



SMALL TOWN, BIG BEACH™

COUNCIL AGENDA SUMMARY

DATE: March 18, 2019
TO: Mayor Craft, City Council
CC: City Administrator
FROM: Blake Phelps, Economic Development Coordinator
ISSUE: Non-Exclusive Franchise Agreement with Point Broadband, LLC

RECOMMENDATION: Approve an ordinance granting a non-exclusive franchise to Point Broadband, LLC to erect, maintain and operate a fiber optic telecommunications system to provide high-speed internet to residents and businesses in Gulf Shores.

BACKGROUND: The City Council identified the expansion of well-organized infrastructure, including fiber optic telecommunications systems, as a key strategy and priority of Vision 2025. Since that time the City has committed to work with existing providers and to attract new providers to expand fiber networks to better meet the needs of our residents and businesses. Convenient access to reliable, high-speed internet is critical to our ability to facilitate continued economic growth and enhance the quality of life in our community.

Staff has worked with Point Broadband over the last several months to draft the attached non-exclusive franchise agreement for your consideration. It is the intent of Point Broadband to focus their initial efforts on bringing fiber-to-the-home internet service to residential areas within the city. Staff will assist Point Broadband to identify existing underserved areas and emerging areas where new development is planned.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS: Annual franchise fee – 5% of gross sales

ATTACHMENTS: Non-Exclusive Franchise Agreement

STAFF CONTACTS: Blake Phelps – 251-968-1170, Mike Hawley – 251-968-1165