



Date: August 20, 2021  
 To: Columbus City Council  
 From: Ben Gutknecht, City Associate Planner  
 Subject: Muddy Paws Conditional Use Permit Staff Report  
 Amendment

Upon review of the July 28, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes in tandem with amending the Muddy Paws Conditional Use Permit Staff report, it was noted that an entire Finding of Fact was unintentionally struck.

Finding of Fact number 20 currently reads as follows:

~~“20. The applicant has requested to continue the use of the private well exclusively for the geothermal system. Additionally, the applicant requests 36 months to hook up to public sewer and septic.”~~

The motion made and approved by the City Council struck the entire Finding of Fact. However, upon listening to the recording of the Council Meeting, the conversation clearly indicated intent to strike the reference to the language “the applicant requests 36 months to hook up to public sewer and septic”.

While Findings of Facts are guiding and not a condition of approval, staff believe this to be an important correction due to the fact that it pertains to a key component of infrastructure for the property owner and business. Further, the owner requested that it be allowed to be continued for the geothermal infrastructure, and this request is not reflected in any portion of the Staff Report. Therefore, staff believe it important to be noted for the record.

Staff recommends that Finding of Fact number 20 be amended to strike only the portion pertaining to the utility hook-up timeline. The Finding of Fact would read as follows:

~~“20. The applicant has requested to continue the use of the private well exclusively for the geothermal system. Additionally, the applicant requests 36 months to hook up to public sewer and septic.”~~

Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions,

Ben Gutknecht  
 Associate Planner

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# Memo

**To:** Columbus City Council Members  
**From:** Janet Hegland  
**CC:** Elizabeth Mursko, City Administrator  
 Ben Gutknecht, Associate Planner  
**Date:** 7/28/2021  
**Re:** Broadband Expansion Update

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At the May 26, 2021 Columbus City Council meeting an Executive Summary of the Internet Survey results was presented and accepted by the Council. At that meeting we agreed that next steps would be brought to the Council for approval as the process moves forward. We plan to have next steps ready for approval at the August 11, 2021 Council Meeting. A brief update of activity to date is provided below.

1. There have been multiple figures published as to the amount of ARPA funding the City of Columbus will receive. Most of this funding will be used on broadband expansion, so next steps are predicated on knowing that number. Elizabeth can provide an update on whether we have a final figure.
2. We were previously notified by County Commissioner Reinert that the County passed a resolution, in response to our letter, allocating a matching amount of funds from Anoka County ARPA funding to cities using their city's ARPA funds for broadband expansion. The amount Commissioner Reinert communicated allocated for Columbus was \$150,000/year for 2 years, for a total of \$300,000. Since Commissioner Reinert's communication, Elizabeth received further communication from the County that the County would be providing matching to Columbus up to \$150,000. She was seeking clarification on whether this was an annual amount or a total and can provide an update on this issue.
3. We reached out to Comcast at the suggestion of the DEED Office of Broadband, since Comcast provides high speed internet in Lino Lakes and may be able to expand their broadband capabilities into Columbus. Comcast provided a proposal to extend their broadband services on the south end of the city but a large portion of the area they indicated an interest in expanding is already served by another provider. Without those parcels, Comcast could not financially expand beyond their current area. This illustrates one of the difficulties we have encountered with trying to solve our broadband problem, the maps that are available to show where broadband currently exists are not accurate and even the providers don't know what areas are served unless they happen to have infrastructure in that area.
4. We have had multiple meetings with Midco representatives, who have been extremely responsive and helpful in our planning. The following summarizes those meetings:
  - Vassar and 191<sup>st</sup> update (an extension from last year's expansion): they are waiting on a few nodes to be installed and activated, all other work is complete. The nodes will likely be installed before the end of August. Midco will keep Elizabeth updated so she can keep residents apprised.
  - Elizabeth asked if the city could work with Midco marketing to ensure residents were informed about options to connect to high-speed internet. We found through our survey that some

residents indicated that they didn't think they had access to high-speed internet when in fact they do. Midco marketing team is happy to get some social media posts out and were open to doing mailings to neighborhoods where we felt there was confusion. They also said they would attend any city sponsored functions such as Fall Fest or Recycling Day, to help keeps our residents updated at to where they have service available. Elizabeth has provided Midco with addresses so they could mail information to those areas.

- We have been told that Midco's construction team will need to know by the end of August as to our plan to get our community on their construction schedule.
5. We are still waiting to hear back from CenturyLink on their ability to update select neighborhoods. Elizabeth has provided them with the neighborhoods several times. I will email them after tonight's meeting to alert them to our intent to act at our next Council meeting.
  6. We will get the executive summary of the internet survey and this update posted on the City website and emailed to those residents who have opted-in to city updates via email.

## City of Columbus Calendar of Meetings

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### August & September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
22	23	24 <b>5:30 pm Park Board Mtg</b>	25 <b>4:00 pm CC Workshop 7:00 pm CC Mtg.</b>	26	27	28
29	30	31	1 September  <b>7:00 pm PC &amp; CC Joint Mtg.</b>	2	3	4
5	6	7	8  <b>4:00 pm CC Workshop 7:00 pm CC Mtg.</b>	9	10	11

**Note: New Workshop Schedule Starting in September 2021**

**2021 Workshop Calendar (Revised)**  
**09-14-2021 5:30 pm (Budget Meeting)**  
**10-05-2021 5:30 pm**  
**11-09-2021 5:30 pm**  
**12-07-2021 5:30 pm**