

AGENDA ITEM – 8K



MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 9, 2026
TO: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers
FROM: Jessica Jagoe, City Administrator
SUBJECT: Resolution 2026-007 Delegating to the North Suburban Communications Commission authority to prepare Broadband Franchises

Budgeted Amount:
N/A

Actual Amount:
N/A

Funding Source:
N/A

Council Should Consider

Motions to approve, table, or deny the following:

- Resolution 2026-007 Delegating to the North Suburban Communications Commission (NSCC) authority to prepare Broadband Franchises.

Background/Discussion

At the January 12th work session, Council gave direction to city staff to proceed with delegating authority to NSCC to prepare broadband franchise agreements in Arden Hills and to provide formal notice to future applicants of right-of-way permits of the need to obtain a franchise from the Commission.

Franchising gives municipalities the legal authority to manage their public rights-of-way and negotiate enforceable agreements with private broadband providers. For Arden Hills, the NSCC has the delegated authority to negotiate and manage the cable communications systems on behalf of its member cities. A broadband system under state law is considered a cable communications system. Therefore, the City can make the determination that when a permit application is submitted to construct a cable communications system (i.e. broadband system) that the applicant shall be instructed to obtain a franchise from the NSCC as a prerequisite to issuing permits. At its December meeting, the NSCC Board passed a recommendation that each member city should direct any applicant for fiber construction to them for franchising discussions.

Council is being asked to approve Resolution 2026-007 delegating that authority (Attachment A). Upon approval, city staff will notify future applicants of right-of-way permits for broadband system installation of the need to obtain a franchise from NSCC (Attachment B).

Budget Impact

N/A

Attachment

Attachment A: Resolution 2026-007

Attachment B: Sample Permit Deferral Letter to NSCC