

CITY OF BURTON
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 7, 2004, 6:00 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS
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Danny Wells, Council President, called the Special Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bement, Centilli, Cross, Curtis, Isham, Martinbianco and Wells.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: J. Major, DPW Representative and G. Webster, City Clerk.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: Discussion and possible action concerning an application for a wireless communication system to co-locate on an existing transmission tower. New application WCS #04-01 by Sprint PCS, 7960 Grand River, Ste 270, Brighton , MI 48114 at a location on the north side of Davison Road between Brady's and Muffler Man.

PRESENTATION:

T. J. Garrett, Haley Law Firm, Sprint Representative, 760 Grand River, Suite 270, Brighton, MI, gave a brief history on the Sprint application. The City Council tabled the issue due to a conflict with the City ordinance. She has worked with the city attorney to determine the feasibility of locating on an existing tower on city property. That was not an option. Due to several variables, Sprint determined it was more beneficial to co-locate on an existing Consumers Energy pole. The project was referred to the Building Board of Appeals. They made a determination that Consumers Energy pole was a utility pole and Sprint was granted a variance for the right away. She said the ordinance encourages the co-location on existing structures. She provided photos of the proposed project. A small antenna would be added to the top of the tower and electrical cabinets would be added under the base of the tower. The City sites would not provide the coverage area needed. This tower has been determined to be structurally sound. However, the antenna has been designed to collapse on itself if there was a potential problem.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Pauline Dargel, 6119 Hugh St., didn't think these types of towers should be placed in residential neighborhoods. She thought the City was rather limited in these respects and didn't see anything wrong with this request.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Some Council members were concerned this might set precedence for other co-locations on utility poles in the City.

Mr. Major hoped this didn't set precedence for similar co-locations. He pointed out that this project was not in compliance with our ordinance. He thinks this belongs on a communication tower rather than an electrical pole. However, the Building Board of Appeals has acted and it was their prerogative to do that.

Ms. Garrett said the Building Board of Appeals specifically made this a variance so it did not set precedence for future interpretation. Anyone that does this in the future would have to come before Council. It is not a permitted right. She indicated that many other municipalities have recommended co-locations on utility poles. This helps elevate extra towers in the community.

Some council members did like the fact that a new structure was not being built.

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COUNCIL ACTION:

Cross moved and Isham seconded the following motion:

1. Approval of an application for a wireless communication system to co-locate on an existing transmission tower. New application WCS #04-01 by Sprint PCS, 7960 Grand River, Ste 270, Brighton , MI 48114 at a location on the north side of Davison Road between Brady's and Muffler Man.
Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:25 P.M.

Gayle Webster
Burton City Clerk

GW/cml