

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Howard Tipton, Town Manager

FROM: Allen Parsons, AICP,
Director, Planning, Zoning and Building Department

REPORT DATE: April 17, 2024

MEETING DATE: May 6, 2024

SUBJECT: Ordinance 2024-06, Amending Chapter 158, Zoning Code, Section 158.114, Personal Wireless Service Facility Development Standards.

Recommended Action

Adopt Ordinance 2024-06.

Background

At their April 1, 2024, Town Commission Regular Meeting, the Town Commission (Commission) held the first reading and public hearing and forwarded Ordinance 2024-06 for second reading, public hearing, and adoption. No changes were recommended or made to the ordinance.

Ordinance 2024-06 is a staff-initiated Zoning Text Amendment that was expedited to assist with accommodating limited changes associated with design requirements that are needed in order for a major telecommunications provider to install its personal wireless equipment on Town light poles in various right-of-way locations. The primary changes are to allow for ancillary equipment to be able to be located adjacent to a utility/light pole, in addition to the current allowance for such equipment to be attached to utility/light pole, and to allow for the maximum height of utility/light poles, on Gulf of Mexico Drive (only), to be an additional foot taller, at a maximum height of 36 feet, to allow for the placement of an antennae feature at the top of utility/light poles.

To address this, on behalf of the telecommunications provider, the Town is processing these limited amendments to the ancillary equipment dimensional standards applicable to personal wireless facilities mounted on existing lighting poles, in part, to enhance the safety, and welfare of the residents and visitors in the Town. The enhancement of wireless telecommunications services remains a top Town Commission priority.

Staff is of the opinion that the proposed amendments are minimal in aesthetic impact and are unlikely to be noticed by the public. And, to the extent that these minor changes are, as asserted by the major telecommunications provider, needed to enhance their cellular network coverage on the island, this would be a benefit to the public health, safety, and welfare for emergency safety connectivity alone.

The Planning & Zoning Board held a public hearing on March 26, 2024, and recommended approval (7-0) with a number of non-substantive edits that improved the

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clarity of the existing Zoning Code language. Those changes were discussed at the Town Commission's first reading on April 1, 2024, and have been incorporated into Ordinance 2024-06.

Staff Recommendation

Adopt 2024-06.

Attachment (Available in the Town Clerk's Office)

Ordinance 2024-06

End of Agenda Item