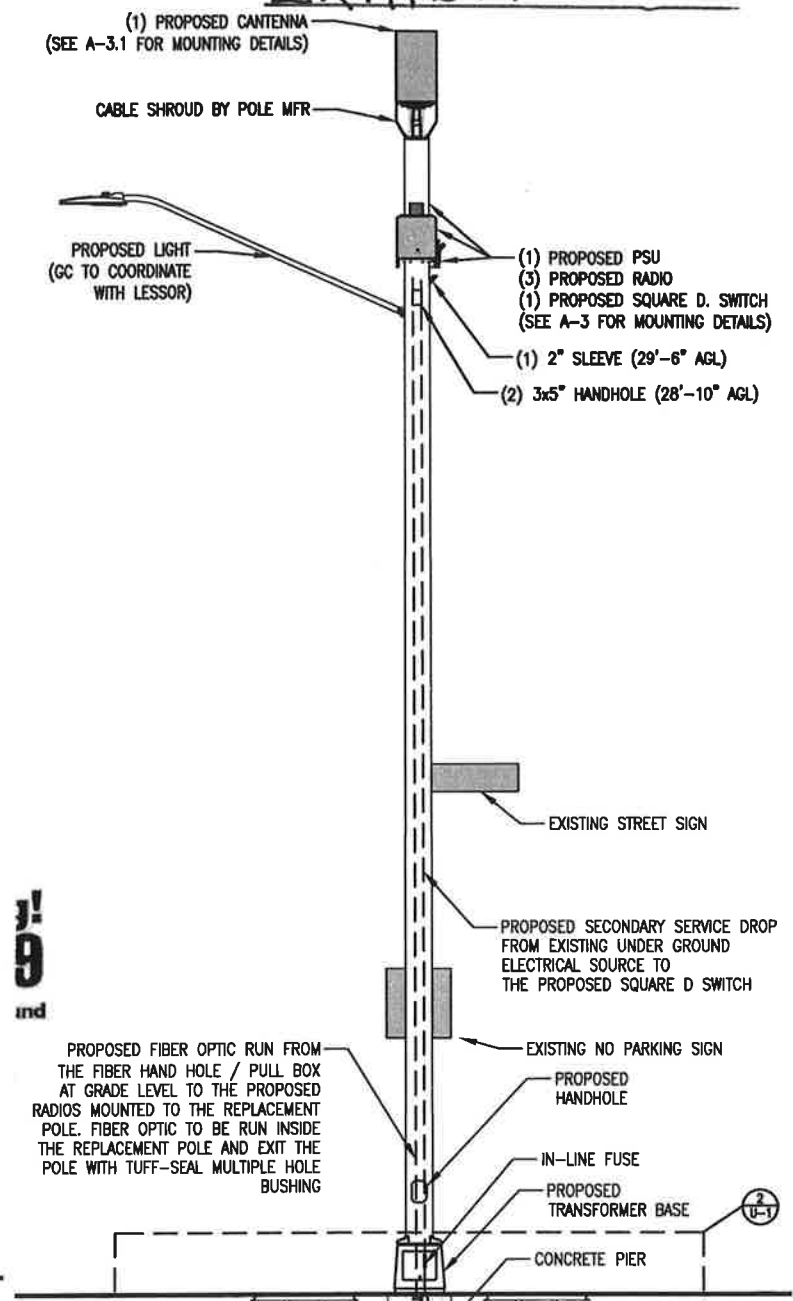
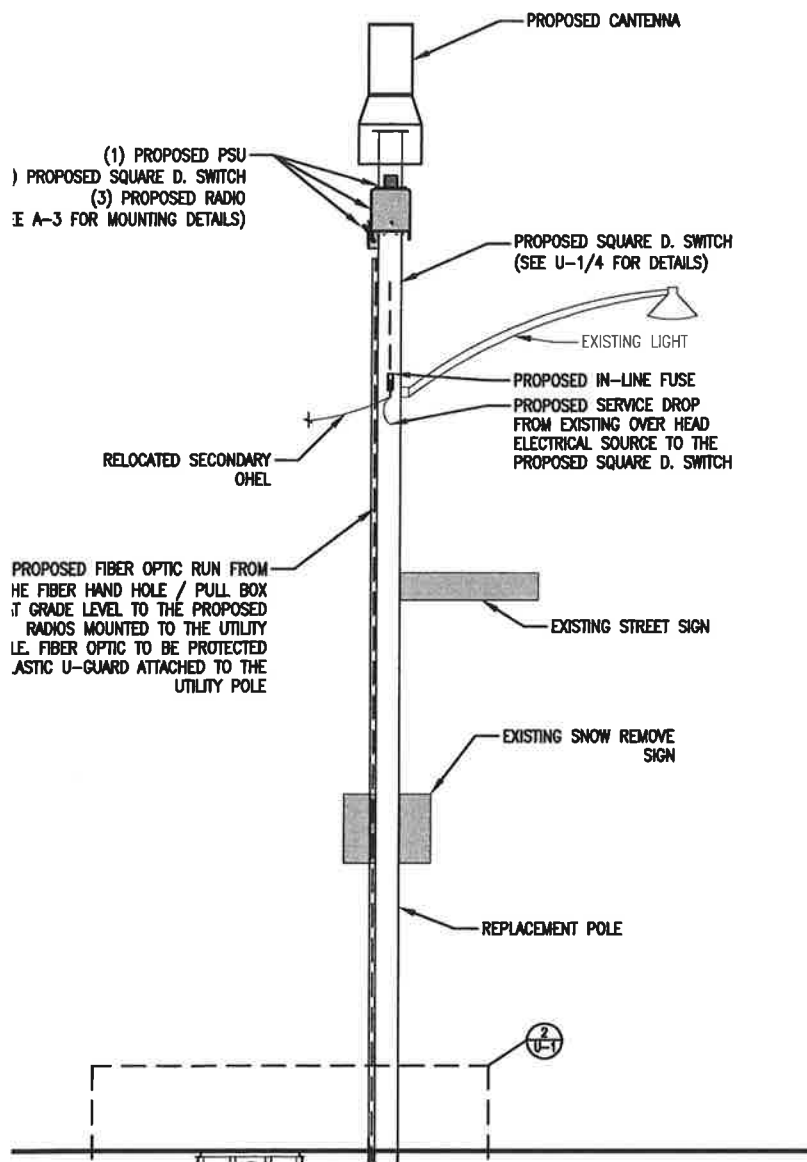
1. Approve the Master Wireless Attachment Agreement with Verizon Wireless (VAW) LLC d/b/a Verizon Wireless, Basking Ridge, New Jersey Commencing January 1, 2020 until December 31, 2025.
2. Do not approve the agreement.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

A pole attachment agreement is an important component of accommodating Verizon's proposed deployment in the community. **Such agreements exist with other telecommunications utilities in other cities, but this is the first of its kind for the City of Ames.** Approving the agreement will permit Verizon Wireless to improve its service to its customers in areas of high customer demand.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 as stated above.

EXHIBIT 1



Typical wood pole installation

Typical Steel pole installation

Small-Cell Wireless Installation on typical Poles