

Ryan Harriman

From: Sarah Fletcher <fletchsa1@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 13, 2024 9:11 AM
To: Alaine Sommargren; Ryan Harriman
Subject: File No. 23-002 & SEP23-020

Hello, I would like my comments on the record. Medina residents complained as they did not want cells in their parks. I don't know why Mercer Island also can't bring in the same ban. See below:

[Petition · Tell the City of Medina: Right a Wrong -- Don't Cell Our Park · Change.org](#)

Before the City permits these smart meters, were homeowners even asked whether they wanted them or not? And if so, what percentage opted for them versus against them? And if people opted to not want them, then the City would not need to install water meter data collection equipment therefore, they would not be "essential" and certainly not "essential public facilities".

And what would happen if the Parks Commission did not allow utilities in the Park, would an "essential public facility" override an Ordinance in which it states that utility facilities are not allowed in any park on Mercer Island?

And it states that it is not the user that will benefit from this, but rather the utility company itself. So, should the utility company tell everyone that it will save the customers money, but people's bills increase, what happens then? Could the WA Attorney General go after the Utility Company for lying?

You see, I have read that the utility can save itself money by getting rid of meter readers. I am not sure whether this is for the City's benefit or for PSE's or whose benefit. Because the "smart" meter measures hour by hour, the utility can charge you more for electricity used during certain periods of the day of their choosing.

Their story is that this device will save you money. But there are no studies, no evidence, to back this up. In fact, in the one study done so far (from Canada), customers' bills went up, not down. And what is going to happen to the meter readers, are they going to be without a job? Or will you need less staff then if it is going to be smart metered?

And I want to know, if the City is allowed to install these 80 ft tall structures, then what happens should PSE and Crown Castle come along and say they want to install 80 ft tall structures wherever, would they also be allowed to install them? And if not, why would they not be able to install them? The City is allowed to install them. And where does it stop? And if someone wants to amend the Code, don't they or you have to fill in a Code Amendment just like the JCC had to ask for a rezone to be docketed, this is a Code Amendment and if it is not, what is it exactly?

And is it not deemed a wireless communications facility? Aren't these supposed to be regulated by the FCC? And are these one of the 34 wireless communications facilities or are these new ones? And what happened to the final Code Small Cell Wireless Code Amendment? Did it ever get finalized? Covid hit and that seems like the end of it. And will there be any noise associated with them?

Mercer Island has seen its wireless communications service providers grow from two in 1995, to an excess of four in 2015. As of the 2014 there are 34 wireless communications facilities installed on the Island. These installations are regulated by the FCC."

Here is the Code. Please let us know what variances are going to be required:

[Chapter 19.06 - GENERAL REGULATIONS | City Code | Mercer Island, WA | Municode Library](#)

And are you going to allow others to be able to add to the poles? And will they be asked to pay to have access to the poles?

I am lost with all of this. There is a code I am against the proposal.

Thanks.

Sarah Fletcher