



**CITY OF GREAT FALLS  
COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT**

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**Item:** Permit for location of Antenna and Associated Equipment at 33<sup>rd</sup> St. Reservoir

**From:** Public Works and Park and Recreation Departments

**Initiated By:** Verizon Wireless

**Presented By:** Jim Rearden, Director of Public Works

**Action Requested:** Approve Permit

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**Suggested Motion:**

1. Commissioner moves:

“I move that the City Commission (approve/deny) the permit”

2. Mayor calls for a second, discussion, inquiries from the public, and calls for the vote.

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**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends approval of the permit

**Background:**

Significant Impacts

The permit will allow Verizon Wireless to attach three sets of antennas to 33<sup>rd</sup> Street Reservoir and construct a small building in Dudley Anderson Park to house required equipment. The Antennas and cabling will be hidden by shrouding to minimize the visual impact. The building will be constructed behind the existing pumping station and will be designed to match the building as nearly as practical. Cabling between the building and the reservoir will be located underground. Landscaping will be provided around the building. The facilities will be unstaffed and operated remotely.

Citizen Participation

Verizon has applied for and been granted a Conditional Use Permit for this proposed installation. The process required a public hearing before the City Zoning Commission, held on June 24, 2008. In addition, Neighborhood Council 9 has considered the proposal and reacted favorably. The City Commission conducted a public hearing and approved the Conditional Use Permit at the September 16, 2008 meeting.

### Workload Impacts

Impacts should be limited to annual billing and collection of rent payments, occasional administrative attention for contract management and occasional site visits.

### Purpose

The permit allows installation of cellular antenna equipment to allow Verizon to adequately serve its customers. Use of the reservoir to install the antennas keeps Verizon from having to erect a separate antenna tower.

### Project Work Scope

The facility will include three sets of antennas mounted to the reservoir, a building to house their equipment, a separate electrical service for the building and underground conduit for all of the cabling, including the electrical service. The facilities will be unoccupied and the only traffic will be routine maintenance visits, typically once a month.

### Evaluation and Selection Process

Verizon is the first and only company that has sought to install similar equipment on the 33<sup>rd</sup> Street Reservoir. The City currently has similar installations on each of the three elevated storage tanks.

### Conclusion

Staff recommends approval of the permit.

**Concurrences:** The installation has been considered by the Park and Recreation Advisory Board at their June 9 meeting, City Zoning Commission and Neighborhood Council 9. Staff from Park and Recreation and Public Works Departments have worked together on the permit development and plan review.

**Fiscal Impact:** Rental income – initially \$15,000 per year, escalating at 3% per year – will be divided evenly between the Park and Recreation Department and the Water Utility.

**Alternatives:** The City Commission may deny the permit.

**Attachments/Exhibits:** Proposed Permit (Not available online; on file in City Clerk's Office.)