

Meeting Minutes

TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, August 12, 1999 - 6:00 P.M.

City Water Department - 300 Bliss Avenue

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

Excused: Commissioners Colantonio, Curtis

Also  
Present: Mayor Wescott, Clerk Zdroik, Tom Hagen (Whiting), Jim Ebenhoe (Charter), Tom Bauman (Charter), Susan Jirgl (Charter), Amanda Julian (WIZD)

1. Approval of minutes of July 13, 1999.

Ald. Walther moved, Commissioner Patton seconded, for approval of the minutes of July 13, 1999, but change Item 5 of the agenda to read Thursday, August 12, 1999, instead of Wednesday, August 11, 1999.

Ayes, all, nays, none. Motion carried.

2. Report of Telecommunications Coordinator.

Telecommunications Coordinator Quirk passed out updated copies of the CA3 program schedule. One locally produced program took the summer off and one is playing re-runs. Both programs are expected to return this fall. One non-locally produced program canceled but was immediately replaced by the U.S. Navy/Marine news.

Road construction information is still running on Channel 10 with an average of about 6 to 12 messages. Music was added to Channel 10 today, the same music that is on Channel 3.

Coordinator Quirk has submitted budget proposals and capital improvements requests for 2000.

**At the Mayor's request, Coordinator Quirk researched how other regional commissions manage PEG channels. Coordinator Quirk will submit a report later.**

Technical problems with signals continue. Coordinator Quirk calls the Wausau dispatch office but sometimes the cable company does not call the technician right away so he calls the technician directly now (after calling the dispatch).

CA3 had trouble with the August 9, 1999, school board meeting. They were not able to cablecast live from PJ Jacobs Junior High School. CA3 does not normally cablecast live from the junior high school. Coordinator Quirk does not blame CA3 nor Charter Communications because they did not have enough advance notice that a live program would be done at the school.

Chairman Rackow moved, Commissioner Patton seconded, to approve the Telecommunications Coordinator report.

Ayes, all, nays, none. Motion carried.

3. Report of Charter Communications.

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

In a letter addressed to Chairman Rackow dated July 22, 1999, Charter Communications District Manager Scott Behn informed the Commission that the intent of this letter is to provide information regarding customer needs for cable converters and home terminals. This letter is intended to be sent to all customers currently being billed for cable converters and home terminals in the near future. After a review of Mr. Behn's letter by the Commission, it was decided the letter can be sent out to the subscribers. A copy of Mr. Behn's letter is attached.

b. Complaint letters.

A number of complaints were received by the City Clerk's office on the additional \$.60 added to the subscribers' bill for the franchise fee. Chairman Rackow wrote a letter to Mr. Behn regarding the variations in the franchise fee as it appears on the subscriber's bill, copy attached.

Susan Jirgl, Charter Communications Operations Manager, responded to the Chairman's inquiry. A copy of that reply to Chairman Rackow's letter is attached.

Due to some uncertainties as to the reasons for the variations, Charter Communications officials asked that they look into the matter further and report back to the Commission at the next meeting.

c. Question of Charter Communications, what portion of the rebuilt system is used for cable TV?

Ms. Jirgl stated that 100% of the rebuilt system is being used for cable TV. The Commission members had reservations as to the actual percent of the rebuilt system being used for cable TV, so Charter Communications officials were asked to further check into this matter and report back to the Commission at the next meeting.

d. Progress on making the I-Net Work.

There was no action taken on this agenda item.

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

The next Telecommunications Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 8, 1999, at 6:00 P.M. at the City Water Department, 300 Bliss Avenue.

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

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

Roll Call: Ayes: Chairman Rackow, Aldermen Phillips, Walther; Commissioners Bartosz, Patton, Pintar, Wyhuske.  
Nays: None. Motion carried.

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

Ald. Phillips moved, Chairman Rackow seconded, to reconvene into open session.

Roll Call: Ayes: Chairman Rackow, Aldermen Phillips, Walther; Commissioners Bartosz, Patton, Pintar, Wyhuske.  
Nays: None. Motion carried.

7. Adjournment - 8:05 P.M.

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