



# CITY OF GERMANTOWN TENNESSEE

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## Telecommunications Commission Meeting

Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
Comcast Office – 6:00P.M.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tony Fischer (Chairman), Bill Brody, Sandra Abel, Rik Ditter, Rodney McKelroy, Kenneth Ketcham, Jack Parnell (Vice-Chairman) and Danish Siddiqui.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Alderman Ernest Chism and Donna Chandler Newman

**PRESENT STAFF LIASON:** Kristen Geiger, Assistant City Administrator, Finance & General Services  
Stephanie Logan, Technical Services Coordinator, Finance & General Services.

**PRESENT NON MEMBERS:** Otha Brandon, Comcast, Director of Government Affairs  
Frank Bluestein, GHS-TV Executive Director  
A J Heinz, GHS-TV Co-General Manager  
William Street, GHS-TV Co-General Manager

### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Fischer called the October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Telecommunications Commission to order at 6.04 p.m. A roll call was conducted and a quorum was established. Chairman Fischer also thanked Otha Brandon for hosting the meeting.

### MINUTES

Chairman Fischer called for the approval of the September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Telecommunications Commission Minutes.

### **\*\*MOTION \***

Jack Parnell made a motion, seconded by Rik Ditter, to approve the September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Telecommunications Commission Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

### COMCAST REPORT

Otha Brandon began his report by explaining that COMCAST will no longer be providing the subscriber numbers. He stated that the change in the reporting was due to the competitive nature of their business and the city's freedom of information.

He then went onto explain that the names and addresses were being removed to preserve their customers identities. COMCAST will continue to provide the drop bury information numbers as required by the Franchise Agreement.

Commission Members discussed the new changes and how we will be able to ensure the city's comfort level and not disclose COMCAST proprietary information.

Frank Bluestein wanted it noted in the Minutes that GHS-TV would like to know the numbers at least annually so they will know what they can expect.

### GHS-TV REPORT

Frank Bluestein stated the September 2009 monthly statistics for GHS-TV: GHS-TV cablecast 720 hours of monthly programming, 75 non-repeat local and national television shows cablecast. The number of television shows produced locally by GHS-TV for the 2009/2010 season was 34. The total number of programs produced for the Access Together Project for the 2009/2010 is 24.

The HD TV switcher was installed and it really fantastic looking. There is a whole monitor wall. GHS-TV will be commissioning and training sessions. Will now be focusing on other areas not that this is up and running. Chairman Fischer asked if GHS-TV was feeding U-Verse. Frank Bluestein responded that GHS-TV was having a meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup> with U-Verse technical staff in the GHS-TV studio to do all technical connections of the equipment etc. U-Verse system is not capable of televising the meetings.

One proposal that has not been finalized would be to install a separate T-1 and city government would be separate from their channels programming. It will make it even more difficult to find government meetings (Channel 99 – find your city – find government sub set).

Low power FM passed house sub-committee and is headed for full house approval. Rik Ditter asked if GHS-TV were in a position to move forward if they open up the window. Frank said the school applied back in 2000. He continued by saying they had appropriated space from the school for the radio station if it is approved.

Frank Bluestein was asked what the time frame for COMCAST or some carrier to carry the HD signal. Frank Bluestein stated that they hadn't gotten there yet with COMCAST, if that's even what the possibility is for that. Frank Bluestein stated that the situation with HD is quite frankly, like what we told everybody with digital back in 2000, if we don't move into digital, we can't maintain the analogue equipment. We're moving to HD as a practical manner and we will begin to tape everything in HD whether COMCAST decides to carry that or not. Eventually it's going to be up to COMCAST and ATT as well. Otha Brandon asked when GHS-TV was going to start. Frank Bluestein responded, that they're not for sure, probably a year out, since they haven't got the camera's or anything of that nature yet.

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Stephanie Logan began the review of the IT update, highlighting the major points in the report:-

- IT and Police staff conducted a conference call with NWS Mobil and APS representatives to determine a more efficient method of software upgrade implementation for their products.
- NWS Best Practices visit has been completed for the Police Department. During their visit, several minor changes and recommendations were made while on-site that will help Police staff maximize the modules in place. A report was provided to document recommendations in need of further review.
- Work continues on the Locution/NWS interface. Meanwhile the Zetron system has been installed. Final testing is underway and it is anticipated that the system will be operational within the next two weeks.
- SunGard conversion continues to be priority for the IT staff. The system was completed for security levels for the PI module. Testing of the new site and training for staff is planned to commence next week.
- The City web site calendar has been integrated through the rest of the year. City staff is working on "cleaning up" their respective pages of the new website. Go-Live is anticipated for late December. IT will try and get a demo for next month's Telecom Meeting.
- September 2010 Telecom Meeting will be on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> and not the 8<sup>th</sup> as stated earlier.

### SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE – COMCAST RELOCATION OF CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER

Bill Brody began his report and stated that he would be abstaining from voting due to his recent bad experience with COMCAST.

Kristen Geiger commended the report findings and she stated that the report was thorough and that it hit on the major points of the move. A couple of things to take into account for the future are the bottleneck at Germantown Rd and Poplar Pike. Also we have got clarity on franchise – all we have to do is make one reading to the BMA and make an amendment to the Agreement as a variance.

Frank Bluestein commented that we should ask what COMCAST was willing to give the city for conceding to this change.

A discussion amongst Commission Members ensued and it was then decided to make a motion.

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**\*\*MOTION \***

Rik Ditter made a motion, seconded by Jack Parnell, recommending in moving forward to City Staff with taking into account report findings in negotiating a variance with COMCAST. The motion passed unanimously.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Commission members were reminded to RSVP for the Commission Dinner by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Chairman Fischer thanked Sub-Commission Members for their work.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\*MOTION\*\***

Vice-Chairman Parnell called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sandra Abel made a motion, seconded by Rodney McKelroy. Motion passed unanimously.