

Meeting Minutes

TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, April 26, 1999 - 6:00 P.M.

City Water Department - 300 Bliss Avenue

Present: Chairman Rackow, Aldermen Phillips, Walther, Commissioners Bartosz, Colantonio, Patton, Wyhuske

Excused: Commissioner Pintar

Also

Present: Telecommunications Coordinator Quirk, Mayor Wescott, Clerk Zdroik,

Tom Hagen (Whiting), Ken Shibilski (V of Plover), John Klismet (Park Ridge)

Meg Erler (V of Plover), Susan Kampmeier (Journal), Chad Holmes (WIZD)

1. Approval of minutes of April 5, 1999.

Alderman Walther moved, Commissioner Wyhuske seconded, for approval of the minutes of April 5, 1999.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

2. Report of STV

Josh Wescott stated there are two weeks of programming left. He reported that the trivia contest went very well and the station made a lot of money selling advertising. The issue of high definition TV was an issue that the UWSP telecommunications department is interested in. The department would like to know who will pay for the upgrade of the technology. Would Charter Communications pay, or the City or UWSP?

Telecommunications Coordinator Quirk said this is proposed in the franchise that the City will pay. Commissioner Colantonio stated that this has to be negotiated. The cable operator will be reluctant but will eventually provide that upgrading.

3. Report of Channel 99.

No report from Channel 99.

4. Report of Telecommunications Coordinator.

Coordinator Quirk said CA3's new computer and new scanner are of better quality. All their equipment and software is Y2K compliant except for one. He would like to start talking about what is expected of him next year or when the new franchise goes into effect. He is asking for some direction.

Chairman Rackow told Coordinator Quirk to consult with his supervisor. The chairman also suggested writing out what Mr. Quirk would like to do and submit it to the Telecommunications Commission for its review.

5. Report of Marcus Cable.

No report from Marcus Cable.

Mrs. Edith (Dallas) Pankowski, 2331 Aspen Lane, Plover, appeared before the Commission to voice her complaints concerning the business practices and customer service provided by Marcus Cable in the Stevens Point area. As a property owner, she feels that she should be informed of the work that is going to be done to her properties, as a common courtesy. This is a safety and a security issue. She said she is willing to cooperate with the cable company but needs to be informed of proposed work on her properties.

Mrs. Pankowski is also concerned about the unfair business practices concerning the cable company. Two men came to her property and changed some wiring to accommodate a cable box. The true purpose of the service call was to try to get her to subscribe to additional services and to pay additional money for the converter box and other services.

Ald. Phillips suggested that the Commission send a formal letter instructing the cable company that there will be no digging without proper notification of property owners. The Commission adopted the following motion concerning the rebuild of the cable system in Stevens Point:

Alderson Phillips moved, Alderson Walther seconded, to ask the City Attorney to write a letter to Charter Communications asking them to notify property owners of their construction plans in advance.

Ayes, all, nays, none. Motion carried.

6. Subcommittee reports

a. Needs Assessment - on standby

b. Ordinance Revision - on standby

c. Regional Commission - on standby

d. Drafting Franchise Agreement - on standby

e. Strategy - on standby

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

The next Telecommunications Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 24, 1999, at 6:00 P.M., at the City Water Department, 300 Bliss Avenue.

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

Commissioner Patton moved, Ald. Phillips seconded, to adjourn into closed session.

Roll Call Ayes: Chairman Rackow, Aldermen Walther, Phillips; Commissioners Bartosz,

Colantonio, Patton, Wyhuske
Nays: None. Motion carried.

9. Adjournment - 8:00 P.M.

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