

Meeting Minutes

TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, March 20, 2001 - 6:00 P.M.

County-City Building - Conference Room D

1516 Church Street Present: Chairman Rackow, Commissioners Curtis, Lysne, Patton, Pintar, Wyhuske; Aldermen Phillips, Walther

Excused: Commissioner Colantonio

Also Present: Mayor Wescott, Clerk Zdroik, Telecommunications Coordinator Quirk, Tom Hagen (Whiting), Chuck Kell (Whiting), John Klismet (Park Ridge),

1. Approval of minutes of February 21, 2001.

Commissioner Patton moved, Commissioner Wyhuske seconded, for approval of the minutes of February 21, 2001.

Ayes, all, nays, none. Motion carried.

2. Stevens Point/Plover Area Telecommunications Commission.

Chairman Rackow informed the Commission the Common Council at its Monday, March 19, 2001, meeting approved the fifth extension for Charter Communications to temporarily operate the cable communication system in the City of Stevens Point until June 30, 2001.

Commissioner Curtis asked if it is possible to give Charter an indefinite extension.

Mayor Wescott said if Charter were given an indefinite extension there would be little incentive for Charter to have a permanent contract.

Chairman Rackow stated letters were written but no response has been received from them. The chairman thinks the City is inching towards a resolution.

Alderman Walther, a member of the Telecommunications Commission, brought up his concern on the Pipeline Services-Modem Rental. After he called the Customer Care Service, an adjustment was made to his bill. The alderman was concerned that other people who subscribe to this service are being overcharged. Alderman Walther was advised to write an open letter to the local papers for the benefit of those people who subscribe to the Modem Rental.

Commissioner Wyhuske would like to know if it is possible to put a moratorium on extending Charter's franchise agreement. She said she is not comfortable with this action and feels it shows inefficiency on the part of the Commission.

Telecommunications Quirk noted the City has reasons to grant the extensions. The City is negotiating for a better deal and bargaining for a better position.

Alderman Phillips, a member of the Telecommunications Commission, stated there are things the City will lose if it does not extend the franchise, like the 5% franchise fee and 5% of any ancillary income Charter might collect.

On the topic of the creation of the Stevens Point/Plover Area Telecommunications Commission, Mayor Wescott said it is wise to go on record favoring the creation of the Regional Commission. He also advised that the Regional Commission appoint a leader from each municipality. The Regional Commission will be responsible for their own budget and will do their own work.

Mayor Wescott said the formation of the Regional Commission is necessary before members are appointed. He suggested sending a letter to the municipalities about planning an organizational meeting with the municipalities sending representatives to the meeting to get a feel for what the Regional Commission is all about. The Mayor said he thinks that a Regional Commission must be formed before members are appointed to it.

A Resolution of Intent will be drafted for distribution to and review by municipalities. A July 1, 2001, date will be the goal on the formation of the Regional Commission.

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

The next Telecommunications Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 19, 2001, at 6:00 P.M. in Conference Room D, County-City Building, 1516 Church Street.

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

Alderman Walther moved, Commissioner Pintar seconded, to adjourn into closed session.

Roll Call: Ayes: Chairman Rackow, Commissioners Curtis, Lysne, Patton, Pintar, Wyhuske Aldermen Phillips, Walther

Nays: None. Motion carried.

5. Adjournment - 8:00 P.M.

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