

Meeting Minutes

TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, July 13, 1999 - 6:00 P.M.

City Water Department - 300 Bliss Avenue

Present: Chairman Rackow, Aldermen Walther, Phillips; Commissioners Bartosz, Curtis, Patton, Pintar, Wyhuske

Excused: Commissioner Colantonio

Also

Present: Mayor Wescott, Clerk Zdroik, Tom Hagen (Whiting), John Klismet (Park Ridge), John Holdridge (Hull), Tim Vowell (Charter), Jim Ebenhoe (Charter), Scott Behn (Charter), Tom Bauman (Charter), Susan Kampmeier (Journal), Gene Kemmeter (Portage County Gazette), Amanda Julian (WIZD)

1. Approval of minutes of June 17, 1999.

Commissioner Wyhuske moved, Commissioner Bartosz seconded, for approval of the minutes of June 17, 1999.

Ayes, all, nays, none. Motion carried.

2. Report of Charter Communications.

a. Cable company business plan due not later than June 1 concerning converters.

A letter from Scott Behn, District Manager, Charter Communications, dated June 18, 1999, providing information regarding customer needs for cable converters and home terminals was reviewed. Charter Communications intends to send this letter to all customers currently being billed for **cable converters and home terminals in the near future. A copy of Mr. Behn's letter is attached.**

Chairman Rackow said the letter regarding the business plan covers just about everything the City had asked for. The letter could be improved by saying that the remote capable cable converter leased for \$1.50 per month is required per television set if the subscriber intends to receive all programming. The letter also needs a clarification on the \$3.86 a month home terminal lease program. The Chairman suggested that Charter Communications also add a paragraph on remote controls.

b. Complaint letters.

A number of complaint letters were received before this meeting. Of the six complaint letters received, Charter Communications replied to three letters in a very timely fashion. One of the complaints is the \$19.95 charge when a subscriber decides to downgrade the service to Broadcast Basic. Mr. Behn said the charge is necessary to cover the costs of equipment necessary to block services other than Broadcast Basic. The \$19.95 charge only applies to changes from Cable Showcase to Broadcast Basic. A pamphlet on Important Customer Information distributed by Charter Communications to each subscriber does not show the \$19.95 downgrade charge. Tim Vowell, Franchise and Government Relations Director, Charter Communications, stated the charge has been around since 1993 and falls under the labor charge for work performed. The original service charge for downgrading to Broadcast Basic service was \$42.95. The fee was later dropped to \$19.95. Charter Communications officials informed the Commission there is no charge to disconnect the service altogether. Alderman Phillips asked Charter Communications officials to make the service charge clearer to the subscribers.

3. Report of Telecommunications Seminar.

A Telecommunications Regulations Conference was held at the University of Wisconsin - Madison on June 24 and 25, 1999. Commissioners **Patton and Curtis attended the conference and a copy of the commissioners' report is attached.**

4. Status of Franchise Agreement.

There was no discussion of this agenda item.

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

The next Telecommunications Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday August 11, 1999, at 6:00 P.M., at the City Water Department, 300 Bliss Avenue.

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

Alderman Phillips moved, Alderman Walther seconded, to adjourn into closed session.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried.

7. Reconvene into open session (7:30 P.M.) for possible action on recharter matters.

Commissioner Patton moved, Commissioner Pintar seconded, to reconvene into open session.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried.

8. Adjournment - 7:30 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.

