

**City of Menahga
Planning Commission Minutes
Thursday, September 6, 2018**

A. Call to Order

The Menahga Planning Commission held a meeting on Thursday, September 6, 2018. Planning Commission Chair Olson called the meeting to order at 5 pm.

B. Roll Call

Comprising a quorum of the council, the following members were present:

Liz Olson	Larry Karjala
Larry Murphy	Sam Kicker

C. Pledge of Allegiance

D. Public Hearing

Commission Chair Olson opened the public hearing. Adam Ripple with American Towers Corporation objected to the approval of the conditional use permit submitted by Uniti Towers. He stated that there are two towers in close proximity to the proposed site, and that the city ordinances state that a permitted use be necessary to public welfare. He also stated the city ordinances don't address colocation, ability of existing infrastructure to accommodate additional equipment, as well as other items specific to cell tower use and that Uniti Towers is taking advantage of gaps in the ordinances.

Scott Buell from Uniti Towers stated that there is nothing in the Agricultural Residential zoning ordinance that disallows the conditional use. He also stated that other more robust city ordinances say that clustering of towers is recommended because of the convenience of having towers located where there are existing towers.

Member Karjala had questions regarding the height of the antennas, whether the new equipment on the tower would interfere with the other tower's equipment. Mr. Buell stated the antennas are 6' tall and that they generally don't have issues with interference because specific frequencies are used. Member Kicker asked whether AT & T currently has equipment on the AMT's tower and was told that they do. The Commission discussed other issues that city attorney Jeff Pederson brought to their attention. One issue was whether this is a subdivision. Mr. Buell said most cities he has worked with do not require a parcel to be subdivided. The issue of whether the use is public or private was addressed by Mr. Buell in that it is a commercial use with a touch of public. It is a business decision to choose a new tower partner. Chair Olson asked whether the commission wants to continue to allow towers in the city limits and member Murphy said the city allows more than one grocery store in town and that it is competition. There was additional discussion about approving the permit with the condition that a cell tower be allowed to lease the property without being required to be subdivided and that the permit be allowed specifically

because there are already two towers existing in the particular area of the A-R district the permit is being requested.

Main Motion: Approving Resolution 2018-001 Recommending the Menahga City Council Approve a Conditional Use Permit to Uniti Towers on a Property (1043 Aspen Ave. S.) Located in the Agricultural District.

Moved by:	Murphy
Seconded by:	Kicker
Action:	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
In favor:	Karjala, Kicker, Murphy, Olson
Opposed:	None

E. Meeting Adjourned

Main Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 5:52 pm

Moved by:	Karjala
Seconded by:	Kicker
Action:	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
In favor:	Karjala, Kicker, Murphy, Ellingson, Olson
Opposed:	None


Gina Ellingson, Administrator


Liz Olson, Chair