CITY OF TALENT
RESOLUTION NO. 2018-980-R

A RESOLUTION REGARDING PACIFIC POWER’S SMART METER PROGRAM IN SUPPORT OF A REDUCTION IN OR WAIVER OF OPT-OUT FEES AND A MORATORIUM ON METER INSTALLATION

WHEREAS, smart meters are computerized electric meters that send electric meter readings to a remote location via radiofrequency radiation multiple times per day; and

WHEREAS, analog meters are manually read electromechanical meters that are currently utilized by Pacific Power (UTILITY) for its customers in the City of Talent; and

WHEREAS, UTILITY is currently replacing existing meters with smart (a.k.a., advanced or AMI) meters; and

WHEREAS, UTILITY plans to replace all existing meters with the fully functioning smart meter unless a customer opts out of having a smart meter installed; and

WHEREAS, the Oregon Public Utilities Commission has approved charges for UTILITY’s Oregon customers who choose to opt out the smart meter replacement program. Those fees include a one-time meter exchange fee of $137.00 if a smart meter is not installed, a one-time meter exchange fee of $306.00 if an existing smart meter is removed and replaced by an analog meter, and a monthly meter reading fee of $36.00 for as long as an analog meter is in place; and

WHEREAS, residents of this community have expressed serious concerns about smart meters in homes and businesses. Those concerns include the health effects of radiofrequency radiation and the voltage transients and harmonics (line noise) generated by smart meters; concerns about privacy and hacking; concerns about fire safety and fire hazards; and

WHEREAS, the City of Talent has many residents, including numerous families, who are living on low-to-moderate incomes or on fixed incomes, and the op-out fees for the smart meter program would place a serious economic burden on those residents, making it a practical impossibility to choose to opt-out of the program despite concerns about the use of smart meters; and

WHEREAS, our City is committed to providing equal opportunity and quality of life for all, and to removing full barriers to participation in public life on the basis of economic position.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Talent City Council supports the ability of UTILITY customers to opt out of the smart meter program without suffering a financial burden or incurring a monthly charge, and urges UTILITY to reconsider the imposition of opt-out and meter reading fees, especially for low-income and fixed income individuals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Talent City Council calls on the Oregon Public Utility Commission to review the fee structure for UTILITY’s smart meter program, particularly the opt-out and meter reading fee, in light of the disparate impact those fees impose on residents of constrained income who have concerns about smart meter installation; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Talent urges UTILITY to place a moratorium on the installation of smart meters in the city until a fair and equitable solution has been reached regarding the imposition of fees on residents of limited income who would like to opt out of the smart meter program.

Duly enacted by the City Council in open session on July 3, 2018 by the following vote:

AYES: 5  NAYS: 1  ABSTAIN: Ø  ABSENT: Ø

Attest:

Savannah Edson, City Recorder and Custodian of City Records