

**Planning Commission Minutes**  
**August 27, 2018**

1. **ROLL CALL** – Meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Mann. A quorum was present.

**PRESENT**

Gerry Harris  
Robert Mann, Chair  
Judy Horne  
Howard Carter  
Matt Hutcherson  
Bobby Wilson  
Toni Lindsey  
Jay Moore

**ABSENT**

None

**City Employees Present:** Melissa McCarville,  
City Business Manager; Rick Bramall, City  
Inspector

2. **Approval of Minutes:** July 23, 2018 Minutes were approved as written.

3. **Comments from Citizens:** No comments from citizens.

**Public Hearing:**

**4A. Telecommunication Permit located at 41 W. Main St. presented by Kayla Kramer:**

Opening comments from City staff were made by Melissa. She stated that they have met all requirements that were outlined in our Ordinance and also Federal Regulations. Judy Horne asked why there were sixteen places in the check list that said N/A. Melissa addressed her question with the answer of that it was not a necessary item or requirement per the ordinance. They have turned in everything as per the application and ordinance outline.

**Public Comment:**

Terry Swift- 73 & 81 S Hunter St: Mr. Swift addressed the Commission and stated that his mother, Jean Swift, had the option for a cell tower to be placed on the property of 81 S. Hunter. He feels that cell towers need to be placed outside the city. He went on to say later that he was concerned about property values because of the cell tower being in the backyards of these homes.

Mike Bailey- 56 Old Depot Rd: Mr. Bailey stated he would like to have more information as far as the cosmetics and health risks due to the radio frequencies and power levels that are emitted while the tower is transponding.

Nikki Watkins- 80 Church St: Mrs. Watkins expressed concerns for the property values. She stated she had talked with realtors as well as a professor of Environmental Science. The realtors that she had spoken to stated that the property values will decrease due to no one looking in an area with a cell tower in close vicinity. They have shown that 90% of people will not look at a property near a telecommunication pole. The Professor of Environmental Science stated that it will attract a lot of bird activity.

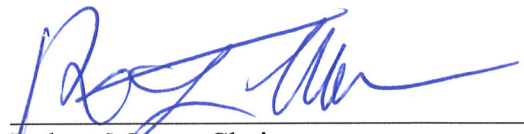
Kayla Kramer with Smith Communications tried to address some of the questions that were asked by the property owners as well as Commissioners and City employees. She started off with addressing the question of property value. She has no knowledge or backing in that field. As for the emittance of frequencies and related health risks she went on to explain that the RF Engineers will operate within the spectrum authorized by the FCC. The bird problem is not relevant in this case because the workings of the pole are inside which eliminates the possibility of birds being attracted to the pole. The ascetics of the slick stick monopole will have less of an impact of visual obstruction or appeal. The Telecommunication Act addresses a lot of these questions for safety as well as health. Gerry Harris stated that if they didn't like it that if they take it to Court it will not apply and will be overturned and a Court won't do anything about it as long as it meets the criteria. Matt Hutcherson stated that he believes that the property values will decrease and that he feels that it should be placed outside of the city. Jay Moore went on to explain that if they can sue if we turn down the application because they have followed the ordinance and the Federal Regulations. Kayla stated that if the cell tower did not meet the FCC requirements that it would not be permitted. Mrs. Harris stated that there are dead zones within the city and that the City is growing. This means we need to expand. Jay asked how many carriers that are permitted to lease the tower. Kayla replied that it has 5 leases and that two are taken by Verizon. This leaves 3 leases for other companies or growth for Verizon. She stated that it will fill quickly due to most companies wanting to expand their coverage area. Robert Mann asked if the cell tower was going to be a relay tower or another type. Kayla answered that it will help fill in the gaps of coverage as well as data. It is a transmitting station which is a relay tower. Jay addressed Kayla about the health risks of having the tower close to proximity of residential areas. Kayla stated that prolonged exposure can have effects but the direction of the signal has a lot to do with it. The FCC reserves the right to determine what the MPE (maximum permitted exposure) is. Jay countered with the question of if there were any checks and balances to make sure that followed the regulations. Kayla answered that they have monitoring and testing to make sure that they are operating within regulation. Judy asked if they had looked in other areas. It was stated that they had but the coverage would not improve the dead zones which they are trying to eliminate.

Robert Mann called the questions to approve the Telecommunication Permit as presented by Kayla Kramer. Upon roll call, the ayes were: Howard Carter, Jay Moore, Toni Lindsey, Gerry Harris, Bobby Wilson; the no's were: Judy Horne and Matt Hutcherson; absent, none. Motion passed 5-2.

**5. Adjournment:** Having no further business, meeting was adjourned.



Judy Horne - Secretary



Robert Mann - Chair