

Meeting Minutes

TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, February 28, 2002 - 6:00 P.M.

City Water Dept. - 300 Bliss Ave. Present: Chairman Rackow, Commissioners Patton, Pintar, Wyhuske; Aldermen Walther, Phillips

Excused: Commissioners Colantonio, Lysne, Curtis

Also Present: Clerk Zdroik, Alderpersons Sevenich, Molski, Moore; Telecommunications Coordinator Quirk, Trustee Klismet (Park Ridge), Tom Hagen (V of Whiting), John Holdridge (Hull), Sandy Sager (Charter)

Index of these Minutes:

1. Approval of minutes of January 3, 2002.
 2. Stevens Point/Plover Area Telecommunications Commission.
 3. Report of Charter Communications.
 4. Date, time, and location of next meeting.
 5. Adjourn into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(e) to discuss franchise negotiations.
 6. Adjournment - 8:00 P.M.
1. Approval of minutes of January 3, 2002.

Commission Patton moved, Alderman/Commissioner Phillips seconded, for approval of the minutes of January 3, 2002.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

2. Stevens Point/Plover Area Telecommunications Commission.

Chairman Rackow distributed letters dated March 21, 1997, from Marcus Cable regarding the renewal of the cable television franchise agreement with the City and the City's response dated April 29, 1997. The Chairman said as of today, the process is three weeks short of five years since the negotiation started.

Chairman Rackow reported appearing with Trustee Klismet before the Town of Sharon Board giving the town board an update on the status of cable negotiations. There were three members of the board present and the clerk. They showed interest in joining the Regional Commission and Chairman Rackow informed them the town could use the franchise fees to pay for their share of the negotiating expense so they do not have to use levy money.

Trustee Klismet echoed Town of Sharon's board members' feeling that the expense of negotiating the new franchise agreement should be borne by the cable TV users instead of the taxpayers.

3. Report of Charter Communications.

Sandy Sager, Charter Communications, reported on the status of the telephone testing being done in the Wausau and Stevens Point areas. If testing is successful, local phone service could be offered to all Charter customers including Charter's subscribers in Stevens Point. Ms. Sager further informed the Commission there are about 200 cable customers taking part in testing the phone system and 100 of those are in the Stevens Point area.

Village of Park Ridge Trustee Klismet wants verification as to what Commission the telephone system comes under.

Chairman Rackow said the telephone system comes under the Public Service Commission and the cable television system comes under the Federal Communications Commission.

The Chairman added he is quite surprised to learn that about 100 people are participating in the Stevens Point area.

Ms. Sager said the information on the telephone testing was in the Wisconsin Rapids and Wausau newspapers. She added that it has not been a secret all along. Charter had a demonstration at a recent Home Show in this area.

Alderman/Commissioner Phillips is concerned about Charter using the path the cable subscribers have paid for to provide telephone service.

Alderman/Commissioner Walther was disappointed that the Commission did not get some sort of memo from Charter instead of relying on the newspaper only.

More discussion followed on what effect the telephone system has on the franchise agreement, the impact in terms of revenue, billing procedure, etc.

Ms. Sager also reported that Charter is now providing the platinum Internet service, 1.5 megahertz per second, in addition to the silver and gold. The platinum service came on board mid February at a cost of \$49.95 per month

Ms. Sager further informed the Commission that from about the 6th of March to the end of March, cable service outages will occur due to the alignment of the sun, the earth and the satellite. These interruptions will usually last 30 seconds to a minute. These occurrences usually happen in the spring and in the fall.

Clerk Zdroik asked Ms. Sager if there will be something in the paper publicizing these occurrences.

Ms. Sager said it has been done before and she is pretty sure it will be done again.

Chairman Rackow moved, Alderman/Commissioner Phillips seconded, to accept Charter Communications report.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

4. Date, time, and location of next meeting.

The next Telecommunications Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 20, 2002, at 6:00 P.M. in Conference Room D, County-City Building, 1516 Church Street.

5. Adjourn into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(e) to discuss franchise negotiations.

Commissioner Patton moved, Commissioner Pintar seconded, to adjourn into closed session.

Roll Call: Ayes: Chairman Rackow, Commissioners Patton, Pintar, Wyhuske; Aldermen/Commissioners Walther, Phillips.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

6. Adjournment - 8:00 P.M.

The meeting minutes reproduced on this website are derived from the computer files used to produce the official minutes for the City of Stevens Point, but are unofficial. The minutes on this web site cannot be certified under s. 889.08, Wis. Stats., and cannot be considered prima facie evidence under s. 889.04, Wis. Stats. Certain tables, maps, and other documents that are a part of the official minutes are not included in the files reproduced on this website. Please consult the printed minutes, available in the City Clerk's Office, for the official text. The decisions made by City of Stevens Point boards, committees, and commissions (other than the Police & Fire Commission) are advisory only and are not binding on the city until affirmed at a meeting of the Common Council. Some of the minutes on this web site might not be approved by the Common Council as of today.

Bottom of Form