

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 185, SECTION 90, UTILITIES OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF DEWEY BEACH, DELAWARE BY ADDING THERETO A NEW SECTION 90A RELATING TO THE WIRELESS FACILITIES.**

Section 1. Amend the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Dewey Beach, Chapter 185, Zoning by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

**§185-90A Wireless Facilities**

1. Purposes. The Town of Dewey Beach has a critical interest in preserving and promoting the aesthetics of beach lands, streets and roads within its municipal boundaries and jurisdiction. The installation of small cell technology is designed to enhance wireless capabilities while harmoniously blending into the existing character and context of the beach lands, streets and roads within the Town. Installation of small cell technology shall take into consideration the aesthetics of the area in which it will be placed. The Town desires to ensure its small beach town character and the maintenance of the natural beauty of its beaches when development occurs in any form.
2. Applicability. This section applies to all Wireless Facilities within the Town of Dewey Beach including the expansion, collocation and/or modification of any existing Small Cell Facilities, subject to the following procedures.
  - a. Permit. No Wireless Facility shall be erected, constructed, installed or modified without first obtaining a permit from the Town of Dewey Beach.
  - b. Town reviews of installations or maintenance of Wireless Facilities covered by federal or state legislation are confined to the procedures and limits on review and approval for siting, collocating and modifying Wireless Facilities and equipment as defined by those regulations, as amended, and all applicable codes regarding building standards. Applications that include changes to or new Wireless Facilities not specified by federal or state laws will be subject to additional Town review procedures, guidelines, and fees.
  - c. This Section 90A is not intended to, nor shall it be interpreted or applied to: (i) prohibit or effectively prohibit any personal wireless service provider's ability to provide personal wireless services; (ii) prohibit or effectively prohibit any entity's ability to provide any interstate or intrastate telecommunications service, subject to any competitively neutral and nondiscriminatory rules or regulation for rights of way management; (iii) unreasonably discriminate among providers of functionally equivalent services; (iv) deny any request for authorization to place, construct or modify personal wireless service facilities on the basis of environmental effects of radio frequency emissions to the extent that such facilities comply with the FCC's regulations concerning such emissions; (v) prohibit any collocation or modification that the Town may not deny under federal law; or (vi) otherwise authorize the Town to preempt any applicable federal or Delaware state law.
  - d. The following are exempt from the provisions of this Section 90A: (i) Amateur radio station operators; (ii) Public safety agencies; (iii) Satellite dish antenna; (iv) Industrial scientific and medical equipment operations; and (v) Routine maintenance or repair of personal wireless service facilities.
3. Wireless Facilities Review.
  - a. Prohibited on Certain Property.
    - i. Wireless Facilities shall not be permitted on any property used for residential purposes.
    - ii. Wireless Facilities shall not be permitted on the beach dunes or east of the beach dunes.
  - b. Conditional Use Permit Review – Conditional use permit approval as outlined in §185-74 shall be required for all Wireless Facilities except for those circumstances in which administrative review is permitted.
  - c. Administrative Review - The following types of Wireless Facilities shall not require conditional use permits and shall be reviewed administratively for compliance with this Section 90A:

- i. Small Cell Facilities located on any existing Wireless Support Structures in any zoning district;
- ii. Small Cell Facilities located on a new Wireless Support Structure in any designated State or Town rights of way or on Town- or State-owned Utility Poles or structures;
- iii. Modifications to a Wireless Facility Support structure which involves: Collocation of new Transmission Equipment; removal of Transmission Equipment; or replacement of Transmission Equipment provided the modification does not result in Substantial Change in the physical dimensions of an Eligible Support Structure.

Any decision to administratively approve or deny a permit application is subject to review by the Commissioners of the Town of Dewey Beach

4. Design Standards. All Wireless Facilities shall comply with the Town's Design Standards.
5. Collocation. To the extent practical, all Wireless Facilities and associated equipment that are placed in the Town shall be attached to a preexisting Wireless Support Structure or a replacement Wireless Support Structure located in the same footprint as the removed Wireless Support Structure and which complies with all other requirements of this Section 90A. If an applicant demonstrates that no collocation opportunities exist in the area where a technologically documented need for a facility exists, the applicant may request that a new Wireless Support Structure be installed in that area for the purposes of constructing the Wireless Facilities. Before any new Wireless Support Structure is permitted, the following must occur:
  - a. The applicant must have provided the Town written evidence that no practical collocation opportunity exists. This evidence shall include, but not be limited to, affidavits, correspondence, or other written information that demonstrates that the applicant has taken all commercially reasonable actions to achieve collocation in the required location or area, that the applicant has pursued but been denied access to all potential collocation sites in the subject area (including the reasons for such denials), and otherwise show that the applicant is unable to collocate on an existing Wireless Support Structure.
6. Application Process. Applicants shall utilize application forms provided by the Town to initiate a review depending on the type of proposed wireless facility.
7. Time frame for Approval. The Town shall comply with all federal and state timing requirements in consideration of applications for New Tower Facilities and Collocation and Modification of Existing Wireless Facilities. Wireless facilities that do not fall under such requirements will follow the plan review scheduling requirements outlined for site plans and conditional uses.
8. Removal of abandoned antennas and towers. Any antenna or tower that is not operated for a continuous period of 12 months shall be considered abandoned, and the owner of such Antenna or Tower shall remove the same and any supporting equipment within 90 days of receipt of notice from the Town notifying the owner of such abandonment. Failure to remove an abandoned Antenna or Tower within said 90 days shall be grounds to remove the Tower or Antenna at the owner's expense. If there are two or more users of a single Tower, then this provision shall not become effective until all users cease using the Tower.
9. Bonding requirements. Whenever any Tower Facility is constructed, the operator thereof shall obtain and keep in force:
  - a. A performance bond payable to the Town to cover the cost of removal of the Tower Facility. The performance bond shall remain in force throughout the time the Tower is located on the Site.
  - b. The amount of the bond shall be equal to the reasonable proposed construction cost of the project.
10. Permit Fees. The permit fee for each Wireless Facility shall be calculated and assessed in accordance with Chapter 71 of the Dewey Beach Code of Ordinances.
11. Reimbursement. In addition to permit fees as described in this Section, every Wireless Facility in the right of way and upon beach lands is subject to the Town's right to recover its actual costs incurred as a result of construction in the right of way, including, but not limited to, the costs of administration and performance of all reviewing, inspecting, permitting, supervising and other management activities by the Town. The owner of each wireless facility shall reimburse the Town for the Town's costs reasonably

incurred in connection with the activities described above. All fees shall comply with applicable state and federal law and not exceed amounts presumed reasonable by the FCC.

12. Nonconforming uses.

- a. Preexisting Towers. Preexisting Towers shall be allowed to continue their usage as they presently exist. Routine maintenance (including replacement with a new Tower of like construction and height) shall be permitted on such preexisting Towers. New construction other than routine maintenance on a preexisting Tower shall comply with the requirements of this Section 90A.
- b. Rebuilding Damaged or Destroyed Nonconforming Towers or Antennas. Notwithstanding §185-90A.2.a, bona fide nonconforming Towers or Antennas that are damaged or destroyed may be rebuilt without first having to obtain administrative approval or a conditional use permit. The type, height, and location of the Tower on-site shall be of the same type and intensity as the original facility approval. Building permits to rebuild the facility shall comply with the then applicable building codes and shall be obtained within 180 days from the date the facility is damaged or destroyed. If no permit is obtained or if said permit expires, the Tower or antenna shall be deemed abandoned as specified in §185-90A.7.

13. Definitions. As used in this Section 90A, the following terms shall have the meanings set forth below:

“Antenna” means any exterior transmitting or receiving device mounted on a Tower, building or structure and used in communications that radiate or capture electromagnetic waves, digital signals, analog signals, radio frequencies (excluding radar signals), wireless telecommunications signals or other communication signals.

“Antenna height” or “height” means the vertical distance measured from the base of the wireless support facility at grade to the highest point of the structure even if said highest point is an antenna. Measurement of height shall include antenna, base pad, and other appurtenances and shall be measured from the finished grade of the parcel.

“Applicant” means any provider or any person, partnership, or company who files an application for any permit necessary to install, maintain, modify, collocate, replace or remove a personal wireless service facility within the Town.

“Base station” shall mean and refer to the structure or equipment at a fixed location that enables wireless communications licensed or authorized by the FCC, between user equipment and a communications network. The term does not encompass a Tower as defined in this Section or any equipment associated with a Tower. A wireless support structure becomes a base station when wireless telecommunications equipment is attached.

“Cell site” or “site” means a tract or parcel of land that contains wireless service facilities including any antenna, support structure, accessory building, and parking, and may include other uses associated with an ancillary to personal wireless services.

“Collocation” shall mean and refer to the mounting or installation of transmission equipment on a wireless support structure for the purpose of transmitting and/or receiving radio frequency signals for communications purposes. This definition includes the first placement of transmission equipment on a Tower or base station.

“Conceal” or “concealment” shall mean and refer to wireless support structures and transmission facilities designed to look like some feature other than a Tower or base station.

“Design Standards” means those standards governing the appearance of a Wireless Facility, including such features as its material, color, and shape, as outlined in the manual entitled “Design Standards for Small Cell Wireless Facilities and Telecommunications Towers.”

“Eligible Support Structure” means any Tower or Base Station that is existing at the time the Proposed Eligible Wireless Facilities Modification application is filed with the Town.

“FAA” means the Federal Aviation Administration.

“FCC” means the Federal Communications Commission.

“Lattice Tower” means a type of mount that is self-supporting with multiple legs and cross bracing of structural metal.

“Mount” means the structure or surface upon which personal wireless service facilities are mounted. There are three types of mounts: (a) Building Mount: A wireless service facility mount fixed to the roof or side of a building. (b) Ground Mount: A wireless service facility mount fixed to the ground, such as a Tower. (c) Structure Mount: A wireless service facility fixed to a structure other than a building, such as light standards, utility poles, water towers and bridges

“Preexisting Tower” and “preexisting antenna” means any Tower or antenna for which a building permit or conditional use permit has been properly issued prior to the effective date of the ordinance codified in this Section 90A, including permitted Towers or antennas that have not yet been constructed so long as such approval is current and not expired.

“Proposed wireless facilities modification” shall mean and refer to a proposal submitted by an applicant to modify a support structure which the applicant asserts is subject to review under FCC and State regulations, and involving: (i) Collocation of new transmission equipment; (ii) Removal of transmission equipment; or (iii) Replacement of transmission equipment.

“Small Cell Facility” means a Wireless Facility that that meets the following qualifications: (a) each Antenna associated with the Facility is located inside an enclosure of not more than six (6) cubic feet in volume, or, in the case of an Antenna that has exposed elements, the Antenna and all of its exposed elements could fit within an enclosure of not more than six (6) cubic feet in volume; (b) all other Wireless Equipment associated with the Facility is cumulatively not more than twenty-eight (28) cubic feet in volume. The calculation of equipment volume shall not include electric meters, concealment elements, telecommunications demarcation boxes, grounding equipment, power transfer switches, cut-off switches, and vertical cable runs for power and other services; and (c) if the Facility is placed on a Wireless Support Structure, the Wireless Support Structure is either (i) fifty feet or less in height or (ii) no more than 10% taller than other adjacent structures or (iii) not extended to a height of more than fifty feet or by more than 10% above its preexisting height as a result of the collocation of new Facilities.

“Stealth Technology” means camouflaging or screening methods applied to Wireless Facilities and accessory equipment which render them more visually appealing or blend the proposed facility into the existing structure or visual backdrop in a manner appropriate to the site's context and surrounding environment. Such methods include, but are not limited to, architecturally screened roof-mounted antennas building-mounted antennas painted to match the existing structure and facilities constructed to resemble trees, shrubs, and light poles.

“Substantial Change” means a Proposed Wireless Facilities Modification that meets any of the following criteria:

- a. For a facility other than wireless support facilities in the State rights of way or on a State structure, it increases the size (height or width) of the facility by more than 10 percent. Changes in height should be measured from the original support structure in cases where deployments are or will be separated horizontally, such as on buildings' rooftops; in other circumstances, changes in height should be measured from the dimensions of the wireless support facility or Base Station.
- b. For any Support Structure, it involves installation of more than the standard number of new equipment cabinets for the technology involved, but not to exceed three cabinets; or, for Towers in the public rights of way and Base Stations, it involves installation of any new equipment cabinets on the ground if there are no preexisting ground cabinets associated with the structure; or
- c. It would defeat the Concealment Elements of the Eligible Support Structure.

“Tower” means and refers to any structure built for the sole or primary purpose of supporting any antennas and their associated facilities, licensed or authorized by the FCC, including structures that are constructed for wireless communications services including, but not limited to, private, broadcast, and public safety services, as

well as unlicensed wireless services and fixed wireless services such as microwave backhaul, and the associated site.

“Town Standards” means the Town Standard’s for Wireless Attachments on Municipal Utility Poles and Non-Utility Municipal Structures as may be amended from time to time.

“Transmission equipment” shall mean and refer to equipment that facilitates transmission for any wireless communication service licensed or authorized by the FCC, including, but not limited to, radio transceivers, antennas, coaxial or fiber-optic cable, and regular and backup power supply. The term includes equipment associated with wireless communications services including, but not limited to, private, broadcast, and public safety services, as well as unlicensed wireless services and fixed wireless services such as microwave backhaul.

“Utility Pole” shall mean a structure that is designed for, or used for the purpose of, carrying lines, cables, or wires for electric or telecommunications service, but not including structures owned by a Municipal Electric Utility.

“Wireless Facility” or “Facility” shall mean all Antenna, Transmission Equipment or other wireless device or equipment used to provide Wireless Service.


“Wireless facilities modification” shall mean and refer to any proposed facilities modification that has been determined pursuant to the provisions of this chapter to be subject to this chapter and which does not result in a Substantial Change in the physical dimensions of a support structure.


“Wireless service” shall be defined in the same manner as in Title 47, United States Code, Section 332(c)(7)(C), as may be amended now or in the future, and includes facilities for the transmission and reception of radio or microwave signals used for communication, cellular phone, personal communications, services, enhanced specialized mobile radio, and any other wireless services licensed by the FCC and unlicensed wireless service facilities.

“Wireless Support Structure” means any pole, monopole (either guyed or self-supporting), light pole, traffic signal, sign pole, telescoping mast, Tower, tripod, Utility Pole or other structure which supports or is capable of supporting a device used in the transmitting or receiving of radio frequency signals. For purposes of requesting consent for a Microcell Facility, the term Wireless Support Structure excludes a Municipal Electric Utility Pole, or other structure owned or operated by a Municipal Electric Utility.”

Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon the date of adoption of a Resolution to consider the amendment to §185 of the zoning code or the date of introduction of the ordinance whichever is earlier.

Passed by a majority vote on March 2, 2021; effective October 9, 2020.

  
Dale H. Cooke, Mayor

  
Bill Zolper, Town Manager  
03/09/2021

#### SYNOPSIS

This Act establishes criteria governing the installation of small cell wireless facilities.

# Design Standards for Small Cell Wireless Facilities and Telecommunications Towers

Purpose: The Town of Dewey Beach has a small beach town aesthetic that is important to retain. The installation of small cell technology will enhance wireless capabilities while harmoniously blending into the existing character and context of the Town. Installation of the technology shall take into consideration the area in which it will be placed to ensure Dewey Beach's small town character is maintained when development occurs in any form. Public safety shall also be considered when locating small cell wireless facilities.

## General Requirements for Small Cell Wireless Facilities

### Antenna

- a. The antenna shall appear as a seamless extension of the existing structure.
- b. Antenna shall be equal to or less diameter of the tower/structure.
- c. Antenna shall appear as a seamless extension of the new tower/structure.
- d. The antenna shall match the color, texture of the tower/structure it will be a part of.

### Cabinets and Equipment

- a. All equipment/cabinets associated with small cell wireless facilities shall comply with the Town's floodplain regulations.
- b. If equipment needs to be located on the tower/structure other than the antenna the equipment shall not protrude more than 12" from any tower/structure.
- c. All equipment/cabinets shall comply with any wind restrictions.
- d. All equipment/cabinets shall match the color and texture of the tower/structure it is to be placed with the exception of wood utility poles.
- e. All wires shall be shrouded and shall match the color and texture of the structure it is to be attached.
- f. Wires, cables and other equipment shall be firmly attached to the structure.
- g. Cabinets shall be integrated into the structure. If integration is not feasible the cabinet shall be adjacent to the structure to which the antenna is placed.
- h. The cabinet shall not exceed 28 cubic feet in volume and shall not exceed 3 ft. in height.
- i. Any equipment placed on the tower/structure shall have a clear height of 10 ft.
- j. No equipment or structure shall interfere with the pedestrian or bicycle traffic.
- k. Street trees shall not be removed to allow for cabinets or equipment.

## Noise and Lighting

- a. Illumination is not permitted for the small cell wireless facilities, unless it is part of a street light or where required by the FCC.
- b. All equipment shall comply with the Town's noise regulation.

## Signage

Signage shall be for notification purposes of the wireless carrier, identification of equipment, contact information etc. and shall not exceed 2 SF unless otherwise required by applicable law.

## Placement and Siting of Small Wireless Facilities

This section refers to the placement of small cell antenna and wireless equipment. Co-location on an existing structure is the preferred method for placement of small cell antenna and wireless equipment. If co-location is not feasible the construction of a new pole is permitted.

Co-location on existing pole or building.

- a. There shall be a 10 ft. clear height.
- b. Maximum height shall not exceed 10% of the existing pole/structure.
- c. Co-location on a building.
  1. Antenna and wireless equipment/cabinets shall be stealth and concealed by the building.
  2. Antenna and wireless equipment/cabinets shall not exceed more than 1 foot above the roof line.
  3. Co-location is encouraged to use the existing structures. If a new structure is proposed, it shall match the character of the area that it will be placed. The intent for new structures is to match the character of the area and have the structures fit in.

## New structure

- a. New structures shall comply with the following:
  1. The new structure shall be 10 ft. from light poles, traffic signals.
  2. New structure shall be 100 ft. from existing structures/poles/streetlights.
  3. The new structure shall be 10 ft. from any building face.
  4. The new structure shall be 12 ft. from driveway aprons to ensure access.
  5. The new structure shall be 10 ft. from permanent objects in the ROW and out of the sight triangle at intersections.
  6. All small cell wireless antennas and equipment shall have a minimum of a 10 ft. clear height.
  7. Avoid placement in front of residential and business entrances, windows, signs, etc. New structures shall be sited in the vicinity of lot corners.
  8. Equipment and new shall be in alignment with other poles and street furniture along the street.

9. Maximum height shall be 35 ft. from grade or the height of the closest streetlight/pole within 100 ft. on the same side of the street that it is being designed to match.
10. The height of the new pole shall not exceed more than 10% of height of the existing poles in the district/area.
11. The new structure shall match the aesthetic, color, texture of the structures within the immediate area and street.
12. The new tower/structure shall comply with the floodplain regulations.

## Siting Prohibitions

- a. All new wireless equipment other than that which is co-located on an existing pole or building shall be a minimum of 100 ft. from another small cell antenna/wireless equipment.
- b. All new wireless equipment shall be installed no closer than 50 ft. from the midpoint of any beach access location at the end of any ocean side street.

## Removal

The removal of all structures and/or equipment and repair of the structures shall be done by and at the expense of the wireless company.

- a. Structure shall be returned in equal or better state.
- b. All equipment and mounting hardware shall be removed.
- c. Holes shall be patched and painted to match the color and texture of the structure.

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWER STANDARDS

The following standards apply to all Tower sites above 50 ft.:

### Maximum Height Standards

- a. The maximum height of a Tower shall be 150 feet including any lighting rod.
- b. The height of any Tower shall include the support structure and any attached Antennas proposed at the time of application.

### Tower Design

- a. Lattice Towers and any guyed wires are prohibited.
- b. The proposed Tower shall be designed to allow for co-location of two (2) other carriers.
- c. All Towers and required fencing shall be equipped with appropriate anti-climbing devices.
- d. The perimeter of the Tower and anchors shall be enclosed by a fence or wall at least six feet in height.
- e. The tower and equipment shall comply with the floodplain regulations.



## Painting

a. Towers shall be painted or finished in a manner which blends with the dominant color of the background except where otherwise required by the FAA. The applicant and/or operator of the facility shall have a continuing duty to maintain such paint or finish.

## Setbacks

a. A Tower located in nonresidential zoning districts shall be set back a minimum of the height of the tower from any other zoning district boundaries. A Tower located within a residential zoning district shall be set back a minimum of twice the height of the tower from any existing dwelling unit.

## View Protection

A Tower shall not be located in such a fashion as to negatively impact views from public parks and recreation areas.

## Site

- a. A Site Plan shall be submitted for the compound with the placement of the Tower, cabinets and any other equipment.
- b. All equipment, Tower, cabinet, etc. shall be located within the compound.
- c. The compound shall be large enough to allow for the co-location of at least two (2) other carriers.

## Lighting

a. All lighting shall comply with FAA requirements.