



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Ken Griffin, P.E., Director of Engineering and Public Works

Date: August 22, 2017

Reference: Adoption of Design Manual for Network Nodes and Node Support Poles pursuant to Chapter 284 of the Texas Local Government Code

2030: Sustainable City Government, Goal 3
Excellent and Well-maintained City Infrastructure and Facilities

General Information:

- Senate Bill (SB) 1004 adopts a new Chapter 284 of the Local Government Code.
- SB 1004 has an effective date of September 1, 2017.
- The provisions of Chapter 284 relate to installation of network nodes and node support poles in the public right-of-way.
- Local governments may designate historic districts and design districts with criteria for design or concealment.
- Chapter 284 provides for restrictions on installation of new poles in residential areas and parks, and discourages nodes in those areas
- The Design Manual establishes aesthetic standards associated with network nodes and node support poles.
- The Design District map identifies areas in the city that are subject to design, camouflage and concealment standards.
- Staff presented a work session briefing related to this item during the August 8th City Council Meeting.

Introduction:

Staff briefed the City Council on the elements of Chapter 284 of the Local Government Code during the August 8th City Council meeting. This item presents a new Design Manual as allowed in Chapter 284 to establish aesthetic criteria, attachment hierarchy and requirements, pole placement standards, and including a map that identifies historic and design districts. The effective date of Chapter 284 is September 1, 2017.

Analysis:

Senate Bill (SB) 1004 adopts a new Chapter 284 of the Texas Local Government Code. The provisions relate to installation of network nodes and poles in the public right-of-way. Companion agenda items are presented to amend the Right-of-Way Management Ordinance provisions of the city's code as well as adopt fees related to small cell applications. Key elements of Chapter 284 relate to: size limits for network nodes; restrictions on exclusive right-of-way use agreements; rates for permitting and use (nodes and poles); collocation on service poles; right-of-way access rights; construction and maintenance; location and height new poles; restrictions on installation of new poles in parks or along residential streets; design or concealment of new network nodes or new poles in a historic district or design district that contains decorative poles; cabinet size; compliance with undergrounding requirements; compliance with design manual; applications, permits and related processes; access to city-owned and other existing poles; and interference. A design manual to govern aesthetics associated with network nodes and node support poles is presented with this agenda item for approval.

The basic philosophy of the Design Manual is to achieve these goals: preserve the safe use of the public right-of-way through adoption of certain location and attachment requirements; camouflage the installation of network nodes and equipment through the designation of colors and attachment hierarchy (our preference for attachment listed in order, then requiring color matching); preserving the general aesthetic of residential and historic districts by prohibiting any new poles from being installed; and preserving the aesthetic of the public-right-of-way through the use of location preferences and color/style matching of any new support poles. Given the maturity of the public right-of-way in Coppell, and the aesthetic that has already been established (e.g. black signal and sign hardware, black cabinets, pole styles, decorative street lights, etc.), staff recommends these elements so that the right-of-way is not cluttered with new poles or ground equipment, and any new network nodes and associated equipment blends with existing streetscape elements.

A map designating the areas of the city that fall within historic districts, design districts and designated underground utility areas is also included for adoption. The city has long-required undergrounding of utilities in residential subdivisions, and has recently paid to place utilities underground along the south right-of-way of Sandy Lake Road and at the intersection of Sandy Lake and Denton Tap. These areas are identified on the proposed map, along with the Old Town/Historic District, which was also designed and developed with underground utilities.

The schedule of adoption was necessary to ensure that these design provisions are in place prior to the September 1st effective date of Chapter 284 of the Local Government Code.

Legal Review:

Staff worked with the City Attorney to draft the proposed Design Manual.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact for this item.

Recommendation:

The Engineering Department recommends approval of an Ordinance adopting the Design Manual for Installation of Network Nodes and Node Support Poles and a map designating Design Districts.