RESOLUTION NO. 2013

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ANACORTES CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FIBER-OPTIC-BASED INTERNET NETWORK

Whereas the City of Anacortes has constructed a fiber optic network linking the Water Treatment Plant, the Wastewater Treatment Plant, and the various pump stations and other facilities that support the water and wastewater utilities for the purpose of telemetry and control of utility systems;

Whereas the City of Anacortes has connected that telemetry fiber network to other city facilities, including City Hall;

Whereas more than 1500 residents have responded to a City survey and shown overwhelming support for the City to move forward with a municipal fiber network;

Whereas the City published a Request for Qualifications for Internet Service Providers interested in leveraging a future City-owned fiber optic network to supply Internet access to residential and commercial customers within the city;

Whereas the Federal Communications Commission has recently repealed rules requiring “net neutrality,” i.e., the principle that Internet service providers should treat all data on the Internet the same, not discriminating or charging differentially by user, content, website, platform, application, type of attached equipment, or mode of communication;

Whereas the City has accepted a $205,000 grant (Interlocal #262) from Skagit County through the Port of Skagit to support a countywide fiber optic network, wherein the Port agreed not to offer dark fiber leases or internet services west of the Swinomish Channel;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Anacortes:

Section 1. Findings. The City Council finds that:

1. Information technology generally, and internet access specifically, plays an enormous role in our community today, and its impact to how we live, work, learn, and play, will continue to grow throughout the 21st century.

2. Businesses, and some residents, have an existing need for internet access at symmetric gigabit or higher speeds.

3. Businesses, residents, and the City will have an ever-growing need for high-speed, low-latency internet access in the future, given expected technological developments, e.g., ultra-high-resolution streaming television, ultra-high-resolution medical imaging, Smart Cities Initiatives, Internet of Things, 5G wireless, and self-driving vehicles.
4. Businesses and residents currently have few options for internet access, with most options at various performance tiers available from only a single provider.

5. World-class technology infrastructure, such as fiber-optic-based internet, helps communities attract invaluable human talent and capital, economic investment; create jobs; expand educational opportunities; improve telemedicine options, advance public safety, and position the community to take advantage of future technological innovation.

6. Fiber optic networks are widely considered "future proof" because they transmit signals at the speed of light and are constrained only by the electronics that manage the system.

7. Redundancy and resiliency of a fiber network is a critical part of making the City attractive to investment and economic development.

8. Fiber optic internet access is currently provided by private entities in the City of Anacortes but is prohibitively expensive due to the high cost of deploying infrastructure and lacks a redundant loop to the Internet backbone.

9. Private investment in capital-intensive technology infrastructure tends to converge around major metropolitan areas and population centers and is unlikely to occur organically in small cities like Anacortes.

10. A City-owned fiber-optic-based network would promote competition among Internet service providers that can both provide low-cost connectivity options for those with low incomes and offer commercial and residential stakeholders connectivity options superior to existing choices.

11. There is value in public ownership of critical infrastructure and utility services, like fiber-optic-based internet.

Section 2. Objectives. In implementing the directives below, the City Council intends that the City will accomplish the following objectives:

1. Offer "future proof" fiber-optic-based internet access to City residences and businesses.

2. Increase the resiliency of fiber-optic-based internet access throughout the County.

3. Provide affordable access to fiber-optic-based internet access to City residences and businesses.

4. Improve opportunities for economic development that utilizes and requires reliable and resilient fiber-optic-based networks.

5. Improve quality of life and property values for residents that would connect to fiber-optic-based internet, especially as the need grows for higher-bandwidth internet connections.

Section 3. Directives. The City Council authorizes and directs the preparation of a business plan to implement the following:

1. Build a redundant loop of fiber-optic-based internet access for the city.

2. Build a fiber-optic-based network throughout the city capable of delivering symmetrical internet and other network services.
3. Consider lease of dark fiber to other entities and businesses that require additional capacity or resiliency.

4. Ensure net neutrality for all internet access provided by the City.

5. Track revenues and expenses for the fiber optic system on its own balance sheet.

6. Operate the fiber optic system in a self-sustaining way without unreimbursed subsidy from general fund revenues.

7. Prioritize build out of the network within the City and its urban growth area, with intent to ultimately expand to serve the remainder of Fidalgo Island.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ANACORTES on this 29th day of May, 2018.

LAURIE M. GERE, MAYOR

Approved as to form and legality:

Darcy Swetham, WSBA #40530
City Attorney

ATTEST:

Steve D. Hoglund, City Clerk/Treasurer