

# City of Rosenberg set to pay for internet service

By Averil Gleason [agleason@fbherald.com](mailto:agleason@fbherald.com) | Posted: Wednesday, April 5, 2017 8:56 am

The city of Rosenberg will soon be paying more than \$5,000 monthly for Internet service.

At Rosenberg City Council on Tuesday, council members voted in favor of a 36-month service contract with Comcast Communications at \$5,480 per month.

The service sales order also requires a one-time instillation fee of \$60,000.

To help reduce the overall cost, city staff designed a plan to connect seven city facilities with a wireless point-to-point network, which removes them from the Comcast services.

This in-house network connectivity cuts the reoccurring annual cost with Comcast from \$126,660 to \$65,750, according to Director of Information Services Isaac Badu.

“We’re trying to minimize the cost on the Comcast contract,” Badu assured council members.

Hardware and equipment requires a one-time capital cost of \$100,000. City staff said it expects to recoup the total cost of the project in approximately 18 months.

Council members also approved funding of the 2015 sanitary sewer pipe bursting project, amounting to \$57,170.

Over one-fourth of the city’s 484 sanitary sewer lines were discovered under driveways, which resulted in extra reconnections requiring asphalt patch repairs or alley repairs.

Assistant City Manager Joyce Vasut told council that leftover money from the general fund balance, retainers in the technology fund, and retainers in the wastewater fund are going to cover the expense for these projects.

“Now that’s creative accounting,” council member Amanda Barta noted.

In other business, council awarded a contract for a new curbside clothing and home goods recycling program, free to the city and its residents.

At the February workshop meeting, staff had presented a proposal by Simple Recycling for free curbside recycling for clothing and home goods. The weekly program will coincide with the residential trash and recycling services provided by Republic Waste on Wednesdays.

Prior to implementing the services, Simple Recycling will conduct a public education campaign, and will provide orange bags to the residents during the initial program, and afterward on an as-needed basis.

Simple Recycling has a three-year contract with the city.

“I really like this idea,” Mayor Cynthia McConathy said. “It means less items in our landfills, which is good, especially with the population growing.”

City council meets the first and third Tuesday of every month at City Hall, 2110 Fourth St., at 7 p.m.