

## City Council – Action Request Form

**Date:** December 13, 2021

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

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

**Council Action Requested:**

Resolution Approving Four Long-Term Lease Agreements between the City of Winston-Salem (and Forsyth County) and the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Utility Commission for Space on the Jointly Owned City-County Radio Towers Located off of Fairlawn Drive, Salem Road, Shallowford Road, and Palmer Lane (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 radio towers located off of Fairlawn Drive, Salem Road, Shallowford Road, and Palmer Lane for the limited purpose of installing Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system base stations.

Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Utilities (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 12/13/21	<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 the 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 four lease agreements with Forsyth County for \$5,000 per year for each location, with an annual increase in the same amount as the Consumer Price Index during the preceding lease year. The term for these leases will be 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. A public notice for these requested leases was issued on October 14, 2021 for 30 days and no comments were received. The Forsyth County Board of Commissioners is set to vote on the resolution in February of 2022. The attached resolution provides the City's approval of the new leases of space on the specified towers.