

## City Council – Action Request Form

**Date:** October 11, 2021

---

**To:** Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

---

**From:** Aaron King, Interim Assistant City Manager  
Courtney Driver, City/County Utilities Director

**Council Action Requested:**  
Resolution Approving a Long-Term Lease Agreement between the City of Winston-Salem (and Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Utilities) and Forsyth County for Space on the Jointly Owned City-County Radio Tower Located off Amp Drive (Forsyth County)

**Strategic Focus Area:** Healthy Environment  
**Strategic Objective:** Manage Water Quality and Quantity  
**Strategic Plan Action Item:** No  
**Key Work Item:** Yes



**Summary of Information:**  
 In November 2000, the citizens of Winston-Salem approved an \$11.5 million bond referendum to fund the City’s share of the cost of a new joint City-County 800 MHz public safety radio system. In June 2002, the City and County approved an inter-local cooperation agreement that provided for the joint installation, operation, and maintenance of the system. The County’s Interagency Communications Department oversees the operation and maintenance of the system.

The City of Winston-Salem, along with Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Utilities (WSFC Utilities) has requested to use space on the Amp Drive radio tower for the limited purpose of installing an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system base station.

WSFC Utilities is implementing a fully automated, two-way fixed-base AMI system. The project includes installations of approximately 130,000 upgraded water meters and radio endpoints.

**Committee Action:**

<b>Committee</b>	Finance 10/11/21	<b>Action</b>	Approval
<b>For</b>	Unanimous	<b>Against</b>	

**Remarks:**

WSFC Utilities will be installing radio base stations throughout the County, which will be used to communicate between customer water meters and WSFC Utilities Billing Office.

The upgrade will benefit citizens of both Winston-Salem and the remainder of Forsyth County by providing real-time meter readings, system-wide water pressure monitoring, as well as a customer engagement portal to provide water consumption and billing information, and notifications regarding high consumption and potential leaks.

The City and WSFC Utilities will enter into a lease agreement with Forsyth County for \$5,000 per year, with an annual increase in the same amount as the Consumer Price Index during the preceding lease year. The term of this lease would be for 20 years. Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 160A-272(a1), lease agreements longer than one year require 30-days public notice prior to the approval of a resolution authorizing a lease agreement by the City Council of the City of Winston-Salem, and a public notice for this requested lease was issued on August 31, 2021. The Forsyth County Board of Commissioners approved the new lease on August 19, 2021. The attached resolution provides the City's approval of the new lease of space on the tower.