



CITY OF GERMANTOWN TENNESSEE

1930 South Germantown Road • Germantown, Tennessee 38138-2815
Phone (901) 757-7200 Fax (901) 757-7292 www.germantown-tn.gov

Telecommunications Commission Meeting

Wednesday, March 13th, 2013 – 6:00 pm
Administrative Conference Room, 1930 S Germantown Road

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Messenger, Ken Ketcham, Dan McCleary, Jack Parnell, William Stevens and Kurt Weil

MEMBERS ABSENT: Alderman Rocky Janda, Sandra Abel and Dan McCleary

PRESENT STAFF LIASON: Tony Fischer, IT Director
Stephanie Logan, Technical Services Coordinator

PRESENT NON MEMBERS: Frank Bluestein, GHS-TV
Blake Tutor, GHS-TV
Alderman Mike Palazzolo

Call To Order

Chairman Ketcham called the March 13th, 2013, Telecommunications Commission to order at 6:02 p.m. Tony Fischer conducted a roll call and it was noted a perfect attendance and quorum had been established.

Approval of Agenda

Chairman Ketcham called for the approval of the March 13th Telecommunications Commission Agenda.

****MOTION****

Jack Parnell made a motion, seconded by Kurt Weil approve the March 13th, 2013 Telecommunications Commission Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval Of Minutes

Chairman Ketcham called for the approval of the February 13th, 2013 Telecommunications Commission Minutes.

****MOTION****

Jack Parnell made a motion, seconded by Tom Messenger, to approve the February 13th 2013 Telecommunications Commission Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Telecommunications Commission

March 13th, 2013

Page 2

GHS-TV Report

Frank Bluestein stated the February 2013 monthly statistics for GHS-TV: Germantown Community Television cablecast 672 hours of programming. The total number of non-repeat local and national television shows by show title cablecast is 71. The total number of local and national television shows by number of airings per month cablecast is 271. The total number of television shows/taped reports/special projects produced locally is 23. The total number of television shows/taped reports/special projects produced locally for the 2012-2013 season is 179. The total number of programs produced for the Access Together Project for 2012-2013 seasons is 77.

Member Tom Messenger asked about the issue identified in the channel guide by GHS-TV.

Tony Fischer stated that it was business decision on behalf of COMCAST not to provide the service. He also noted that we have not exhausted all avenues at this point yet.

Considerable discussion ensued on the subject amongst members.

A question was also raised about the status of the audit. Tony stated that the attorneys were communicating back and forth.

Last month the COMCAST check sent was off by 20,000 users. Ralph Gabb, Finance Director called and pointed out the error and a new check was issued.

The attorney has strongly recommended that we audit to the point of state franchise.

IT Report

Tony Fischer reviewed the IT update and briefly overviewed.

Public Safety Radio System – Work continues for the Public Safety Radio System Project. Final testing continues as the legacy equipment reaches final migration onto the new system. System changes are being implemented as a result of the R56 Guideline Audit.

New World CAD Upgrade – New World consultants continue to conduct on-site training and software installation/configurations. Training and system configuration is expected to continue on various components of the system over the next 6-7 months.

Google Apps – Google Apps project is on schedule for the mid-May Go Live. Core IT staff migrated to the new Google Apps system March 6th. IT staff is currently working on system configurations, training dates and communications.

Chairman Ketcham asked for an overview of Google Apps for the commission.

Telecommunications Commission

March 13th, 2013

Page 3

Old Business.

AUDIT – COMCAST has responded and we have replied. The attorneys are working on a compromise.

FUTURE AUDIT – Commission members agree we should move forward with the recommendations from legal.

KNOXVILLE AT&T – Final order from TRA and the equipment has been replaced.

New Business

Chairman Ketcham noted to commission members that this is something that comes up every three years and overviewed the background office funding request from GHS-TV grant.

Chairman Ketcham stated that the commission has no voting rights but that they need to let the City know how important the funding is for GHS-TV.

Based on the unknowns of Shelby county schools and whether there will be any municipal school system this resolution is for a one year funding request. Chairman Ketcham went into detail about the commission's platform and asked if there were any questions, to which William Stevens stated that he has several. Regarding the \$260,000 funding request, Mr. Stevens stated that he takes issue with any funding request that assists few instead of the masses.

Discussion continued among commission members regarding funding for special interest groups like GPAC, Great Hall, Athletic Club and GHS-TV that serve a smaller group of citizens rather than all with tax payers funding. Frank Bluestein clarified that the funding goes to provide programming for the TV station and not to the High School.

William stated that as a new member he was going to abstain on voting on the resolution but that the city has to takes some cuts somewhere and not everyone makes \$100,000 a year. A quarter of a million dollar funding request is a lot of money. Jack Parnell commented that he would like to know how many people GHS-TV had helped over the years. A lengthy discussion on the topic of funding continued.

Chairman Ketcham asked Alderman Palazzolo where we were in the budget process. Alderman Palazzolo replied that were in the middle of the process now.

Chairman Ketcham asked for a motion to present the resolution as the commission's recommendation to the BMA.

****MOTION****

Jack Parnell made a motion, seconded by Kurt Weil approve the motion to present the resolution as the commission's recommendation to the BMA. The motion passed with one abstention.

Adjournment

Chairman Ketcham called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

****MOTION****

Jack Parnell made a motion, seconded by Kurt Weil. The motion passed unanimously.