

RESOLUTION NO. R-3-25

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE OHIO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE'S CHALLENGE TO AT&T's TARIFF APPLICATION AT THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, on December 18, 2024, the Ohio Bell Telephone Company, dba AT&T Ohio ("AT&T"), filed a Telecommunications Form related to a change in its tariff for "Construction Charges, Relocation of Facilities" with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (the "PUCO") in PUCO Case Nos. 24-1123-TP-ATA and 90-5032-TP-TRF (collectively referred to as "AT&T's Tariff Application"); and

WHEREAS, AT&T's Tariff Application proposes tariff changes which will require any municipality in which AT&T is located in the municipality's public right-of-way to pay the full cost of any relocation or undergrounding of AT&T's facilities, regardless of the reason for the relocation. This is in direct contradiction of current Ohio law; and

WHEREAS, AT&T's Tariff Application is subject to a thirty (30) day auto approval process, meaning that if the PUCO does not rule on the application, then the application is automatically approved, and the tariff change becomes effective on the thirty-first day after the filing of the application; and

WHEREAS, if AT&T's Tariff Application goes unchallenged and becomes automatically effective, municipalities throughout Ohio (and, subsequently, constituents who may or may not be AT&T customers) would be required to pay for any relocation of AT&T facilities in the public rights-of-way, even if the relocation or undergrounding is required for health, safety, or public welfare purposes; and

WHEREAS, any challenges to AT&T's application must be filed prior to January 17, 2025, to allow the PUCO to pause the automatic approval process, allow challengers to be heard through an evidentiary hearing, and consider legal arguments. To challenge AT&T's Tariff Application, an interested stakeholder must file a motion to intervene with the PUCO showing that it has a real and substantial interest in AT&T's Tariff Application and the intervenor is so situated that the disposition of the proceeding may, as a practical matter, impair or impede its ability to protect that interest; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Municipal League has engaged counsel to challenge AT&T's Tariff Application.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AVON, COUNTY OF LORAIN AND STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1 - That the Avon City Council finds AT&T's Tariff Application directly changes and significantly impacts, to the detriment of the City of Avon, how this City manages and administers its public rights-of-way.

Section 2 - That the Avon City Council hereby authorizes and agrees to participate in and to intervene in the proceeding at the PUCO in order to challenge AT&T's Tariff Application and any subsequent and/or necessary legal, administrative, legislative efforts; and

Section 3 - That the Avon City Council has been advised by the Ohio Municipal League that future financial and/or other support from the City of Avon may be necessary to the success of a challenge to AT&T's Tariff Application and any related legal, administrative, or legislative efforts. The City of Avon may take under consideration the specific amount or form of such financial and/or other support from the City of Avon at a subsequent meeting of the Avon City Council.

Section 4 - That this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure immediately necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the City of Avon, the immediate emergency being the necessity to support The Ohio Municipal League's challenge to AT&T's Tariff Application at the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio; therefore, this Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor.

PASSED: _____

DATE SIGNED: _____

By: _____
Brian Fischer, Council President

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR _____

Bryan K. Jensen, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

John A. Gasior, Law Director

ATTEST:

Barbara J. Brooks, Clerk of Council

POSTED: _____
Electronically and at City Hall
Provided by Council

Prepared by:
John A. Gasior, Esq.
Law Director