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# Scottsdale delays Google Fiber resolution for license amid uncertainty

Oct 7, 2015, 2:09pm MST **Updated: Oct 9, 2015, 10:38am MST**

Scottsdale is being cautious about rolling out a red carpet for Google Fiber, removing a proposed resolution to grant Google a “video services” license from the Oct. 6 City Council meeting.

The agenda cited Resolution No. 10217 removed by “request of staff” and has been moved to a meeting on Oct. 20, according to the city.

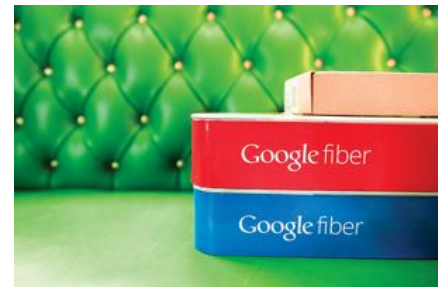
The item was postponed until a meeting later this month so Scottsdale city staff could meet with Cox Communications and get a sense of what brought about that company’s lawsuit against the city of Tempe regarding its approval of a deal with Google under the video services description.

Cox, in its lawsuit, accuses Tempe of creating a new license category that violates state and federal law.

Due to the contested legality of granting Google Fiber a video services license, which it requested from Scottsdale, city staff said debating the issue was not in the best interests of the city.

“The city believes these questions will more likely be resolved more definitively in the future by the Federal Communications Commission or a similar authority,” said Chief Information Officer Brad Hartig in a statement.

Hartig said the city is not familiar with all of the details of the Tempe case, but that it feels there are significant differences between how the two cities approached the issue.



JULIE DENESHA

Boxes of equipment needed to install Google Fiber broadband network. Photographer: Julie Denesha/Bloomberg

“We did keep in mind a desire to be fair to all providers and believe that if Google ultimately decides to begin service, there will be a fair opportunity for both existing and potential future competitive providers,” said Hartig.

Cox Communications released its own statement on the issue, stating it is disappointed that Google Fiber is pushing for a new type of license that violates state and federal law.

Susan Anable, Cox vice president of public affairs for the Southwest, said, “We are optimistic that the city of Scottsdale will take the same approach the city of Phoenix did, and license Google Fiber in compliance with federal and state law, just like the other cable providers that currently serve the Phoenix metro area.”

While public sentiment for Google Fiber remains high, it is uncertain if the Internet giant will even bring its high-speed service to the Valley.

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