

TITLE 20

MISCELLANEOUS

CHAPTER

1. TELECOMMUNICATIONS.
2. PUBLIC TRAILS.

CHAPTER 1

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

SECTION

- 20-101. Purpose.
- 20-102. Applicable scope.
- 20-103. Definitions.
- 20-104. Municipal right-of-way use permit required.
- 20-105. Application to provide telecommunications services using the public rights-of-way.
- 20-106. Municipal right-of-way use permit issuance.
- 20-107. Petition for reconsideration.
- 20-108. Administration and enforcement.
- 20-109. Applicability.
- 20-110. Compensation to city.
- 20-111. Remitting rental fees to the city.
- 20-112. Audits.
- 20-113. Transfers.
- 20-114. Notices to the city.
- 20-115. Construction obligations.
- 20-116. Conditions of rights-of-way occupancy.
- 20-117. Insurance requirements.
- 20-118. Indemnity.
- 20-119. Privacy of customer information.
- 20-120. Annexation; deannexation.
- 20-121. Unauthorized use of public rights-of-way.

20-101. Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to establish a competitively neutral policy for usage of public rights-of-way for the provision of telecommunications services and enable the city to:

- (1) Permit nondiscriminatory access to the public rights-of-way for providers of telecommunications services; and
- (2) Manage the public rights-of-way in order to minimize the impact and cost to the citizens of the placement of telecommunications facilities within the rights-of-way; and

(3) Obtain fair and reasonable compensation for the commercial use of public rights-of-way through collection of rents; and

(4) Promote competition among telecommunications service providers and encourage the universal availability of advanced telecommunications services to all residents and businesses of the city; and

(5) Minimize the congestion, inconvenience, visual impact, and other adverse effects on the city's public rights-of-way. (1995 Code, § 20-101)

20-102. Applicable scope. This chapter applies to all telecommunications service providers under Titles II ("Title II") and VI ("Title VI") of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, (47 U.S.C. 201 et seq.), excluding services provided solely by means of wireless transmission. This chapter does not exempt providers of cable service or open video systems service from the requirements of Title VI and applicable FCC rules and regulations. Any requirements and obligations imposed by this chapter are in addition to any requirements imposed by Title VI or state law and regulation on such providers. (1995 Code, § 20-102)

20-103. Definitions. (1) "Applicant." Any person who files an application with the city, under § 20-105 (Application to provide telecommunications service) of this chapter, in order to obtain the necessary permission to use the public rights-of-way to provide telecommunications services within the city, whether by means of the person's own facilities or by means of capacity obtained from another provider of telecommunications services.

(2) "Chief administrative officer." For purposes of this chapter, the Chief Administrative Officer of the City of Tusculum shall be the mayor unless the board of mayor and commissioners designates another individual to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the chief administrative officer. The chief administrative officer shall also mean the person under the chief administrative officer's management and control designated by the chief administrative officer to administer the provisions of this chapter.

(3) "City." The City of Tusculum, Tennessee, the present municipal corporation, together with any future annexation made pursuant to law.

(4) "City requirements." All laws, rules, regulations, policies and directives of general application of the City of Tusculum, in effect at present or to be adopted in the future by the city.

(5) "Gross revenue." All revenues received by a provider for telecommunications services furnished within the city. However, revenues received for use of network capacity, switched or unswitched access, and sale of unbundled elements under 47 U.S.C. 251 (b) and (c) from resellers of telecommunications services who are in compliance with this chapter are not included. Gross revenue does not include revenue uncollectible from customers ("bad debt") and any end user taxes collected from customers.

(6) "Municipal right-of-way use permit" or "municipal permit." The right granted by the city to use public rights-of-way to provide telecommunications services within the city to the public or to other providers, as specified by the terms of this chapter.

(7) "Person." Any person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company or organization of any kind.

(8) "Provider." A person who has been granted a certificate of need by the Tennessee Regulatory Authority and/or who operates or uses a telecommunications network within the city to provide telecommunications services, and who falls under the definition of § 20-102 (applicable scope) of this chapter.

(9) "Public rights-of-way." The surface, the air space above the surface, and the area below the surface of any public street, highway, lane, path, alley, sidewalk, boulevard, drive, bridge, tunnel, easement or similar property in which the city holds any property interest or exercises any rights of management or control over and which, consistent with the purposes for which it was acquired or dedicated, may be used for the installation and maintenance of a telecommunications network.

(10) "Telecommunications network" or "network." All facilities placed in the public rights-of-way and used to provide telecommunications services.

(11) "Telecommunications services." All transmissions between or among points specified by the user, of information of the user's choosing (whether voice, video or data), without change in content of the information as sent and received, where such transmissions are accomplished through a telecommunications network. Telecommunications services include all ancillary or adjunct switching services and signal conversions rendered as a function of underlying transmission services, but excludes long distance transmissions (inter-LATA and intra-LATA toll transmissions). Telecommunications services include all services provided. Telecommunications services also include all content or value-added services rendered in conjunction with transmission services. (1995 Code, § 20-103)

20-104. Municipal right-of-way use permit required. (1) A person may not deliver telecommunications services in the city by means of a network unless the person obtains a municipal right-of-way use permit.

(2) The use of public rights-of-way for the delivery of any service not covered by this chapter is subject to all other applicable city requirements. (1995 Code, § 20-104)

20-105. Application to provide telecommunications services using the public rights-of-way. (1) Any person proposing to provide telecommunications services by means of a telecommunications network located within the public rights-of-way ("applicant") shall submit an application to the chief administrative officer. The application, in a form to be prescribed by the

chief administrative officer, shall describe all services the applicant wishes to provide, outline applicant's proposed network, and identify the uses of and potential impact on the public rights-of-way.

(2) The chief administrative officer shall have the duty to review applications submitted under this chapter and administer the provisions of this chapter regarding the granting or denial of a municipal right-of-way use permit to applicants. The chief administrative officer shall issue municipal right-of-way use permits, and shall administer and enforce compliance with respect to all municipal right-of-way use permits granted under this chapter. The chief administrative officer shall submit a report annually to the board of mayor and commissioners analyzing whether any requirements imposed by each section of this chapter result in (a) anticompetitive effects in the market for telecommunications services in the city, as defined by federal law, and/or (b) discrimination in favor of or against a holder of a certificate of need under state law. (1995 Code, § 20-105)

20-106. Municipal right-of-way use permit issuance. (1) If the chief administrative officer finds that the application meets the requirements of this chapter, the chief administrative officer shall cause to be prepared a municipal right-of-way use permit for issuance to the applicant.

(2) The chief administrative officer shall complete all deliberations towards issuing a municipal right-of-way use permit, and shall issue the permit or a written denial within sixty (60) days of the receipt of an application. The applicant shall respond to all reasonable information requests of the chief administrative officer during this consideration period. Any delays in providing such information shall be documented in writing by the chief administrative officer, who may cite any delays or refusals in obtaining information from an applicant as grounds for denial of a permit. (1995 Code, § 20-106)

20-107. Petition for reconsideration. The act of granting, denying or terminating a municipal right-of-way use permit is an exercise of the police power of the city. A person whose application for a municipal right-of-way use permit is denied must petition the board of mayor and commissioners for reconsideration before seeking judicial remedies, and must file such a petition within forty-five (45) days of the written denial of such application by the chief administrative officer. A petition is considered denied if the board of mayor and commissioners does not act within forty-five (45) days after the petition is filed with the recorder. (1995 Code, § 20-107)

20-108. Administration and enforcement. (1) The chief administrative officer shall administer this chapter and enforce compliance with a municipal right-of-way use permit granted under this chapter.

(2) A provider shall report information that the chief administrative officer requires in the form and manner prescribed by the chief administrative

officer relating to the use of public rights-of-way for the right-of-way occupancy authorized by a municipal right-of-way use permit granted under this chapter.

(3) The chief administrative officer shall report to the board of mayor and commissioners the chief administrative officer's determination that a provider has failed to comply with this chapter. (1995 Code, § 20-108)

20-109. Applicability. (1) Sections 20-115 (Construction), 20-116 (ROW Occupancy), and 20-117 (Insurance) of this chapter apply only to a provider that owns or controls physical facilities in the rights-of-way.

(2) Section 20-118 (Indemnity) of this chapter applies to a provider that has a property interest in a network. (1995 Code, § 20-109)

20-110. Compensation to city. (1) To compensate the city for the use and occupancy of the public rights-of-way, a provider shall pay a municipal right-of-way rental fee calculated as follows:

(a) Rights-of-way rental fee. Each provider shall be subject to a five percent (5%) annual fee based on gross revenue obtained from the provision of telecommunications services within the city.

(b) Non-monetary consideration. To the extent allowed by state and federal law, the city may include non-monetary consideration from each provider. To the extent not expressly prohibited by applicable law, a provider may agree to furnish to the city non-monetary consideration in the form of telecommunications services, network capacity, conduit, or other infrastructure, valued at the provider's direct cost. The chief administrative officer shall apply a credit or an offset for any non-monetary consideration received to the annual right-of-way rental fee. The chief administrative officer shall publicly disclose the form of non-monetary consideration and the credit amount.

(c) Credit for cable television franchise fees and other contributions. Any telecommunications provider who is currently franchised by the city under state and federal law and regulations to provide cable television service shall receive a credit against the annual rights-of-way rental fee for any cable television franchise fees paid to the city, and any other monetary or non-monetary contributions to the city under a cable franchise agreement.

(2) A provider may pass through to customers the municipal right-of-way rental fee on a pro rata basis, at its discretion, as permitted by state and federal law. The city does not require or recommend a pass-through charge of the fee on a per line or per customer basis. (1995 Code, § 20-110)

20-111. Remitting rental fees to the city. A provider shall remit the municipal right-of-way rental fee on a quarterly basis. Payment shall be made on or before the 45th day following the close of each calendar quarter for which the payment is calculated. (1995 Code, § 20-111)

20-112. Audits. (1) On thirty (30) days notice to a provider, the city may audit a provider at any time. The provider shall furnish information to demonstrate its compliance with the municipal right-of-way use permit.

(2) A provider shall keep complete and accurate books of accounts and records of business and operations in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for a period of five (5) years. If the Federal Communications Commission requires, a provider shall use the system of accounts and the forms of books, accounts, records, and memoranda prescribed in 47 CFR part 32 or its successor. The city may examine the provider's books and records.

(3) A provider shall make available to the city, for the city to examine, audit, review and copy, in the city's offices, upon the chief administrative officer's reasonable written request, its books and records including papers, books, accounts, documents, maps, plans and other provider records pertaining to a municipal right-of-way use permit granted under this chapter. A provider shall fully cooperate in making records available and otherwise assist the city examiner. The city examiner shall not make copies of customer specific information. (1995 Code, § 20-112)

20-113. Transfers. (1) A provider may not transfer a municipal right-of-way use permit unless the chief administrative officer approves the transfer in writing.

(2) A change in control of a provider is a transfer requiring chief administrative officer approval. A change of twenty-five percent (25%) or greater in the ownership of the provider establishes a rebuttable presumption of a change in control.

(3) If a provider attempts to transfer or transfers the provider's municipal right-of-way use permit without approval of the chief administrative officer, the chief administrative officer may revoke the municipal right-of-way use permit. If a municipal right-of-way permit is revoked, all rights of the provider under the municipal right-of-way use permit end.

(4) A provider may transfer, without the chief administrative officer's approval, the facilities in the rights-of-way under a municipal right-of-way use permit to the provider's affiliate or to another provider who has a municipal right-of-way use permit under this chapter. The provider transferring the facilities remains subject to all applicable obligations and provisions of the municipal right-of-way use permit unless the provider to which the facilities are transferred is also subject to these applicable and provisions.

(5) The chief administrative officer must act on a request for transfer of a municipal right-of-way permit within ninety (90) days of receipt of the request from the provider. Any request for a transfer of a municipal right-of-way permit not acted upon within ninety (90) days shall be deemed to have been approved. (1995 Code, § 20-113)

20-114. Notices to the city. (1) A provider shall notify the chief administrative officer in writing contemporaneously with the transmittal of all petitions, applications, written communications and reports submitted by the provider, to the Federal Communications Commission and the Tennessee Regulatory Authority, or their successor agencies relating to matters affecting both the use of public rights-of-way and the telecommunications services authorized by a municipal permit granted under this chapter. A provider shall furnish the chief administrative officer copies of the documents upon request.

(2) If a provider notifies the city of the confidential nature of information, the chief administrative officer shall maintain the confidentiality of the information to the extent permitted by law. Upon receipt in the chief administrative officer's office of requests for confidential information the city shall notify the affected providers of the request by facsimile transmission. (1995 Code, § 20-114)

20-115. Construction obligations. (1) A provider is subject to the police powers of the city, other governmental powers, and the city's rights as a property owner under state and federal laws. A provider is subject to city requirements and federal and state rules in connection with the construction, expansion, reconstruction, maintenance or repair of facilities in the public rights-of-way.

(2) A provider shall place certain facilities underground according to applicable city requirements.

(3) At the city's request, a provider shall furnish the city accurate and complete information relating to the construction, reconstruction, removal, maintenance, operation and repair of facilities performed by the provider in the public rights-of-way. If any information furnished is erroneous as to the location of facilities, and reliance on this information results in construction delays or additional expenses, the provider who furnished the erroneous information shall be liable for the cost of delays and the additional expenses.

(4) The construction, expansion, reconstruction, excavation, use, maintenance and operation of a provider's facilities and property are subject to applicable city requirements.

(a) A provider shall perform excavations and other construction in the public rights-of-way in accordance with all applicable city requirements, including the obligation to use trenchless technology whenever possible. The planning commission may waive the requirement of trenchless technology if it is determined that field conditions warrant the waiver. A provider shall minimize interference with the use of public and private property and shall follow the construction directions given by the city.

(b) When a provider completes construction work, a provider shall promptly restore the public rights-of-way in accordance with applicable city requirements. A provider may excavate only for the

construction, installation, expansion, repair, removal and maintenance of the provider's facilities.

(c) The city may require a provider to allow attachment of another provider's facilities to its poles and conduits, in accordance with the city charter, state and federal law.

(d) A provider shall furnish the planning commission and the chief administrative officer with construction plans and maps showing the routing of new construction at least forty-five (45) days before beginning construction that involves an alteration to the surface or subsurface of the public right-of-way. A provider may not begin construction until the plans and drawings have been approved in writing by the planning commission.

(e) If the chief administrative officer declares an emergency and requests the removal or abatement of facilities, by written notice, a provider shall remove or abate the provider's facilities by the deadline provided in the chief administrative officer's request. A provider and the city shall cooperate to the extent possible to assure continuity of service. If a provider, after notice, fails or refuses to act, the city may remove or abate the facility, at the sole costs and expense of the provider, without paying compensation to the provider and without the city incurring liability for damages.

(f) Except in an emergency, a provider may not excavate the pavement of a street or public right-of-way without first complying with city requirements.

(g) Within one hundred twenty (120) days of completion of each new segment of a provider's facilities, a provider shall supply the city with a complete set of "as built" drawings for the segment in a formal prescribed by the planning commission. A provider must obtain the city's approval before relocating the provider's facilities in the public rights-of-way. The city may not unreasonably withhold approval. A provider shall furnish a revised map including additional facilities on June 30 of each year to the planning commission showing how these facilities connect to existing facilities. (1995 Code, § 20-115)

20-116. Conditions of rights-of-way occupancy. (1) In the exercise of governmental functions, the city has first priority over all other uses of the public rights-of-way. The city reserves the right to lay sewer, gas, water, and other pipe lines or cables and conduits, and to do underground and overhead work, and attachment, restructuring or changes in aerial facilities in, across, along, over or under a public street, alley or right-of-way occupied by a provider, and to change the curb, sidewalks or the grade of streets.

(2) In case of conflict or interference between the facilities of different providers, the provider whose facilities were first permitted shall have priority over a competing provider's use of the public rights-of-way.

(3) If, during the term of a municipal permit, the city authorizes abutting landowners to occupy space under the surface of any public street, alley, or rights-of-way, the grant to an abutting landowner shall be subject to the rights of the provider. If the city closes or abandons a public right-of-way that contains a portion of a provider's facilities, the city shall convey the land in the closed or abandoned public rights of-way subject to the rights granted in the municipal permit.

(4) If the city gives written notice, a provider shall, at the provider's expense, temporarily or permanently, remove, relocate, change or alter the position of provider's facilities that are in the public rights-of-way within one hundred twenty (120) days. The city shall give notice whenever the city has determined that removal, relocation, change or alteration is reasonably necessary for the construction, operation, repair, maintenance or installation of a city or other governmental entity's public improvement in the public rights-of-way. This section shall not be construed to prevent a provider's recovery of the cost of relocation or removal from private third parties who initiate the request for relocation or removal.

(5) A provider who holds a municipal permit may trim trees in or over the rights-of-way for the safe and reliable operation, use and maintenance of its network. All tree trimmings shall be performed in accordance with standards promulgated by the city. When ordered by the planning commission, tree trimmings shall be done under the supervision of the city.

(6) Providers shall temporarily remove, raise or lower its aerial facilities to permit the moving of houses or other bulky structures, if the city gives written notice of no less than forty-eight (48) hours. The expense of this temporary rearrangement shall be paid by the party or parties requesting and benefitting from the temporary rearrangement. Provider may require prepayment or prior posting of a bond from the party requesting the temporary move. (1995 Code, § 20-116)

20-117. Insurance requirements. (1) A provider shall obtain and maintain insurance in the amounts prescribed by the chief administrative officer with an insurance company licensed to do business in the State of Tennessee acceptable to the chief administrative officer throughout the term of a municipal permit granted under this chapter. A provider shall furnish the city with proof of insurance at the time of issuance of a municipal permit. The city reserves the right to review the insurance requirements while a municipal permit is in effect, and to reasonably adjust insurance coverage and limits when the chief administrative officer determines that change in statutory law, court decisions, or the claims history of the industry or the provider require adjustment of the coverage. For purposes of this section, the city will accept certificates of self-insurance issued by the State of Tennessee providing the same coverage.

(2) The chief administrative officer may, on request and at no cost to the city, receive copies of certificates of insurance evidencing the coverage

required by this section. The chief administrative officer may request the deletion, revision or modification of particular policy terms, conditions, limitations or exclusions, unless the policy provisions are established by a law or regulation binding the city, the provider, or the underwriter. If the chief administrative officer requests a deletion, revision or modification, a provider shall exercise reasonable efforts to pay for and to accomplish the change.

An insurance certificate shall contain the following required provisions:

(a) Name the city and its officers, employees, board members and elected representatives as additional insurers for all applicable coverage;

(b) Provide for thirty (30) days notice to the city for cancellation, non-renewal, or material change;

(c) Provide that notice of claims shall be provided to the chief administrative officer by certified mail; and

(d) Provide that the terms of the municipal permit which impose obligations on the provider concerning liability, duty, and standard of care, including the indemnity section, are included in the policy and that the risks are insured within the policy terms and conditions.

(3) A provider shall file and maintain proof of insurance with the chief administrative officer during the term of a municipal permit. An insurance certificate obtained in compliance with this section is subject to city approval. The city may require the certificate to be changed to reflect changing liability limits. A provider shall immediately advise the city of actual or potential litigation that may develop that would affect insurance coverage related to a municipal permit.

(4) An insurer has no right of recovery against the city. The required insurance policies shall protect the provider and the city. The insurance shall be primary coverage for losses covered by the policies.

(5) The policy clause "other insurance" shall not apply to the city where the city is an insured under the policy.

(6) The provider shall pay premiums and assessments. A company which issues an insurance policy has no recourse against the city for payment of a premium or assessment. Insurance policies obtained by a provider must provide that the issuing company waives all right of recovery by way of subrogation against the city in connection with damages covered by the policy. (1995 Code, § 20-117)

20-118. Indemnity. (1) During the term of a municipal permit, a provider is liable for the acts or omissions of an entity used by the provider, including but not limited to an affiliate, when the entity is involved directly or indirectly in the construction and installation of the provider's facilities. The acts or omissions of the entity shall be considered the acts or omissions of the provider.

(2) Each provider granted a municipal permit under this chapter shall provide to the chief administrative officer, in writing, a statement that the provider agrees to defend, indemnify and hold the city harmless against all damages, cost, loss or expenses arising out of, incident to, concerning or resulting from the negligence or willful misconduct of the provider, its agents, employees, or subcontractors, in the performance of activities under the municipal permit:

(a) For the repair, replacement, or restoration of city property, equipment materials, structures and facilities which are damaged, destroyed or found to be defective; and

(b) Against any and all claims, demands, suits, causes of action, and judgments for:

(i) Damage to or loss of the property of any person including, but not limited to the provider, its agents, officers, employees and subcontractors; the city's agents, officers and employees, and third parties; and

(ii) Death, bodily injury, illness, disease, worker's compensation, loss of services, or loss of income or wages to any person including but not limited to the agents, officers and employees of the provider, the provider's subcontractors, the city, and third parties, no matter how, or to whom, the loss may occur.

(3) The chief administrative officer shall give prompt written notice to a provider of any claim for which the city seeks indemnification. The provider shall have the right to investigate, defend and compromise these claims subject to the city's prior approval. (1995 Code, § 20-118)

20-119. Privacy of customer information. A provider shall comply with state and federal law regarding privacy of customer information. (1995 Code, § 20-119)

20-120. Annexation; deannexation. Within thirty (30) days following the date of passage of any action affecting any deannexation or annexation, the chief administrative officer shall notify providers of this action by furnishing to the providers maps of the affected area(s), showing the new boundaries of the city. (1995 Code, § 20-120)

20-121. Unauthorized use of public rights-of-way. (1) A person commits an offense if a person uses the public rights-of-way to provide a telecommunications service without first securing a municipal permit from the city.

(2) Each unauthorized use of the public rights-of-way and each unauthorized placement of facilities constitutes a separate offense. Each day a violation of this chapter occurs shall constitute a distinct and separate offense.

(3) An offense under this subsection is punishable by a fine of five hundred dollars (\$500.00). (1995 Code, § 20-121)

CHAPTER 2

PUBLIC TRAILS

SECTION

20-201. Skateboards, in-line skates, or scooters prohibited.

20-202. Animals prohibited; exceptions.

20-203. Motorized vehicles and other equipment prohibited.

20-201. Skateboards, in-line skates, or scooters prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any person to use a skateboard, in-line skates, or scooters on the Linear Park Trail or other trails as so designated by the city commission. (1995 Code, § 20-201)

20-202. Animals prohibited; exceptions. It shall be unlawful to bring an animal onto the Linear Park Trail or other trails as so designated by the city commission, with the following exceptions:

(1) If such animal is used to assist those who may be sight impaired.

(2) Dogs who are on a short leash and are controlled at all times by their owners shall be allowed on the Tusculum Linear Trail only from a point on the east side of the pedestrian bridge which crosses the Tusculum ByPass to the east end of the trail (that portion of the Linear Trail between the two (2) trail parking lots on Edens Road). Trail signage will indicate these boundaries. Dog owners shall be responsible for immediately and properly disposing of their dog's solid waste deposited on or near the Linear Trail. (1995 Code, § 20-202, as replaced by Ord. #18-03, July 2018 *Ch2_7-27-20*)

20-203. Motorized vehicles and other equipment prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or cause to be operated any motorized vehicle, construction or farm equipment upon or across the Tusculum Linear Trail or other trails, sidewalks, streets, or other areas so designated by the city commission, except at locations designated as crossing areas. (Ord. #06-3, Oct. 2006)