

**STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF DENTON  
CITY OF CORINTH**

On this the 11<sup>th</sup> day of February 2016 the City Council of the City of Corinth, Texas met in a Workshop Session at 6:30 pm at the Corinth City Hall, located at 3300 Corinth Parkway, Corinth, Texas. The meeting date, time place and purpose as required by Title 5, Subtitle A, Chapter 551, Subchapter C, Section 551.041, Government Code, with the following members to wit:

**Members Present:**

Bill Heidemann, Mayor  
Joe Harrison, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Scott Garber  
Lowell Johnson  
Sam Burke

**Members Absent:**

Don Glockel

**Staff Members Present:**

Lee Ann Bunselmeyer, Acting City Manager  
Curtis Birt, Fire Chief  
Fred Gibbs, Director of Planning and Development Services  
Barbara Cabbage, Planning and Development Manager  
Garrett Skrehart, GIS Analyst  
Jason Alexander, Economic Development Director  
Kim Pence, City Secretary  
Cody Collier, Acting Director of Public Works, Parks and Utility Operations  
Shea Rodgers, Technology Services Manager

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Heidemann called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

**PRESENTATION:**

1. Receive a presentation, hold a discussion and give staff direction regarding Internet Service Provider offerings to the citizens of Corinth.

**Lee Ann Bunselmeyer, Acting City Manager** – one of the questions staff always gets asked is what are our internet options? And why we don't have more providers here in Corinth. I asked Shea Rodgers to research this and pull together all our internet providers.

**Shea Rodger, Technology Services Manager** – in looking to alleviate confusion and answer several questions about the City's Internet options, I have a brief presentation centered on Internet Service Providers and their offerings to the citizens of Corinth. \*See Exhibit A

The City of Corinth is largely serviced by these two Internet Service Providers:

- ◆ CenturyLink
- ◆ Charter

Some portions of the city that border the City of Denton are able to receive Verizon FiOS. A late-comer to the game, Grande Communications, offers service to a portion of the city. 100% of the city is available to receive CenturyLink's service.

According to a company official, recent complaints of lackluster internet performance have been corrected by a massive overhaul of their infrastructure: increasing the bandwidth of their backbone, replacing aging switching equipment, and building additional redundancy.

Charter, according to a company official, admittedly does not provide service to the entire city, rather only to portions.

When a request for service is made (by a resident) in an area not serviced, the company runs a "Construction and Viability Survey" to determine the feasibility of investing the capital to extend the infrastructure. It is significantly easier and cheaper for the company to lay its infrastructure in areas of new development, such as new subdivisions.

Areas bordering the City of Denton are able to receive the FiOS offering from Verizon.

Verizon recently had a 5 year obligation to shareholders to extend its infrastructure to where it was possible, but that contract has since ended. Because of the high cost and no guarantee of a return-on- investment, Verizon has stated that it has no intentions of expanding its FiOS service.

Formed in 1999, Grande Communications, based in San Marcos, Texas, has recently expanded into the DFW region, by acquiring the now defunct CoServ telecommunications operation.

Their service does not extend to the entire city, but portions of the city nearer to Denton may be eligible for service. The company is slowly expanding, but does so on an area-by-area basis. It too runs a viability study to determine its return-on- investment for expanding into a region.

There is an assumption that the City of Corinth has some sort of exclusivity deal with CenturyLink and/or Charter. This is not true. While the FCC and Texas Public Utilities Commission have some say to the boundaries of Internet Service Providers, the government, specifically the City of Corinth, does not prevent ISPs from doing business in Corinth.

Each ISP pays a Franchise Agreement in each city they serve, which gives them the right to use our city streets for their service vehicles and to use our rights-of-way to upgrade or repair their lines.

The current lines in place are under private ownership – occasional agreements notwithstanding, Company A will not let Company B use their infrastructure to do business.

The incumbent, CenturyLink is legally obligated to provide some service, but other companies such as Charter, Grande, etc. are not bound by the same law. Each Internet Service Provider determines economic feasibility for its own expansion. Just as the City of Corinth does not prevent any ISPs from doing business in the city, it cannot force them to come.

Generally speaking, each ISP logs when a citizen of a certain region outside of their coverage calls – the more demand for service, the more likely an ISP will extend to that region. Ultimately it comes down to the citizens expressing a desire to the companies to say I would like your service.

**Mayor Heidemann** – How many franchises do we have approved other than the ones that were mentioned?

**Lee Ann Bunselmeyer, Acting City Manager** – we do not have a franchise agreement with any of the telecoms because it is all governed by the Public Utility Commission (PUC). We get payments from AT&T, Grande, and Century-Link, there is a handful but we don't specifically contract with each one it is just if a customer uses them then we get a little bit of revenue from it.

**Councilmember Garber** – what can a City do to keep up with this because we don't want to do is be known as the black hole for internet connectivity. So what does a City do to protect themselves from that?

**Shea Rodgers, Technology Services Manager** – from my perspective I don't have those answers other than expressing to those companies that we would really like your services here.

**Councilmember Garber** – I think we can begin to educate the folks that there is not a secret agreement and Century-Tel does not have a lock on Corinth it is actually Corinth has a lock on Century-Tel and they have to provide service to us and encourage the citizens if they want Verizon FiOS or they want faster Charter to start calling them. Are we able to put some information on Facebook or the city website?

**Shea Rodgers, Technology Services Manager** – yes we can do that.

**Councilmember Burke** – from a nuts and bolts standpoint, the next time we have a major development come in and we know whatever they are going to bring is there something that we can do to participate in bringing that there that would enable them to put in equipment or connections that would more easily be extendable to neighborhoods surrounding that?

**Lee Ann Bunselmeyer, Acting City Manager** – you could always ask and put it on the table.

**Jason Alexander, Economic Development Director** – I was wondering if that would fall under infrastructure so that we could fund that through the Economic Development Corporation. I do know of instances where there are zoning ordinances that actually require you to put in certain types of infrastructure for technology and so forth and that may be something we consider in key areas.

**Fred Gibbs, Planning and Development Director** – one thing we could do is coordinate with the utility providers to provide them with the right-of-way in which to put those facilities in to provide that service. To have a better coordination during road projects or other type of improvements with those type of providers could allow them the ability to put those lines to service the residents and the businesses.

**Councilmember Burke** – I think maybe to keep the problem from spreading we could coordinate it with our zoning to at least encourage them to secure some level of service.

**Mayor Heidemann** – investigate if there is something we could put in the zoning ordinance.

2. Receive a presentation, hold a discussion, and give staff direction on the Action Plan for the Operational Review of the Planning and Development Department.

**Fred Gibbs, Planning and Development Director** – On August 13, 2015, the City Council received a presentation from Brad Remp of Zucker Systems that included recommendations for improving the Planning and Development Department and related functions. Staff has developed a comprehensive response and action plan to the findings identified in the operational review. Staff has made significant progress towards full implementation of the identified recommendations made during the comprehensive review.

Approximately 43 of the 103 recommendations or 42%, have been completed since September 2015. The action plan is divided into eight (8) sections: Organizational Issues, Code Enforcement, Geographic Information System, Building Division (Community Development), Planning, Other Departments, Boards and Commissions, and Perception. The action plan includes the assigned project manager, start and estimated completion date, status of the recommendation and budget impact. The presentation will highlight each section within the action plan. \*See Exhibit B

**Organizational Issues:**

11 out of 27 completed. This section is technology driven with development software, scanning and online permitting. Staff is currently working on a RFP to solicit vendors for software. All departments are in the process as well as Technology Services will be included in the implementation.

**Building Division:**

12 out of 36 completed. New building Official was hired and begins on February 15<sup>th</sup>. We have to look at adopting new building code and local amendments. Right now we operate under the 2009 building code and we will start looking at adopting the 2015 building codes sometime this year and along with that we will adopt the fire codes as well and any type of local amendments that may just apply in any region. The Building Official is a key member in the development process and they will be an important person in the particular realm of the technology implementation. Our Permit Technician just retired not too long ago and was here for 20 plus years. We were able to hire a new employee starting in January and we are in training for that individual and also provide some additional training for the Building Division Staff.

**Code Enforcement:**

1 out of 1 completed. This one was basically was to continue the current level of staff we have with one Code Officer. A few years ago we used to have two Code Enforcement Officers as the years have changed and budget restraints have changed we are down to one. However, one good one has been able to be really effective. Every year we still evaluate if one is still keeping the city up to the standard that the Council wants.

**Geographic Information Systems:**

1 out of 4 completed. We are currently soliciting bids on upgrading our GIS license. It will be implemented into the development software. The GIS is a power mapping tool and over time we have been able to build that program. We have what we call concurrent license and you can only have so many users on it at one time and as this gets more popular more people use it and you have to wait until someone gets out of the system. So we are wanting to move on to a more standard type of license or a server approach. It is around \$12,000 for the software.

**Planning:**

9 out of 19 completed. We have refined our DRC meetings and basically DRC is the Development Review Committee and made up of everybody that is involved in the development review process. Any applicant can come in and talk to us and we use this to educate the community and educate the developers. We refined those meetings by giving out more handouts, manuals, guides, templates, checklists, business cards, we take minutes for that meeting in case of any confusion or decisions that were made and we will continue to refine these meetings as things change. We strive to keep our review times as low as we can and more

accurate. The DRC Group is planning on reviewing our codes for possible recommendations and present any recommendations to the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council.

**Other Departments:**

1 out of 6 are completed. There are 6 total recommendations and 3 of them are software related. Our big thing on this one is really to be able to build some ownership and consensus within the other departments that are involved in the process to make sure that everyone has an ownership in their piece of the process. You also want to be able to coordinate those processes in the different departments to make sure we are all on the same page.

**Boards and Commissions:**

6 out of 6 completed. We had the new member training on Robert's Rules and requires the Texas Open Meetings Training. We just recently had the Joint City Council. Planning and Zoning Commission, and Economic Development Corporation meeting regarding the Use Chart and the Zoning Code and we will have more of those in the future as we get closer to adoption of that code.

**Perceptions:**

2 out of 3 completed. When they did the Zucker Report they did a customer survey to developers, people that has worked through our process and we had a very positive response out of that survey and was told it was some of the best ever seen out of all the reports that have been done. Recently we moved down stairs to group all of the development related functions together. You always hear one-stop-shop and that is what we have created so you don't have to go back and forth from upstairs to downstairs.

We will continue to implement the rest of the recommendations and move forward.

**Mayor Heidemann** – do you foresee anything at this point that will hinder you from completing the Zucker Report?

**Fred Gibbs, Planning and Development Director** – as we get closer to some of these we may decide well that may not work for this City I have not gotten that far with what those are and identifying those but if that happens I will sit with the City Manager and come up with a plan on what those potentially could be. Right now I have not seen any major issues besides maybe a budgetary item associated with some of these and that is a bridge we will have to cross at that point. Right now a lot of these are doable with time.

3. Hold a discussion and give staff direction on sales tax use options.

**Lee Ann Bunselmeyer, Acting City Manager** – right now our sales tax is 8.25%, 6.25% goes to the State and we have the option to have sales tax up to 2%. Currently we are max, we have 1.00% that goes to our general fund, 0.50% that goes to the Economic Development, 0.25% goes to Street Maintenance and 0.25% that goes to the Crime Control and Prevention District.

The Economic Development sales was established in 2002 tax is our oldest sale tax. There is no limitation on your EDC tax, once it is established it does not lapse unless it is repealed by the voters. The tax can be increased or decreased and can be done by Ordinance that is initiated by the governing body or by petition of 10% of registered voters. We currently have a .50% you can levy anything for your sales tax in increments of 1.25% and there are two types of sales tax for the EDC, Type A and Type B and we are currently Type B and those uses are pretty broad as far as projects for business development and public parks and then some programs that are listed in Type A.

The Crime Control Sates Tax was established in 2004 and is required to be re-authorized every 5 years. The governing body has an option when it goes out to sales tax that you choose to get voters to approve a

5, 10, 15 or 20 year tax. In 2019 we will come to Council to see if you want us to go to the voters and what is the duration that you want us to go for that tax. In the past the Council has kept that at 5 years. This tax can only be used for projects that are for crime control and prevention, police projects. We were able to use that for police vehicles, policemen and various programs throughout the year.

The Street Maintenance Sales Tax can only be used to repair and maintain existing streets and sidewalks and cannot be used to create new streets. This is reauthorized every 4 years and was established in 2004 and the last reauthorization was in May 2012 so it is currently up for reauthorization this year. If you want us to re-authorize this sales tax this year we have the option of doing it during the May election or in the November election.

One tax that we do not use for sales tax is a Fire Control, Prevention, and Emergency Medical Services District tax and we have never qualified for this in the past. You had to have a municipal population that was greater than 25,000 and we never fit that criteria.

In 2015 there was an amendment to the law that gave some other criteria that you could qualify for to actually be able to tax under the Fire District. In the Tax Code it says that you have to have a municipality of 5,000 or more and less than 25,000 if you look at the census the Corinth population was 19,935 while our estimate right now for COG is well over 20,000 so we meet that criteria. The second one is that it is located in the County with a population of 750,000 or more, during the census that was done in 2010 the population for Denton County was 662,000 the estimates currently are well within that 750,000 population.

I was trying to get with the Comptroller to see if we go by census or do you go by current estimates and what is that barometer that you measure that for and I was unable to get that information and we are hoping that they go on current estimates.

**Councilmember Burke** – isn't it true that typically the Legislature every two year will pass some kind of legislation essentially ratifies actions taken by cities? In other words if we did this who would have the ability to challenge whether or not we correctly interpreted the statute? And what would be their mechanism for challenging?

**Lee Ann Bunselmeyer, Acting City Manager** – the Texas Comptroller.

**Councilmember Burke** – ok so they would be the ones that would say if we could or not?

**Lee Ann Bunselmeyer, Acting City Manager** – yes, they are the governing body so to speak of your sales tax. Whenever we go up for an election they are the ones that monitor it our ballots to make sure they are worded correctly. We would make sure that they agreed that we meet all the criteria.

The third component of this section says that the part of a municipality with a population of million or more is located in the County, we do have a small area of Dallas that is located in Denton County so hat would qualify. During the census their population was 1.1 almost 1.2 million.

The last restriction is that it is adjacent to a county with a population of two million or more and Dallas County has a population of 2,368,139.

In order to create a Fire District if the Council wanted to do that you have to create a 7 member board and that board would be the one to propose to create the district and put it on the ballot. That board would serve just like our Crime Control board serves and so the Council can elect that board to be the Council. You would have to call an election once you decided to do that as soon as you could have sufficient time to go

through the election process. Right now you probably could not call it for the May election because there is just not enough time to get everything together to be able to do that.

The reason I bring this up at this point in time is that your street maintenance sales tax is up for re-authorization, once you pass an ordinance for that re-authorization then it goes to your voters. If your voters approve it then you have to continue that sales tax for four years. Since we are already at the cap of 2% we cannot introduce any other local sales tax options for the City. If we want to consider this sales tax and you would staff to research this further to see if we do qualify under the criteria with the State Comptrollers then we would take the next few months to research this and see if we qualify to move that ¼ cent sales tax over and possibly bring it up in the November election.

There is some impact to your general fund. Right now on the street maintenance sales tax we generate about \$325,000 a year, we don't budget the full \$325,000, we generally budget somewhere between \$100,000 and \$150,000 a year for asphaltting the streets, seals and so forth. It is very restrictive and speaking with Cody Collier he would prefer having the street maintenance money on the general fund side just because of the flexibility that you could use it for to repair and do some things and so it would have an impact on your general fund and you would probably have to increase the funding for the street but it would provide some opportunities for some relief on your fire costs because you could utilize the full \$325,000 to offset some of your operating costs for the fire department.

The State Statute is very liberal on the uses for fire, you can use it for anything, wages, benefits, operating cost, equipment, and infrastructure, whatever you want to use it basically if it is for the fire department you can use it and so it allows us to have more flexibility with the funding. I have it on the agenda tonight to see if this is something the Council would like for us to keep researching or if you want us to go ahead and continue the street maintenance sales tax and putting that on the ballot in May.

**Mayor Heidemann** – Because we are Lake Cities and we have four cities that we share with our fire department, is there any restrictions on that? This would be sales tax just in the City of Corinth right? Would that have any impact on our fire department servicing those other three cities using some of these monies for that?

**Lee Ann Bunselmeyer, Acting City Manager** – I don't think so and the reason is that we allocate those expenditures to all of us and each city decides how they are going to come up with that revenue via sales tax or property tax and if the City opted to find a portion of their fire expenditures with the sales tax instead of property tax I think that would be our decision because it would not be taxing their residents it would only be taxing ours.

**Councilmember Johnson** – do we have the ability to define the size of the district say Shady Shores wants in or Lake Dallas wants in, is it possible to get with the other cities and say ok we are going to make a district out of all of this do you any of you want to come along? Is that possible?

**Lee Ann Bunselmeyer, Acting City Manager** – I think that is a possibility. In looking at the statute it might require a specific change in the statute to allow it but that is something I can look into.

**Councilmember Johnson** – can that district also include unincorporated parts of the County?

**Lee Ann Bunselmeyer, Acting City Manager** – that is a good question also.

**Councilmember Johnson** – because we are serving not only our ETJ but Hickory Creeks ETJ and if they can be included in that district.

**Mayor Heidemann** – would each city have to pass that on a ballot?

**Lee Ann Bunselmeyer, Acting City Manager** – yes.

**Councilmember Johnson** – I don't know if type A cities can play with Charter Cities in that situation. Can they all play together in the same fire district and then the unincorporated parts of the County as well?

**Councilmember Garber** – is this a four year commitment like the street fund or is this something more perpetual?

**Lee Ann Bunselmeyer, Acting City Manager** – no it is not perpetual. It operates just like the Crime Control so it is like five years. I am not sure if you can go 10, or 15 but I know it is at least every five years.

**Councilmember Burke** – the street maintenance funds if you dissolve that for instance and did this, do the fund in the street maintenance fund go back into the general fund or do they maintain their restrictions until they are spent?

**Lee Ann Bunselmeyer, Acting City Manager** – they maintain their restrictions until they are spent. I believe we have about \$800,000 of fund balance in that fund.

**Councilmember Garber** – the fund balance that is in the street maintenance fund right now will keep us running for six to eight years if we are running at \$100,000 to \$150,000 a year in street maintenance.

**Lee Ann Bunselmeyer, Acting City Manager** – correct.

**Councilmember Garber** – so we are over funded.

**Councilmember Harrison** – that is not always a bad thing because if you have a complete collapse of something you would have the money.

**Councilmember Garber** – I understand that. My impression was you mentioned we may have to take \$100,000 out of the general fund but that may not happen for six to eight years if we chose to go this way.

**Lee Ann Bunselmeyer, Acting City Manager** – correct.

**Councilmember Harrison** – you have initiatives that comes up periodically for election for example like the DCTA, if the Council decides for economic development that we need to bring the train station over here you will not be able to do that because you have tied that 2 cent because their requirement was to give 1 cent to join it. Let's say it is 1 cent then that train is going to take up all three of those portions.

**Councilmember Burke** – if you have your whole 2 cents committed you might miss an opportunity.

**Councilmember Harrison** – right.

**Councilmember Johnson** –the increments are .125% and you have your street maintenance at .125% and choose to keep it then you still have a 0.25 that is unused and that gives us that cushion maybe to start DCTA.

**Lee Ann Bunselmeyer, Acting City Manager** - would you like us to move forward for next Thursday to have the item on the agenda moving forward with the street maintenance sales tax or just hold off and research this more and come back with answers to your questions and sometime in July or August you can

make a decision on which way you want to go forward as far as that November election? Or you can wait until the following May.

It was the Consensus of the Council to wait until the November election in order to research the Fire Control, Prevention, and Emergency Medical Services District sales tax.

**There was no Executive Session.**

**CLOSED/EXECUTIVE SESSION**

If, during the course of the meeting, any discussion of any item on the agenda should need to be held in executive or closed session for the City Council to seek advice from the City Attorney as to the posted subject matter of this City Council Meeting, the City Council will convene in such executive or closed session, in accordance with the provisions of the Government Code, Title 5, Subchapter D Chapter 551, to consider one or more matters pursuant to the following:

**Section 551.071.** Private consultation with its attorney to seek advice about pending or contemplated litigation; and/or settlement offer; (2) and/or a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the government body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State of Texas clearly conflicts with chapter 551.

- **First Glendora Partners, Ltd. dba Impact Outdoor Advertising Co. v. City of Corinth.**

**Consultation with the City Attorney regarding legal issues associated with the matter listed under Section 551.072.**

- **Receive information and discuss, deliberate, and provide staff with direction regarding the potential acquisition of real property located in Corinth along the west side of I-35 on FM 2181.**

**Section 551.072.** To deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the governmental body in negotiations with a third person.

**Section 551.074.** To deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee; or to hear a complaint or charge against an officer or employee.

- **Consider appointment, duties, employment, evaluation, reassignment, discipline, or dismissal of the City Manager.**
- **Consider appointment, duties, employment, evaluation, reassignment, discipline, or dismissal of the City Attorney.**

**Section 551.087.** To deliberate or discuss regarding commercial or financial information that the governmental body has received from a business prospect that the governmental body seeks to have locate,

stay, or expand in or near the territory of the governmental body and with which the governmental body is conducting economic development negotiations; or to deliberate the offer of a financial or other incentive to a business prospect.

After discussion of any matters in executive session, any final action or vote taken will be in public by the City Council. City Council shall have the right at any time to seek legal advice in Executive Session from its Attorney on any agenda item, whether posted for Executive Session or not.

**RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION TO TAKE ACTION, IF NECESSARY, ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS.**

**ADJOURN**

**Mayor Heidemann adjourned the meeting at 7:45 P.M.**

**AYES:                    All**

**Meeting adjourned**

Approved by Council on the 17 day of March, 2016

Kimberly Pence  
Kimberly Pence, City Secretary  
City of Corinth, Texas



# City of Corinth Residential Internet

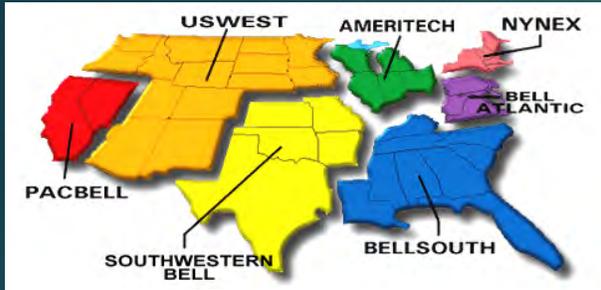
THE WHO, WHAT, WHERE, AND WHY OF INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS

# A Brief History of Telecommunications in Corinth

- ▶ The Communications Act of 1934 is signed into law.
- ▶ Among other things, this Act transferred regulation of major, interstate telephone service to the Federal Communications Commission, allowing select companies (namely AT&T) to operate effectively as monopolies in exchange for letting the FCC dictate prices and expansion.



# A Brief History of Telecommunications in Corinth



- ▶ The 1940s ushered in an era of regulated monopolies.
- ▶ The DFW area was serviced for local telephone by GTE, which had a protected general service area in the region. Corinth specifically was serviced by various independent companies. For long distance calling, the providers relied on the interstate infrastructure of Southwestern Bell, a subsidiary of AT&T, whose FCC-regulated region was Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas, and Missouri.

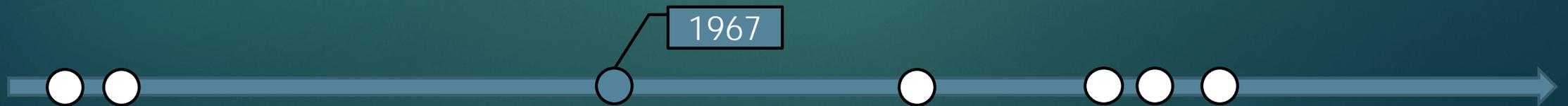


1940s-1990s



# A Brief History of Telecommunications in Corinth

- ▶ Century Telephone and Electronics, predecessor to CenturyLink, is incorporated.
- ▶ CT&E would continue to grow. After several acquisitions, it would change its name to CenturyTel in 1999.
- ▶ 10 years later, the company name would change again to CenturyLink.
- ▶ CenturyLink is currently the third-largest telecommunications company in the US in terms of lines served, after AT&T and Verizon.



# A Brief History of Telecommunications in Corinth

- ▶ Based on an antitrust lawsuit by the US Department of Justice, AT&T had to break up its monopoly – allowing the previously controlled subsidiary Bell companies (the so-called Baby Bells) to operate independently.
- ▶ The settlement was finalized January 8, 1982.
- ▶ Each local carrier that existed in the era of regulation, known as the incumbent, is legally required to provide a degree of service in their territory, regardless of financial return. The incumbent in Corinth is CenturyLink.



# A Brief History of Telecommunications in Corinth



- ▶ Charter Communications is founded in St. Louis, Missouri.
- ▶ It began expanding significantly through the 1990s, eventually getting into the DFW market by merging with Marcus Cable in 1999.
- ▶ Currently, Charter Communications is the fourth-largest cable operator in the US, behind Comcast, Time Warner Cable, and Cox Communications.



# A Brief History of Telecommunications in Corinth

- ▶ The Telecommunications Act of 1996, amending the Communications Act of 1934, was signed into law.
- ▶ Some of its chief functions were to formalize telecommunication divestiture, and further de-regulation, seeking to foster competition between companies that offered telephone, cable, and internet services.

FC



1996



# A Brief History of Telecommunications in Corinth

- ▶ GTE/Bell Atlantic merged and named the new entity Verizon Communications.
- ▶ Verizon sold off much of its infrastructure to various telecommunications companies, including 70,500 access lines in the DFW region to CenturyLink.



2000



# Present Day Offerings



▶ The City of Corinth is largely serviced by these two Internet Service Providers:



- ▶ CenturyLink
- ▶ Charter



▶ Some portions of the city that border the City of Denton are able to receive Verizon FiOS.

▶ A late-comer to the game, Grande Communications, offers service to a portion of the city.



# CenturyLink

- ▶ Nearly 100% of the city is available to receive CenturyLink's service.
- ▶ According to a company official, recent complaints of lackluster internet performance have been corrected by a massive overhaul of their infrastructure: increasing the bandwidth of their backbone, replacing aging switching equipment, and building additional redundancy.



# Charter

- ▶ Charter, according to a company official, admittedly does not provide service to the entire city, rather only to portions.
- ▶ When a request for service is made (by a resident) in an area not serviced, the company runs a "Construction and Viability Survey" to determine the feasibility of investing the capital to extend the infrastructure.
- ▶ It is significantly easier and cheaper for the company to lay its infrastructure in areas of new development, such as new subdivisions.



# Verizon

- ▶ Areas bordering the City of Denton are able to receive the FiOS offering from Verizon.
- ▶ Verizon recently had a 5 year obligation to shareholders to extend its infrastructure to where it was possible, but that contract has since ended.
- ▶ Because of the high cost and no guarantee of a return-on-investment, Verizon has stated that it has no intentions of expanding its FiOS service.



# Grande Communications

- ▶ Formed in 1999, Grande Communications, based in San Marcos, Texas, has recently expanded into the DFW region, by acquiring the now defunct CoServ telecommunications operation.
- ▶ Their service does not extend to the entire city, but portions of the city nearer to Denton may be eligible for service.
- ▶ The company is slowly expanding, but does so on a area-by-area basis. It too runs a viability study to determine its return-on-investment for expanding into a region.



# Misconception

- ▶ There is an assumption that the City of Corinth has some sort of exclusivity deal with CenturyLink and/or Charter. This is not true.
- ▶ While the FCC and Texas Public Utilities Commission have some say to the boundaries of Internet Service Providers, the government, specifically the City of Corinth, does not prevent ISPs from doing business in Corinth.
- ▶ Each ISP pays a Franchise Agreement in each city they serve, which gives them the right to use our city streets for their service vehicles and to use our rights-of-way to upgrade or repair their lines.

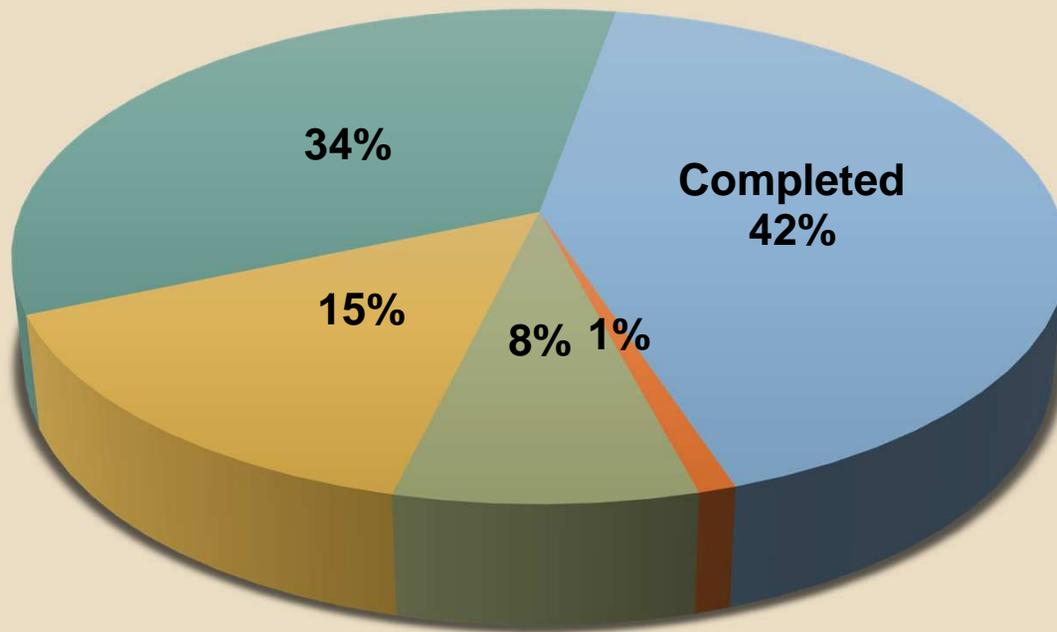
# What Does This Boil Down To?

- ▶ The current lines in place are under private ownership – occasional agreements notwithstanding, Company A will not let Company B use their infrastructure to do business.
- ▶ The incumbent, CenturyLink is legally obligated to provide some service, but other companies such as Charter, Grande, etc. are not bound by the same law.
- ▶ Each Internet Service Provider determines economic feasibility for its own expansion.
- ▶ Just as the City of Corinth does not prevent any ISPs from doing business in the city, it cannot force them to come.
- ▶ Generally speaking, each ISP logs when a citizen of a certain region outside of their coverage calls – the more demand for service, the more likely an ISP will extend to that region.

# PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN

FEBRUARY 2016

# TOTAL RECOMMENDATIONS

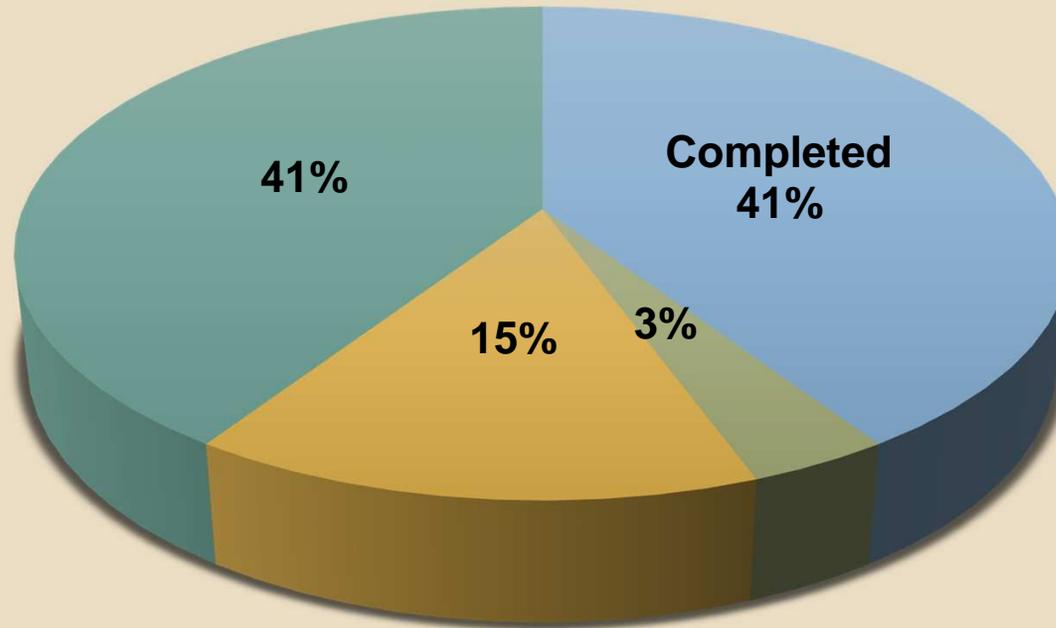


■ Completed ■ 1st Quarter 2016 ■ 2nd Quarter 2016 ■ 3rd Quarter 2016 ■ 4th Quarter 2016

## Highlights

- Started implementation in September 2015.
- **43** out of **103** complete.
- Recommendations phased in by quarter.
- Broken up in 8 sections.
- Next phase will be Technology focused that covers 20 recommendations.

# ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES



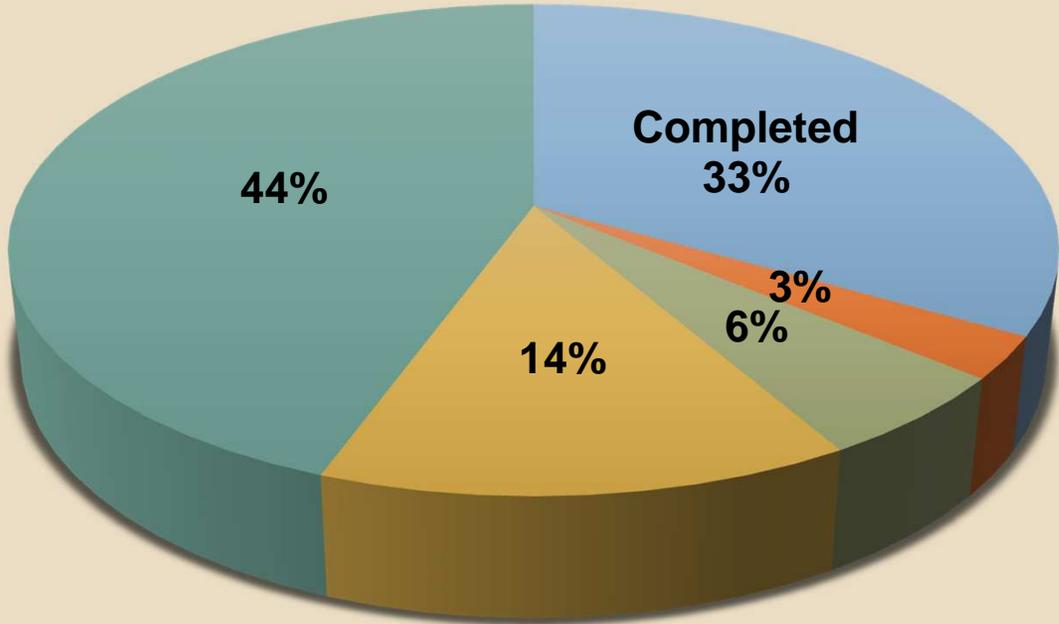
■ Completed ■ 1st Quarter 2016 ■ 2nd Quarter 2016 ■ 3rd Quarter 2016 ■ 4th Quarter 2016

## Highlights

### All Divisions, Technology, Terminology and Training

- 11 out of 27 completed.
- This section is technology driven with development software, scanning, and online permitting.
- Staff is currently working on a RFP to solicit vendors for software.
- All departments in the process as well as Technology Services will be included in the implementation.

# BUILDING DIVISION



■ Completed ■ 1st Quarter 2016 ■ 2nd Quarter 2016 ■ 3rd Quarter 2016 ■ 4th Quarter 2016

## Highlights

### Building Official, Communication, Staffing, Plan Review, Process, Training

- 12 out of 36 completed.
- New Building Official hire starts Feb. 15.
- Adoption of new building codes and local amendments.
- A key member to help implement development software.
- New Permit Technician started January 2016.
- Provide additional training opportunities for the Building Division staff.

# CODE ENFORCEMENT

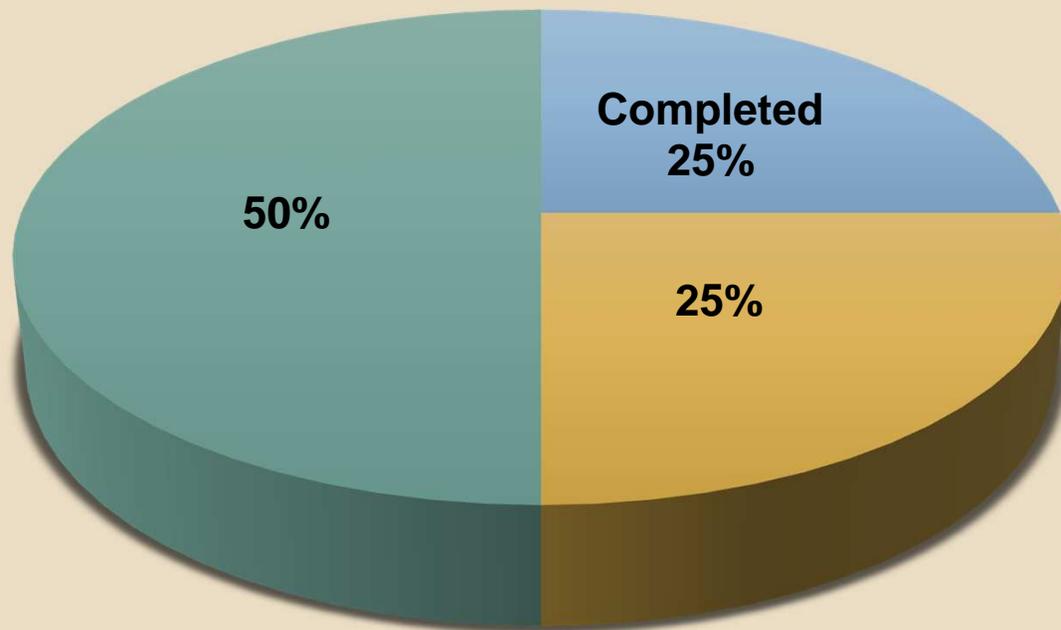


## Highlights

### Code Enforcement

- 1 out of 1 completed.
- Completed and we will continue to evaluate staffing levels as necessary.

# GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS



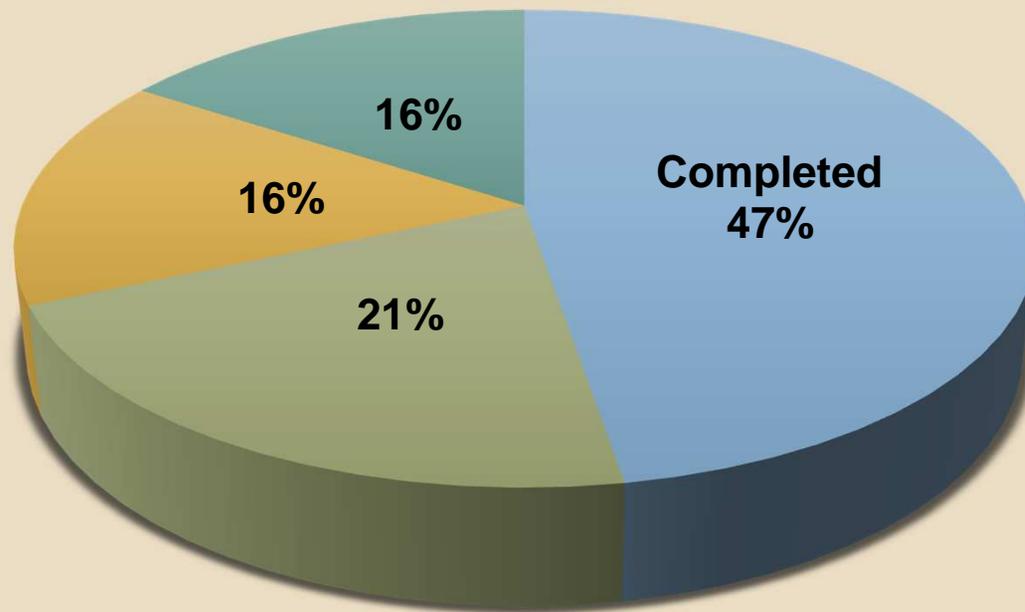
■ Completed ■ 1st Quarter 2016 ■ 2nd Quarter 2016 ■ 3rd Quarter 2016 ■ 4th Quarter 2016

## Highlights

### GIS

- 1 out of 4 completed
- We are currently soliciting bids on upgrading our GIS license.
- It will be implemented into the development software.

# PLANNING



■ Completed ■ 1st Quarter 2016 ■ 2nd Quarter 2016 ■ 3rd Quarter 2016 ■ 4th Quarter 2016

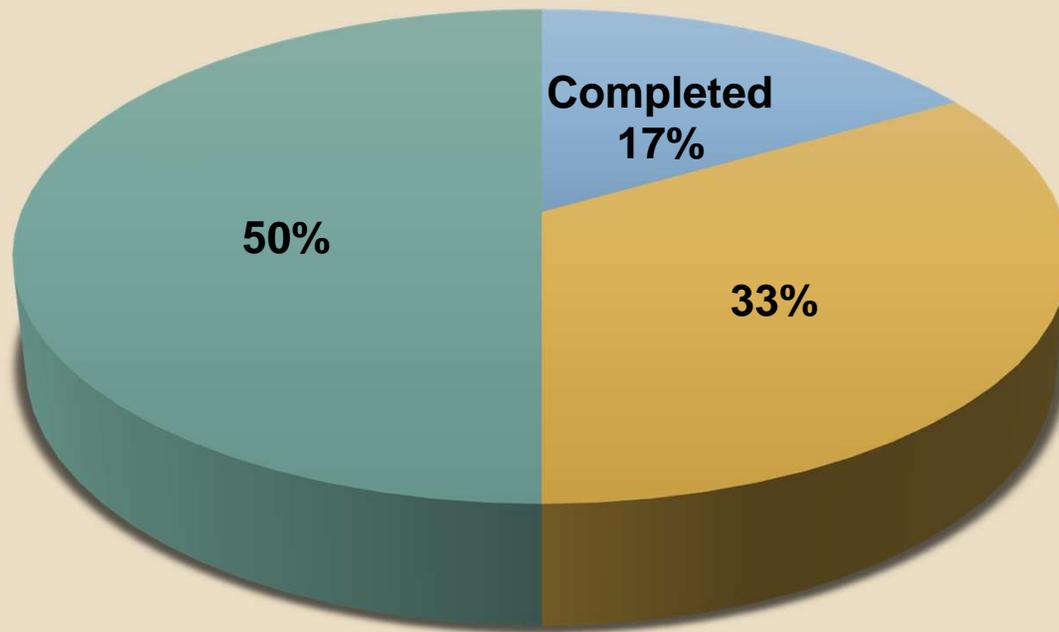
## Highlights

### Processes, Long Range

- **9** out of **19** completed.
- DRC meetings have been refined.
- Review times and completeness checks have been more comprehensive and timely.
- Staff reports clear recommendations on projects.
- Currently DRC group are reviewing the codes for possible amendments.

# OTHER DEPARTMENTS

## OTHER DEPARTMENTS



■ Completed ■ 1st Quarter 2016 ■ 2nd Quarter 2016 ■ 3rd Quarter 2016 ■ 4th Quarter 2016

## Highlights

### Other Departments

- 1 out of 6 completed.
- Build consensus and create ownership of each facet of the process across all involved Departments.
- Coordinate with all Departments to implement their development process.
- 6 total recommendations 3 are development software related.
- Fire Department designated an additional Fire Marshall.

# BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

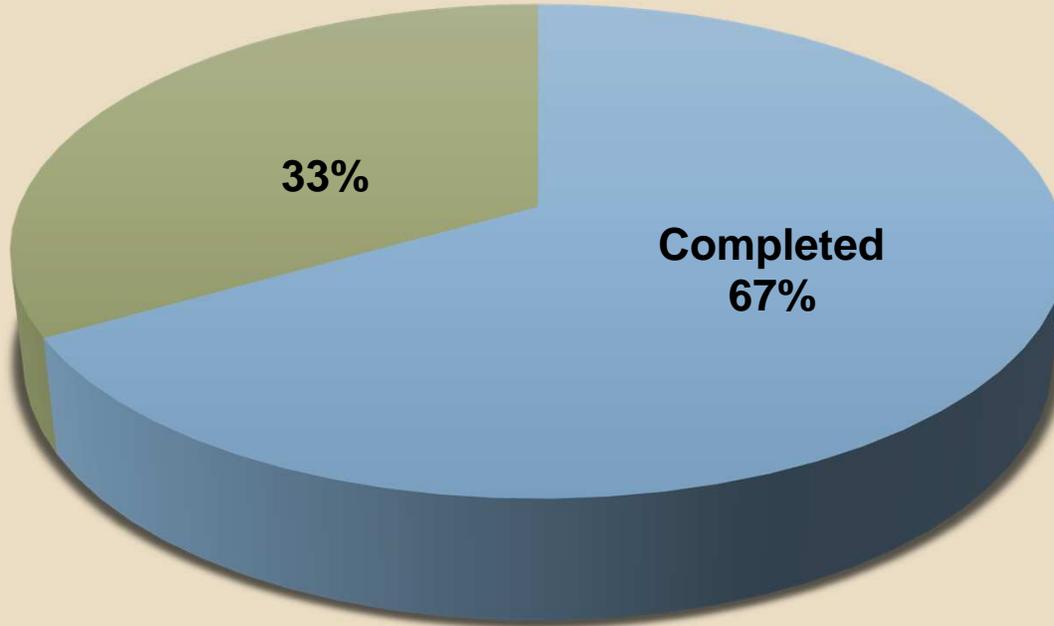


## Highlights

### Boards and Commissions

- 6 out of 6 completed.
- New Member Training
- Roberts Rules Training
- Texas Open Meeting Training
- Joint Council, P&Z and CEDC regarding use chart and zoning.

# PERCEPTIONS



■ Completed ■ 1st Quarter 2016 ■ 2nd Quarter 2016 ■ 3rd Quarter 2016 ■ 4th Quarter 2016

## Highlights

### Employee and Customer Perceptions

- 2 out of 3 completed.
- We have reviewed the customer survey and the concerns will be addressed in the recommendations.
- All development related departments are located in the same suite.

# QUESTIONS