

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI
GRANTING A NON-EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE
TO TELEPAK NETWORKS, INC.
TO LAY, CONSTRUCT, MAINTAIN, REPLACE, REPAIR, AND OPERATE
FIBER OPTIC CABLE
AND APPURTENANT TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES
IN, UNDER, OVER, AND ACROSS AND ALONG ALL STREETS, AVENUES,
ALLEYS
HIGHWAYS, ROADS, BRIDGES, VIADUCTS AND PUBLIC PLACES
IN THE CITY OF VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI**

WHEREAS, Telepak Networks, Inc. dba C Spire Fiber ("Telepak"), is a Mississippi corporation, incorporated or organized, among other things for the purpose of constructing telephone lines and furnishing intrastate telecommunications services in the State of Mississippi. Telepak obtained a certificate of public convenience and necessity to provide such telecommunications services in Mississippi on October 14, 1999, in Mississippi Public Service Commission Docket No. 99-UA-621; and

WHEREAS, Telepak is in the process of constructing certain telecommunications facilities as authorized by the Mississippi Public Service Commission in Docket No. 99-UA-621. A portion of these facilities will be located within the city limits of Vicksburg, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Section 77-9-711 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, grants companies such as Telepak the authority to construct telecommunications facilities along and across public highways and streets, but not in a manner so as to be dangerous to persons or property or to unreasonably interfere with the common use of such highways and streets; and

WHEREAS, Section 77-9-713 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, authorizes the City of Vicksburg, Mississippi the authority to regulate the manner in which such facilities shall be constructed and maintained along and within the rights-of-way of the municipality's streets; and

WHEREAS, the City of Vicksburg, Mississippi does hereby find and adjudicate that the incorporated proposal of Telepak for the operation of a telecommunications facility in Vicksburg, Mississippi is in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Vicksburg Mississippi and that the following franchise agreement is reasonable and in the best interests of the City of Vicksburg, Mississippi. The City of Vicksburg, Mississippi is authorized under the provisions of Sections 21-27-1, 21-13-3, and 77-9-713 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, to grant the franchise and the ordinance should be adopted.

**THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMAN OF
THE CITY OF VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI AS FOLLOWS:**

TELECOMMUNICATIONS FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE CITY OF VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI

AND

TELEPAK NETWORKS, INC.

September 3, 2019

The City of Vicksburg, Mississippi, a Mississippi municipal corporation ("City"), and Telepak Networks, Inc. dba C Spire Fiber, a Mississippi corporation ("Telepak"), enter into this Telecommunications Franchise Agreement ("Agreement") as of Sept. 3, 2019 (the "Agreement Date"). City and Telepak are sometimes collectively referred to herein as the "Parties" and individually as a "Party."

UNDERSTANDING

- A. Telepak has applied for a franchise from the City for the purposes of laying, constructing, maintaining, replacing, repairing, and operating a Telecommunications System (as defined herein) which may be used to provide Telecommunications Services (as defined herein), Video Services (as defined herein), and/or Other Services (as defined herein) to customers located in the City as determined by Telepak.
- B. Telepak has provided the Mayor and Board of Alderman with a franchise proposal, which the City, its representatives and Telepak have discussed and adjusted in accordance with the needs and interests of the City and its citizens, taking into account the costs.
- C. The Board of Alderman, after evaluating Telepak's final proposal in the form of this Agreement, and after hearing the comments of interested parties, has determined that Telepak has the financial, legal and technical ability to fulfill the obligations under this Agreement. The City has further determined that it will serve the public interest to grant Telepak a franchise on the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

Based on the above understanding, the Parties enter into this Agreement.

AGREEMENT

SECTION I-DEFINITIONS

1. **Definitions.**

For the purpose of this Agreement, the following terms, phrase, words, and abbreviations shall have the following meanings:

"Affiliates" means an entity which, owns or controls, is owned or controlled by, or is under common ownership or control with Telepak.

"Agreement" means this Telecommunications Franchise Agreement, as amended.

"Agreement Date" means Sept. 3 2019.

"Basic Video Services Tier" means the Video Services tier which includes the retransmission of local television broadcast signals and which is also the tier to which the largest number of Subscribers are currently purchasing.

"Facilities" means all fiber optic wires, poles, wires, telecommunications, amplifiers, electronics, antennas, transmission and reception equipment, pedestals, towers, dishes, supporting hardware, and related equipment and fixtures necessary and desirable to construct and maintain the Telecommunications System and to provide Services (as defined herein) under this Agreement.

"FCC" means Federal Communications Commission.

"Franchise" means an initial authorization or renewal issued by the City whether such authorization is designed as an agreement, franchise, permit, license, resolution, contract, certificate or otherwise, which authorizes the construction and operation of the Telecommunications System for the purpose of offering Services to Subscribers.

"Gross Revenues" means any revenue derived by Telepak from the operation of the Telecommunications System to provide Telecommunications Services and Video Services to Subscribers in the Service Area, adjusted for non-payment. Gross Revenues shall include Video Services fees for Telepak's Video Services Tiers, pay per view, video on demand, video equipment rental, video service charges, a prorata share of advertising revenues and home-shopping revenues and Telecommunications Services fees for Telepak's local calling plan offering. The term Gross Revenues shall not include any taxes on Services furnished by Telepak or franchise fees imposed by any municipality, state, or other governmental unit and collected by Telepak for such governmental unit.

"Other Services" means services lawfully provided by Telepak in the Service Area in addition to Telecommunications Services and Video Services, including, without

limitation, private network services, broadband services, internet access services, voice mail, call waiting, call forwarding, and distance learning services.

“PEG Access” means the public, educational and governmental access to a channel on the Telecommunications System dedicated by Telepak to the City under this Agreement.

“Person” means an individual, partnership, association, joint stock company, trust, corporation, limited liability company, or governmental entity.

“Public Way” means the surface of, and the space above and below, any public street, highway, bridge, alley, sidewalk, easement or other public right-of-way, including, without limitation, public utility easements, dedicated utility strips, or rights-of-way dedicated for compatible uses held by the City in the Service Area. Public Way is also defined to include any City owned utility poles and other City-owned structures, such as rooftops, for the purposes of this Agreement.

“Services” collectively refers to Telecommunications Services, Other Services and Video Services to be offered by Telepak, at its discretion in the Service Area, but does not necessarily include all or any of such services.

“Service Area” means the areas of the City where Subscribers are reasonably accessible from the distribution network of the Telecommunications System.

“Subscribers” means a Person who lawfully receives Services with Telepak’s express permission.

“Telecommunications Services” means the offering of telecommunications for a fee directly to the public, or to such classes of users as to be effectively available directly to the public, regardless of facilities used that are provided entirely on the Telecommunications System.

“Telecommunications System” means Telepak’s Facilities within the City. The Telecommunications System is designed to provide Services to Subscribers.

“Telepak” means Telepak Networks, Inc., or its lawful successor or assigns.

“Video Services” means the one-way transmission to Subscribers in their residence or commercial premises within Service Area of video programming (programming provided by, or generally considered comparable to programming provided by, a television broadcast station) or other programming services (information that Telepak makes available to all Subscribers generally) via a secure, closed transmission path (i.e., not including over-the-top or other services or applications delivering video over the open Internet).

SECTION II-GRANT OF FRANCHISE

1. Grant.

The City grants to Telepak a non-exclusive franchise authorizing Telepak to construct and operate a Telecommunications System in the Public Ways and to offer Services within the Service Area. Subject to the terms of this Agreement and applicable law, Telepak may erect, install, construct, operate, maintain, repair, replace, expand, and reconstruct its Telecommunications System in any Public Way.

2. Term.

The Franchise granted under this Agreement shall be for an initial term of twenty-five (25) years from the Agreement Date, unless otherwise lawfully terminated (the "Term"). At the end of the Term either Party may commence negotiations for a renewal of the Franchise by giving the other Party written notice not more than two (2) years prior to the end of the Term.

SECTION III-SYSTEM CONSTRUCTION

1. System Construction.

(a) When Telepak wishes to construct a portion of its Telecommunications System it shall provide City with written notice thereof along with drawings of the proposed locations of its Facilities ("Construction Notice"). The City shall have fifteen (15) business days from its receipt of the Construction Notice to notify Telepak of any issues, else the Construction Notice shall be deemed approved and Telepak may thereafter begin construction. If the City notifies Telepak of any issues with the Construction Notice within the ten (10) business day period, the Parties shall promptly meet (no more than five (5) business days later) to discuss the requested adjustments to Telepak's construction plans and work in good faith to resolve any issue within five (5) business days of their first meeting. Thereafter, Telepak will deliver to the City a revised Construction Notice reflecting the agreed upon changes to its construction plans and from that point Telepak shall be permitted to move forward with its construction. The foregoing shall constitute the permitting/approval process for Telepak's Facilities notwithstanding any other City ordinances. The City shall not charge Telepak any permitting fees of any kind during the Term.

(b) Upon completion of any construction and as built drawings of the Telecommunications System during the Term, Telepak shall provide the City with as built drawings of Telepak's current Telecommunications System. The City agrees that Telepak is under no obligation to build its Facilities to cover the entire City, to serve any particular Person located in the City, or otherwise. The decision of when and where to construct its Facilities is solely within the discretion of Telepak as is the determination of what Services to provide during the Term.

(c) Within ten (10) days of the Agreement Date the City will provide Telepak with written notice of one Person to be Telepak's point of contact during the Term of this

Agreement (the "Project Manager"). The Project Manager shall have the authority to approve Construction Notices and to otherwise deal with Telepak under the terms of this Agreement. The Project Manager may be changed by the City at any time upon ten (10) days prior written notice to Telepak.

2. Conditions on Commencement of Upgrading.

The City acknowledges that Telepak has based its plans and cost estimates on reasonable access to Public Ways, City's utility poles, conduits, Subscriber premises, and other space and City-owned structures for Telepak's Facilities. Telepak reserves the right to adjust its construction plans and timing or rescind this Agreement in the event that Telepak faces substantial interference or delay in such access. Throughout the Term of this Agreement, Telepak shall be entitled expand and upgrade its Telecommunications System as it deems reasonably necessary. In addition, City will allow Telepak access to poles and other structures suitable for the siting of Telepak's Facilities owned by City at no cost for the purpose of attaching its Facilities, provided there is room for such pole attachments and/or Facilities and Telepak pays for the costs of installation, removal, and maintenance of its Facilities on such City-owned poles or structures.

SECTION IV-PUBLIC, EDUCATION AND GOVERNMENT ACCESS CHANNEL

1. PEG Access Channel.

At any time after the completion of the initial construction of the Telecommunications System under Section III(1), and provided the Telepak is offering Video Services over the Facilities, the City may request Telepak to provide the City one (1) video channel for noncommercial PEG Access use. Telepak shall provide the PEG Access channel within one hundred and eighty (180) days of City's request.

2. Regulation of PEG Access Channel.

The City shall establish reasonable regulations governing use by the public of the PEG Access channel and the content broadcast over the channel. Telepak shall have the right to prohibit the broadcast of inappropriate or illegal programming over the channel in its sole reasonable discretion and in accordance with applicable law. The City shall be solely responsible for all costs, expenses, and equipment necessary for and related to producing or transmitting content over the PEG Access channel. Telepak shall have no obligation, financial or otherwise, other than the obligation to provide access to one video channel for noncommercial PEG Access use.

3. Return of PEG Access Capacity to Telepak.

In the event that unused capacity exists on the PEG Access channel, Telepak may request the City to return that capacity to Telepak for Telepak's use. The City shall not unreasonably deny such request.

SECTION V-REGULATION BY THE CITY

1. Franchise Fee.

The City represents, pursuant to Section 253 of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, that the Franchise Fees herein are a reasonable approximation of actual and direct costs incurred by the City to manage Telepak's use of the Public Ways, are fair and reasonable compensation for the management of the Public Ways and are competitively neutral and non-discriminatory. The City acknowledges that any other fees charged to Telepak pursuant to the construction and operation of the Telecommunications System will be deducted from the fees set out below.

(a) Telepak shall pay to the City a Franchise fee equal to the lesser of: (i) five percent (5%) of Gross Revenues received by Telepak from sale of the Video Services to Subscribers within the City

(b) Telepak shall also pay to the City a Franchise fee equal to two percent (2%) of Gross Revenues received by Telepak from the sale of Telecommunications Services (local calling plan only) to Subscribers within the City.

(c) The Franchise fee payments set forth in (a) and (b) above shall be computed quarterly as of the last day of March, June, September, and December of each year, and shall be due and payable sixty (60) days after the close of each quarter. Each payment shall be accompanied by a brief report from Telepak showing the basis for the computation. Each payment must be received by the City on the due date. Telepak shall pay City an additional charge of one percent (1%) per month, for each month the total amount due to the City is not received by City by the due date.

(d) All amounts paid shall be subject to audit by City no more than once each calendar year upon at least ten (10) business days prior written notice to Telepak. If any audit reveals an underpayment by Telepak of five percent (5%) or more during any annual audit period, Telepak shall be responsible for City's reasonable out of pocket costs associated with the audit. Any underpayments shall be paid to City within ten (10) business days after notification to Telepak.

(e) In the event the City grants or has granted another third-party provider a rate for calculating the Franchise Fee(s) that is less than the percentages provided in paragraph (a), this Agreement shall be automatically amended without any action required by the parties to adjust the percentage to the different rate given to such provider, provided that such rate does not exceed the maximum fee permitted by 47 U.S.C. §542(b).

2. Transfer of Franchise.

Telepak must notify the City not less than sixty (60) days prior to any proposed sale or transfer of this Franchise. Telepak shall not sell, assign, transfer or dispose of its interest in the Franchise or the Agreement without the prior written consent of the City, which consent will not be unreasonably withheld. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Telepak may assign this Agreement to a purchaser of its voting stock or all or substantially all of its assets without consent but with written notice to City.

SECTION VI-OPERATIONAL STANDARDS

1. Condition of Street Occupancy.

Telepak shall install all Facilities so as to minimize interference with the proper use of Public Ways, public utilities, and with the rights and reasonable convenience of City and property owners whose property adjoins any Public Ways. Telepak and the City will comply with Sections 77-13-1 et seq. of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended ("Mississippi One Call" statute). The City shall locate its utility lines promptly as required by the Mississippi One Call statute. Telepak will not locate the City's utility lines or those of any third party physically or on maps or drawings. Upon completion of as built drawings for any Facilities in the Public Ways, Telepak will furnish an as built drawing of the Facilities located within the Public Ways of the City to the City.

2. Restoration of Public Ways.

Telepak shall restore any disturbance it causes to any Public Way to a condition reasonably comparable to the condition of the Public Way existing before the disturbance.

3. Relocation at Request of City.

After receipt of at least ninety (90) days prior written notice, Telepak shall, at its own expense, protect, support, temporarily disconnect, relocate in the Public Way, or remove from the Public Way, any property of Telepak when lawfully required by the City by reason of traffic conditions, public safety, street abandonment, freeway and street construction, change or establishment of street grade, installation of sewer, drains, gas or water pipes, or any other type of structures or improvements by the City. Telepak shall in all cases have the right to abandon its property.

4. Relocation at Request of Third Party.

On the request of any Person holding a building construction or moving permit issued by the City, Telepak shall temporarily relocate its Facilities to permit the construction or moving of such building, provided: (a) the expense of such temporary relocation is paid by the requesting Person; and (b) Telepak receives at least ninety (90) days prior written notice to arrange for such temporary relocation.

5. Trimming of Trees and Shrubbery.

Telepak shall have the authority to trim trees or natural growth in Public Ways which may affect its Telecommunications System in the Service Area to prevent interference with Telepak's Facilities. Telepak shall reasonably compensate the City or property owner for any damages caused by such trimming or shall reasonably replace all trees or shrubs damaged and otherwise restore any other damage caused by or resulting from its activities.

6. Technical Standards.

Telepak shall install, operate, and maintain the Telecommunications System in a good and workmanlike manner, free from defects in material and workmanship, and in accordance with applicable FCC regulations. Telepak shall install its aerial facilities, if any, in accordance with requirements of the National Electric Safety Code in effect on the Agreement Date, and in such manner that they will not unreasonably interfere with installations of the City or of a public utility serving the City.

SECTION VII-COMPLIANCE AND MONITORING

Once per calendar year during the Term of this Agreement and upon not less than thirty (30) business days' notice to Telepak, City may review Telepak's books and records pertaining to the Telecommunications System and the provision of Telecommunications Service within the Service Area at Telepak's business office during normal business hours and on a nondisruptive basis, as is reasonably necessary to monitor compliance with the terms of this Agreement. Telepak shall not be required to disclose information that is reasonably deemed to be proprietary or confidential. The City agrees to treat any information disclosed by Telepak as confidential and only to disclose it to employees, representatives, and agents that have a need to know, unless such information is subject to the Mississippi Public Records Act.

SECTION VIII-INSURANCE

Telepak shall maintain in full force and effect during the Term of this Agreement, comprehensive general liability insurance in the amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) combined single limit for bodily injury, and property damages. Prior to commencing construction of the Telecommunications System, Telepak shall provide the City with a certificate of insurance designating it as an additional insured. Such insurance shall be non-cancelable except upon thirty (30) days prior written notice to the City.

SECTION IX-ENFORCEMENT AND TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT

1. Notice of Noncompliance.

If the City believes that Telepak has not materially complied with any material term (other than payment of Franchise fees and changes) of this Agreement, it shall notify Telepak in writing. The notice shall state with specificity the basis for the alleged material noncompliance.

2. Telepak's Right to Cure or Respond.

Telepak shall have thirty (30) days from receipt of the notice described in Section IX(1) to respond as follows:

(a) Respond to the City contesting the assertion of noncompliance;

(b) Cure the noncompliance; or

(c) In the event Telepak's commercially reasonable efforts cannot cure the noncompliance within the thirty (30) day period, Telepak shall initiate reasonable steps to remedy the noncompliance and notify the City of the steps being taken and the projected date of completion.

3. Public Hearing.

If Telepak fails to respond to the notice described in Section IX(1) under the procedures set forth in Section IX(2), or if Telepak does not cure the alleged noncompliance within sixty (60) days after receiving notice of noncompliance, the City shall schedule a public hearing to investigate the noncompliance. Such public hearing shall be held at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the City which is scheduled at a time which is no less than ten (10) business days from the expiration of the sixty (60) day period. The City shall notify Telepak in writing of the time and place of such meeting and provide Telepak with an opportunity to be heard.

4. Enforcement.

Subject to applicable law, if the City, after a public hearing, where applicable, determines that Telepak remains in material noncompliance with a material term of this Agreement, the City may pursue the following remedies:

(a) In the case of a default of a material provision of this Agreement, terminate this Agreement and revoke the Franchise; or

(b) Commence an action at law for monetary damages or seek other equitable relief. Should the City prevail in any such action, Telepak shall pay City for its legal fees and attendant costs and expenses incurred in such action.

Telepak shall not be held in default for noncompliance with this Agreement, nor suffer any enforcement or penalty, where such noncompliance or alleged defaults are caused by strikes, acts of God, acts of terrorism, power outages, acts of the City, its employees, or representatives, or other events reasonable beyond its ability to control.

5. Failure to Pay Franchise Fees and Charges.

In the event the Telepak has not paid the City Franchise fees, and late charges owing under Section V, when due, City shall send Telepak a certified letter notifying Telepak it is in default. Telepak shall have fifteen (15) business days from the date of its receipt of the letter to cure the default. In the event Telepak fails to cure the default by paying all Franchise fees and late charges due, then the City shall notify Telepak of City's intention to revoke the Franchise. The notice of intention to revoke Franchise shall be sent certified mail to Telepak not less than ten (10) business days prior to a Board Meeting of the City. The letter shall notify Telepak of the date, time, and place of the Board Meeting and the right of the Telepak to be present and participate meeting. At the Board Meeting, the City may revoke the Franchise of Telepak if it has not cured the default in full.

6. Upon the expiration or termination of this Agreement, Telepak may enter upon the Public Ways and remove its property at its own risk and restore the Public Ways to their former grade, contour and condition.

SECTION X - MISCELLANEOUS

1. Actions of the Parties.

In any action by Telepak or the City mandated or permitted under this Agreement, the Party shall act in a reasonable, expeditious, and timely manner. In any instance where approval or consent is required, such approval or consent shall not be unreasonable withheld.

2. Notice.

Any notice or response required by this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be deemed given upon receipt: (a) when hand delivered; (b) when delivered by commercial courier; or (c) after having been posted in a properly scaled and correctly addressed envelope by certified or registered mail, postage prepaid, at a post office maintained by U. S. Postal Service.

**Mayor of the City of Vicksburg
1401 Walnut Street
Vicksburg, MS 39180**

With a copy to:

City Clerk
1401 Walnut St
Vicksburg, MS 39180

The notices or responses to Telepak shall be addressed as follows:

**President
Telepak Networks, Inc.
1018 Highland Colony Parkway, Suite 300
Ridgeland, MS 39157**

With a copy to:

**Charles L. McBride
General Counsel
Telapex, Inc.
1018 Highland Colony Parkway, Suite 700
Ridgeland, MS 39157**

The City and Telepak may designate such other address or addresses from time to time by giving notice to the other as provided in this Section.

3. Severability.

If the legislature or a court or regulatory agency or competent jurisdiction determines that any provision of this Agreement is illegal, invalid, or unconstitutional, all other provisions of this Agreement will remain in full force and effect for the term of the Agreement or any renewal.

4. Change of Law.

In the event that any effective legislative, regulatory, judicial or other legal action materially affects any material terms of this Agreement, or the ability of City or Telepak to perform any material terms of this Agreement, the Parties agree to amend this Agreement as necessary to comply with the changes in the law within thirty (30) days of the receipt of written notice so such change in law.

5. Entire Agreement.

This Agreement represents the entire agreement between the Parties as relates to the subject matter hereof. As such no other City ordinances shall apply to Telepak's provision of Services or construction of its Facilities as provided in this Agreement. Any and all other City ordinances which conflict with the terms of this Agreement are expressly superseded.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties execute this separate page and Agreement as of the Agreement Date.

City of Vicksburg, Mississippi

George Flagg
George Flagg, Mayor

WITNESS:

Joshua W. Jordan

Telepak Networks, Inc.

Alan Jones

Name: Alan Jones

Its: SVP Access + Deployment

WITNESS:

Angie Hogan

Alderman Monsour moved the adoption of the ordinance in its entirety, which motion was seconded by Alderman Mayfield. The motion to adopt was passed by roll call vote as follows:

Alderman Mayfield voted: Aye
Alderman Monsour voted: Aye
Mayor Flagg voted: Aye

The Mayor then declared the ordinance adopted this the 3rd day of Sept., 2019.

George Flagg - MAYOR
George Flagg

ATTEST:

Walter Osborne, CITY CLERK
Walter Osborne

