

CITY OF COOS BAY CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Staff Report

MEETING DATE	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER
June 27, 2026	5.d

TO: Mayor Benetti, Council President DiNovo, and City Councilors

FROM: Nichole Rutherford, City Manager

THROUGH: Nichole Rutherford, City Manager

ISSUE: Consideration to Renew Franchise Agreement with Charter Communications

SUMMARY:

Charter Communications is seeking renewal of their use of the public right-of-way for their communication infrastructure. While historically, these agreements have been acknowledged through enactment of an ordinance, Coos Bay Municipal Code (CBMC) has code section that specifically deals with Utility Franchises and Licenses (CBMC 13.20). This code section provides the framework for all utility franchises and the specific details, as they relate to each service provider, could be better handled within an agreement.

ACTION REQUESTED:

If it pleases Council, enact an ordinance repealing ordinance 478 and authorize the City Manager to sign the Spectrum franchise agreement.

BACKGROUND:

Municipal franchise agreements allow cities to regulate and permit the use of public rights-of-way by utility companies. These agreements ensure that utility services—such as internet and telephone—are provided in a manner that protects the public interest, allows for infrastructure coordination, and provides fair compensation to the city for use of public property.

This process is regulated by CBMC 13.20, with finer details specific to the service provider having been historically provided via an ordinance. Ordinance 478 enacted in September 2016 provided these finer details as related to Charter Communications use of the public right-of-way. This highest level is unnecessary, as these details could more readily be provided with an agreement. Staff is recommending following this more efficient and expedient path for all franchise agreements moving forward.

In order to follow this process, Ordinance 478 should be repealed, with the proposed amended included with this staff report taking its place.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

The agreement provides a significant and ongoing revenue stream to the City based on communication utility revenues, which supports general fund services.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- Coos Bay Charter Franchise 2026.pdf
- ____ Repeal Ord 478 Charter Comm Franchise.pdf
- Ordinance 478 Charter Communications Franchise.pdf

