

**AMANDA RAGAN**

STATE SENATOR

*Twenty-seventh District*

Butler, Cerro Gordo and

Franklin Counties

Statehouse: (515) 281-3371

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HOME ADDRESS

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**The Senate**

State of Iowa

*Eighty-eighth General Assembly*

STATEHOUSE

Des Moines, IA 50319

**MINORITY WHIP**

## COMMITTEES

Agriculture  
 Appropriations  
 Human Resources  
 Rules and Administration  
 Veterans Affairs

Health and Human Services Appropriations  
 Subcommittee, *Ranking Member*

July 31, 2020

Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa  
 200 E Grand Ave  
 Des Moines, IA 50309

RE: Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant Program – NOFA #003

Dear Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa:

I would like to express my full support of the Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant application for Interstate CableVision, LLC d/b/a OmniTel Communications (OmniTel). OmniTel's broadband plan for portions of rural Iowa would address the lack of adequate broadband Internet access and connectivity in our North Iowa area. I am very familiar with OmniTel's long and successful history of providing state-of-the-art broadband service at modern speeds to other rural communities and their strong reputation for customer service and community commitment. Therefore, I am completely confident in their capability to enhance broadband service for the residents of rural Iowa.

As an underserved area with limited modern Internet services, residents of rural Iowa are faced with many challenges, such as limited medical resources and distance barriers between patients, physicians, and facilities. Because of the rural nature of the area, students do not receive equitable broadband resources as compared to those in more urban areas. Rural students may lack the opportunity for research, distance learning, video, and other tools that advanced broadband can deliver. This is even more important for students who must attempt to get an education during a time of Covid-19 educational restrictions and requirements.

With funding assistance from the Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant program, OmniTel's proposed expansion will enable the residents of rural Iowa to overcome geographical distances, empower them through information, and bring the world to their fingertips. Additionally, I feel strongly that this project will enable greater collaboration and teamwork between community service centers, public safety offices, county offices, and municipal offices.

I respectfully ask your careful review of OmniTel's proposal for their adoption project in rural Iowa. It is extremely important that state broadband grant funding be obtained to provide much needed broadband service to this area. Your positive consideration of this request will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Senator Amanda Ragan

Council Members

Troy Graves  
Jim Drake  
Adam Houser  
Michael Knudsen  
Tate Brandon

# CITY OF CARSON

316 SOUTH COMMERCIAL ST • P.O. Box 128  
CARSON, IA 51525  
Phone (712) 484-3636  
Fax (712) 484-3645  
[www.carsongov.com](http://www.carsongov.com)

Mayor

Tim Todd

Clerk

Brianne Duede

February 15, 2019

OmniTel Communications  
Attn: Josh Hveem, COO  
105 N West Street  
Truro, IA 50257

RE: Letter of Support

Dear Representatives of OmniTel Communications,

The purpose of this letter is to affirm that the City of Carson is in support of OmniTel Communications endeavor to install fiber optic infrastructure throughout the City of Carson's right of ways, pending the necessary Right of Way Agreement. As Mayor of the City of Carson, I recognize the importance of high-speed broadband communication services for economic growth, education, health and safety and recognize in particular the broadband connectivity gaps that exist in rural Iowa communities, such as Carson. The City of Carson believes the proposal from OmniTel Communications to install fiber optic infrastructure will address the gap in connectivity for our community. We believe the availability and adoption of high-speed broadband for all of Carson's citizens, businesses, and non-profit agencies is of the utmost importance and with this in mind I hereby submit this letter of support. Thank you for your investment in the City of Carson.

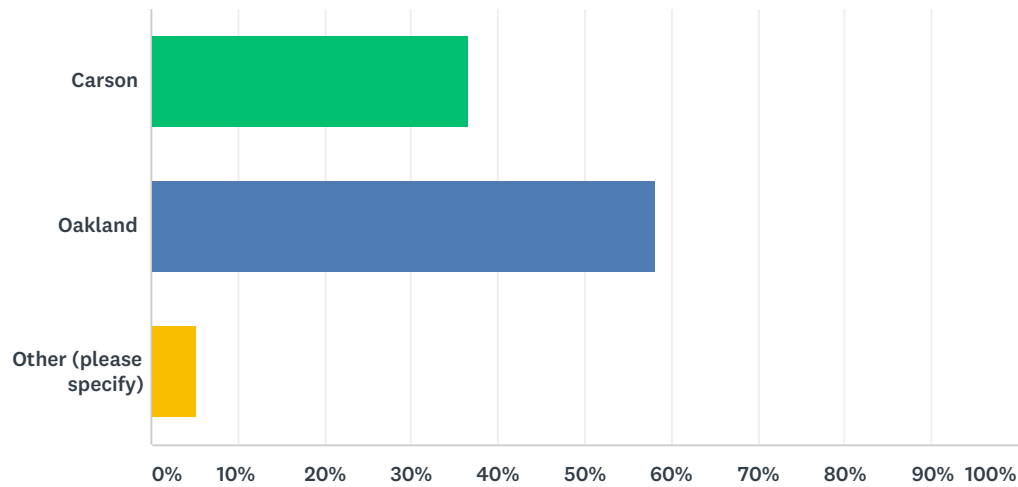
Sincerely,

Tim Todd, Mayor



## Q1 In what town do you currently live in? (If you are a business, in what town is your organization located?)

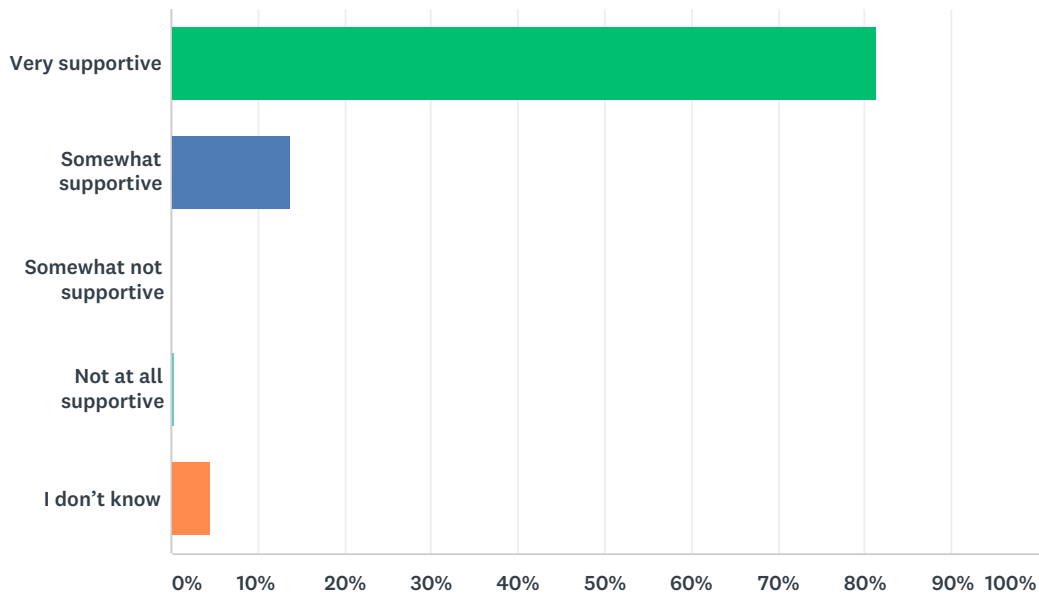
Answered: 289 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Carson	36.68%	106
Oakland	58.13%	168
Other (please specify)	5.19%	15
TOTAL		289

## Q2 How supportive are you of OmniTel's proposed plan to build a fiber optic network in your community? Would you say...

Answered: 289 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very supportive	81.31%	235
Somewhat supportive	13.84%	40
Somewhat not supportive	0.00%	0
Not at all supportive	0.35%	1
I don't know	4.50%	13
TOTAL		289

**Council Members**

Troy Graves  
 Jim Drake  
 Adam Houser  
 Michael Knudsen  
 Tate Brandon

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**Mayor**

Tim Todd

**Clerk**

Brianne Duede

## **City of Carson - Regular Council Meeting Minutes– February 11, 2019 7:30 PM**

Present: Mayor Todd. Council Members Graves, Houser, Brandon, Knudsen. Council Absent: Drake.

Staff Present: Duede, Gordon. Public Present: Randy & Susan Miller, Omnitel Representatives: Bryan Nelson, Josh Hveem and Mark Pietib.

Mayor Todd called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Pledge of allegiance.

Knudsen motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Brandon - 4 ayes.

Mayor Todd opened the public hearing regarding the proposed fiscal year 2019/2020 Budget. No comments were received from the public. Knudsen made a motion to close the public hearing at 7:31 PM, seconded by Houser - 4 ayes.

Mayor Todd opened the public hearing regarding the proposed fiscal year 2018/2019 Budget Amendment. No comments were received from the public. Knudsen made a motion to close the public hearing at 7:32 PM, seconded by Houser – 4 ayes.

Public Forum: No comments were received or made.

**Representatives from Omnitel Communications (also known as Interstate Cablevision) were present to discuss their plans to install fiber optic infrastructure throughout the City in 2019. Their fiber optic installation will provide citizens and businesses with telephone, video and high-speed broadband internet services. Lengthy discussion was held. Omnitel presented the City Council with a Right of Way agreement for the proposed boring and ground work related to the installation of fiber optic throughout the city right of ways. Omnitel COO, Josh Hveem, stated the support from the community has been overwhelmingly positive. Mayor Todd stated the City Attorney will need to review the agreement. Council Member Graves stated the City of Carson supports the proposed build out of fiber optic broadband infrastructure by Omnitel Communications pending the right of way agreement between the City and Omnitel. The proposed project by Omnitel will provide a positive impact on the local economy.**

Maintenance Reports were given regarding snow removal and repairs to the 2017 White Ford City truck.

Houser made a motion to approve the Resolution 2019-7 (Adopt Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Budget), seconded by Knudsen – Roll Call 4 ayes: Brandon, Houser, Knudsen, Graves. Motion carried.

Graves made a motion to approve the Resolution 2019-8 (Adopt Fiscal Year 2018/2019 Budget Amendment), seconded by Knudsen – Roll Call 4 ayes: Brandon, Houser, Knudsen, Graves. Motion carried.

Houser made a motion to approve the Resolution 2019-9 (Approve American Red Cross Facility Use Agreement), seconded by Brandon – Roll Call 4 ayes: Brandon, Houser, Knudsen, Graves. Motion carried.

Clerk Duede reported MAPA is completing updates on the City Strategic Plan, a public input session will be held at the community center on Monday, March 4, 2019 at 7 PM. Duede provided the Council with the street light request form from MidAmerican Energy to install a new street light at the intersection of South Dye and Broadway. Brandon made a motion to approve the street light submittal, seconded by Knudsen – 4 ayes.

**Graves made a motion to waive building permit fees, door to door solicitation permit fees, and community center rental fees for Omnitel Communication as a sign of support for the 2019 fiber optic project, seconded by Houser – 4 ayes. Motion carried.**

Houser made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Brandon – 4 ayes. The consent agenda consisted of January 14, 2019 Council meeting minutes, February Bills, Utility Report, Community Center Report, Fire Department Report, Overtime Report, Clerk & Treasurer Reports.

Mayor & Commissioner Reports: Mayor Todd and Council member Houser stated they attended the Pottawattamie County Sheriffs Meeting and the law enforcement contract between the city's and county would be increasing 3% each of the next 2 years. This will be the first increase in the contract in over 18 years.

Knudsen made a motion to adjourn at 8:52 PM, seconded by Brandon - 4 ayes.

**TIM TODD, MAYOR**

**ATTEST: BRIANNE DUEDE, CITY CLERK**

**City of Carson January 2019 Revenue & Expenses:**

Income: General \$15,684.24. Road Use \$8,859.49. Debt Service \$370.60. Water \$11,871.55. Sewer \$15,133.99. Garbage \$6,828.51. **Total Income \$58,748.38.**

Expenses: General \$23,975.21. Road Use \$7,064.36. TIF \$10,035.00. Water \$22,131.11. Sewer \$20,022.70. Garbage \$5,244.18.

**Total Expenses \$88,472.56.**

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL  
FEBRUARY 11, 2019

Public hearing concerning Budget for fiscal year 2020 was opened at 7:00p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Pat Newberg. Moniz, Perkins, Rollins and Wede were also present. No public comments were made during the public hearing. Hearing closed at 7:01p.m. The regular session was postponed to Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00p.m. due to weather.

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL  
FEBRUARY 12, 2019  
REGULAR SESSION

The Regular Session of the Oakland City Council met in the Oakland City Services Building Council Chambers and was called to order by Mayor Brant Miller at 7:00p.m. Meeting was postponed on February 11, 2019 due to weather. Pledge of Allegiance was said. Council Members present were Moniz, Newberg, Perkins, Rollins and Wede. City staff present were Public Works Director Mike Baragary and City Clerk Marissa Lockwood. Also present was Courtne Turner, Josh Hveem, Bryan Nelsen and Mark Pietig.

Motion by Wede, second by Perkins to approve the agenda with removal of golf course report and fire department minutes from the consent agenda and the Cemetery Board update. 5 Ayes, motion carried.

Open forum was held. No public comments.

Motion by Moniz to approve the consent agenda including: January Clerk Report, February Claims, January Senior Center Report, Library Report, Sheriff's Report, Animal Control Report, minutes from January 14<sup>th</sup> regular session and January 21<sup>st</sup> special session, Resolution 2019-02-08 "Placing Lien on Property" and liquor license renewal for Blossoms. Second by Rollins. Roll call. 5 Ayes, motion carried.

Josh Hveem, COO of OmniTel Communications presented information on bringing fiber, telephone and video to Oakland and Carson. Currently applying for a grant and need support of community. Council expressed support and the need for the services that OmniTel Communications provides.

Budget public hearing was held as scheduled on Monday February 11, 2019 at 7:00p.m. There were no public comments received during that time. Proposed budget includes utilizing the Emergency Levy which is an additional 27 cents. The new levy will be \$8.37. Motion by Newberg, second by Rollins to approve Resolution 2019-02-04 "Adopting Budget for Fiscal Year 2020". Roll call. Newberg, Perkins, Rollins and Wede – Ayes, Moniz – No. Motion carried.

Second reading of Ordinance 53- An Ordinance Adopting the City of Oakland Zoning Code and Map, 2019 was held. Motion by Wede to waive the third reading and approve Ordinance 53. Second by Moniz. 5 Ayes, motion carried.

Discussion was held on Not to Exceed \$600,000 General Obligation Capital Loan Notes for purchase of grass trucks and refinancing 2013B note. Motion by Moniz, second by Wede to approve Resolution 2019-02-01 "Resolution fixing date for a meeting on the proposition to authorize a Loan Agreement and the issuance of Notes to evidence the obligations of the City thereunder". Roll call. 5 Ayes, motion carried. Motion by Rollins to approve Underwriting Agreement with D.A. Davidson. Second by Moniz. 5 Ayes, motion carried. Motion by Perkins to approve Resolution 2019-02-02 "Engagement Agreement with Ahlers and Cooney, P.C." Second by Wede. Roll call. 5 Ayes, motion carried.

Second reading of Ordinance 54 – An Ordinance Establishing Chapter 152 Pertaining to Private Residential Swimming Pools in the City of Oakland, Iowa was held. Motion by Moniz, second by Perkins to waive the third reading and approve Ordinance 54. 5 Ayes, motion carried.

Motion by Newberg, second by Wede to approve Resolution 2019-02-03 "Approving Lot Split" for parcel at 302 North Highway Street. Roll call 4 Ayes, Rollins abstained due to conflict of interest. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding a request from the American Red Cross to enter into an agreement to designate the Community Center as an emergency shelter location. Council directed Lockwood to request that the Red Cross come present the information and be available to answer questions.

Wede submitted resignation from the City Council effective February 13, 2019. Motion by Newberg, second by Moniz to regretfully accept Wede's resignation. 4 Ayes, Wede No. Motion carried. Letters of interest for the open City Council position were received from Susan Harris, Doug Reed and Courtne Turner. Motion by Newberg to publish notice of intent to fill Council vacancy by appointment at the March 11<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting. Second by Moniz. 5 Ayes, motion carried.

Personnel Committee discussion was held. Motion by Newberg, second by Perkins to approve Resolution 2019-02-05 "Setting Employee Wages" for Bonni Hering at an increase of \$.46 per hour taking her wage to \$15.80 per hour. After discussion vote was held, 4 no votes. Rollins abstained due to conflict of interest. Motion failed. Motion by Perkins, second by Moniz to approve Resolution 2019-02-05 "Setting Employee Wages" for Bonni Hering at an increase of \$1.07 per hour taking her wage to \$16.41 per hour. Roll call. 4 Ayes, Rollins abstained due to conflict of interest. Motion carried. Motion by Perkins, second by Moniz to approve Resolution 2019-02-06 "Setting Employee Wages" for Marissa Lockwood at an increase of \$1.19 per hour taking her wage to \$24.92 per hour. Roll call. 5 Ayes, motion carried. Motion by Newberg, second by Rollins to approve Resolution 2019-02-07 "Setting Employee Wages" for Dylan Bees at an increase of \$703.27 per year taking his salary to \$37,243.76. Roll call. 5 Ayes, motion carried. Discussion was held on updates to Public Works Labor I job description. Personnel committee, Mayor Miller, Lockwood and Baragary met last week to discuss updates and future planning for staffing. Motion by Newberg to approve updates to the Public Works Labor I job description. Second by Wede. 5 Ayes, motion carried. Hiring an additional public works employee was discussed. Motion by Perkins, second by Rollins to advertise for Public Works Labor I position through March 8<sup>th</sup>. 5 Ayes, motion carried. Will continue working on updating job descriptions and planning for the future.

Baragary gave the Crew Report. Have a well down, working on getting repairs completed. Running low on salt for streets and are not able to get any more from suppliers at this time due to the high demand, will have to use what is left sparingly.

Lockwood gave the Clerk's Report. Software conversion is going well, utility billing changeover will be later this month. All accounts will have new account numbers and the bills will look a little different.

Miller gave the Mayor's Report. Server for key fob system is down, working on getting repairs completed but cannot update any keys at this time. If anyone needs in fitness center and key is not working, Clerks can let them in during business hours. System should be back up in about two weeks. Industrial Foundation Housing Committee is working on locating land for commercial and residential development. Thanked Wede for his service on the City Council.

Newberg gave an update on the meeting held with the cities, Board of Supervisors and the Sheriff's Department concerning increasing rates for the contracted law enforcement. Proposal is 3% increase for two years then revisit.

Motion by Wede to adjourn. Second by Moniz. 5 Ayes, motion carried.  
Adjournment 9:22p.m.

AFLAC	PAY LIABILITIES	48.12
ANDERSON SERVICE	WINDOW WASHING	85.00
BARAGARY MIKE	RX REIMBURSEMENT	200.00
CHI HEALTH CLINIC - OHS	BERTACINI TB TEST	30.00
CLARK'S ELECTRIC	WELL BUILDING HEATER REPAIR	55.00
COHRON READY MIX	CONCRETE	30.00
COUNSEL	COPIER	178.68
DATA TECHNOLOGIES INC	IMPLEMENTATION AP/BK/GL	4670.99
DOLLAR GENERAL-REGIONS 410526	SUPPLIES	11.20
EFTPS	PAY LIABILITIES	5976.83
EMS BILLING	EMS BILLING SERVICES	18.43
FARM SERVICE COOP	FUEL	326.27
FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS	PHONE/INTERNET/DISH	854.97
HACH COMPANY	ANALYSIS SUPPLIES	295.65
HAWKINS INC	CHEMICALS	5863.53
HEIMAN FIRE EQUIPMENT	FIRE EQUIPMENT	3550.32
HEREDIA, INGRID	COMM BLDG DEPOSIT REFUND	25.00
HOA SOLUTIONS	WATERPLANT COMPUTER REPAIRS	427.50
HOWARD, KERRI	WATER DEPOSIT REFUND	15.74
HUMANA	REFUND EMS OVERPAYMENT	119.03
IA DEPT OF REVENUE	WET & SALES TAX	3569.00
IMFOA	DUES	50.00
IOWA ONE CALL	LOCATES	23.40
IOWA WASTE SERVICES LLC	LANDFILL FEES	2005.93
IOWA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE	TRAINING	30.00
IPERS	IPERS	3567.96
JENNIE ED HOSPITAL PHARM	EMS SUPPLIES	44.99
JOURNAL HERALD	ADVERTISING/PUBLISHING	348.52
JP LUMBER	SUPPLIES	28.56
KEYSTONE LABORATORIES INC	ANALYSIS	247.47
LOCKWOOD MARISSA	RX REIMBURSEMENT	34.03
M K MILLS TREE SERVICE INC	SANITATION CONTRACT	10293.60
MANGOLD ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING	ANALYSIS	690.00
MATHESON TRI GAS	CHEMICALS	142.38
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY	ELECTRIC/GAS	11732.21
NAPA OAKLAND	SUPPLIES/REPAIRS	160.86
NISHNABOTNA VALLEY REC	UTILITIES	3563.54
PAYMENT SERVICE NETWORK	EBILLING	25.00
POSTMASTER	POSTAGE/PERMIT	386.48
POTT COUNTY TREASURER	JANUARY RECYCLING CENTER USE	135.50
PRINCIPAL LIFE GROUP GRAND ISL	LIFE INSURANCE	72.84
RVS SOFTWARE	ANNUAL SOFTWARE MAINT & UPDATE	1144.00
SAFELIGHT FULFILLMENT, INC	REPLACE WINDSHIELD 2006 F250	215.50
SAMS CLUB MC/SYNCB	SUPPLIES/SHIPPING SAMPLES	961.21
SNYDER & ASSOCIATES	ENGINEERING FEES	1935.00
STAPLES ADVANTAGE	SUPPLIES	184.91
SUNBELT INSURANCE GROUP	SERVLINE PREMIUMS	1447.40
SYNGENTA CROP PROTECTION US006	COMM BLDG DEPOSIT REFUND	250.00
TINIK INC	REPAIRS TO SALT SPREADER	1572.00
TREASURER - STATE OF IOWA	PAY LIABILITIES	1036.00
UNIFIRST CORPORATION-AR	CONTRACT SERVICE	154.05
VERIZON WIRELESS	CELL PHONE	279.38
WELLMARK BC/BS OF IOWA	HEALTH BENEFITS	4918.68
WEX BANK	FUEL	306.90
<u>PAYROLL CHECKS</u>	<u>WAGES</u>	<u>17045.53</u>
TOTAL		91385.09

General Fund	Income	31874.23	Expense	21309.37
Golf Course Fund	Income	688.00	Expense	1731.07
Water Fund	Income	60776.40	Expense	56095.41
Sewer Fund	Income	6316.08	Expense	2560.83
Sanitation Fund	Income	14067.06	Expense	13393.32
TIF Fund	Income	0	Expense	0
Debt Service Fund	Income	0	Expense	1000.00
Road Use Fund	Income	25047.57	Expense	10700.00
January Totals	Income	139273.56	Expense	105549.50



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Mayor

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City Clerk