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**DESIGN GUIDELINES FOR**

**SMALL WIRELESS FACILITIES**

**Section 1 – Applicability**

These design guidelines apply to:

1. new or modified utility poles located in right-of-ways that do not exceed the greater of:
2. ten feet in height above the tallest existing utility pole in place as of May 6, 2019, located within 500 feet of the new pole in the same right-of-way; or
3. fifty feet above ground level; and
4. new small wireless facilities in the right-of-ways that do not extend more than 10 feet above an existing utility pole in place as of May 6, 2019.

Any small wireless facility not meeting the criteria above is subject to the zoning regulations as a wireless telecommunication facility.

**Section 2 – Antenna and Equipment Design Parameters**

A. All small wireless facilities:

1. shall not obstruct the safe operation of traffic control equipment or street lights;
2. shall not interfere with driver or pedestrian sight lines or clear zones for transportation or pedestrians and in agreement with Section 21-030 Safety and Vision of the Zoning Ordinance;
3. shall comply with applicable federal and state standards regarding pedestrian access and movement;
4. shall comply with generally-applicable health and safety codes;
5. shall be constructed in a manner to minimize physical damage to private property;
6. should be located in alleys to the greatest extent feasible as determined by Planning Director or his or her designee.
7. in right of ways where there are decorative poles, facilities shall use concealed or stealth style antennas in which one of the following occurs:
	1. Pole Mounted: All equipment is contained within the pole the antenna is mounted to and the pole and antenna is painted to match the poles in the area or a color approved by the Planning Director or his or her designee;
	2. Building Mounted: The antenna is mounted on a structure and blends into the structure seamlessly by using one of the following methods that is approved by the Planning Director or his or her designee:
8. being completely enclosed inside of a box that mimics the materials or aesthetics of the building it is mounted to;
9. being completely concealed inside an existing portion of a building such as the cupola or screening for mechanical equipment;
10. being completely concealed behind a parapet or other barrier so as to not be visible from any point at ground level on the public right of way;
11. shall not include advertisements.

B. Each antenna associated with a small wireless facility may be up to three cubic feet in volume and, to the extent feasible as determined by the Planning Director or his or her designee:

1. when mounted at the top of a utility pole, shall be aligned with the centerline of the utility pole and enclosed in a cylindrical shroud;
2. when mounted at the top of a pole, a pole-top extension shall be no taller than necessary for separation from other attachments;
3. when mounted on or within an existing or replacement decorative pole, shall conform to the design aesthetics of the original pole, including the design, style and color;
4. when mounted on another structure, shall not impair the function of the structure.

C. To the extent feasible as determined by the Planning Director or his or her designee, wireless equipment associated with an antenna:

1. shall be located inside of the pole the antenna is mounted on;
2. shall be located in a ground-mounted cabinet unless located in an alley or non-improved right of way and shall be finished in matte black; the ground mounted cabinet will be located within the same width of space parallel to the right of way boundaries as the pole the antenna is mounted on; a ground-mounted cabinet shall not exceed thirty-six inches in height. The ground-mounted cabinet shall be made available for graphics or paintings reflecting the historical, cultural, social, or abstracted artwork relevant to the city, local neighborhoods, or the local region; these graphics or paintings shall be done by the City of Charleston, it’s associated or quasi-governmental entities, or by a private entity in partnership with the City; the graphics or paintings shall in no way impede with the operation of the ground-mounted cabinet or the equipment within;
3. When located in alleys or non-improved right of ways, equipment can be mounted on a pole other than at the top, be flush-mounted, or as near to flush as possible and shall provide a minimum clearance of eight feet above streets, driveways and sidewalks.

D. Replacement poles shall be, to the extent feasible as determined by the Planning Director or his or her designee:

1. installed within three feet of the location for the original pole;
2. of a material and dimensions that matches as closely as feasible existing adjacent poles, or consistent with any published local standards for utility pole placements.

E. New poles, to the extent feasible as determined by the Planning Director or his or her designee:

1. shall be aligned with the predominate pattern of existing poles where present, or with street trees along the same side of the right-of-way;
2. shall not be located directly in front of storefront windows, primary walkways, primary windows, or primary egress points to buildings;
3. Shall be cited outside the critical root zone of existing street trees.

F. Cables and wires associated with a small wireless facility, to the extent feasible as determined by the Planning Director or his or her designee:

1. shall be installed within the pole;
2. shall be flush-mounted to the pole where internal installation is not feasible; or
3. shall be encased in cover or conduit when flush-mounted to the pole.

G. An electric meter, if required, will be pole-mounted where feasible to the extent authorized by the pole owner and electric provider.