



# CITY OF GERMANTOWN TENNESSEE

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

## Germantown Telecommunications Commission Meeting

**Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009**  
**Administrative Conference Room – 6:00P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tony Fischer - Chairman, Sandra Abel, Bill Brody, Rik Ditter, Rodney McKelroy, Donna Chandler Newman and Danish Siddiqui

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Glen Murry and Jack Parnell

**PRESENT BMA LIASON:** Alderman Ernest Chism

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

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

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Fischer called the June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Telecommunications Commission to order at 6.02pm. A roll call was conducted and a quorum was established. Frank Bluestein also introduced the new GHS-TV General Managers for 2009/2010, William Street (present) and A J Hines.

**\*\*MOTION \***

### **MINUTES**

Chairman Fischer called for the approval of the May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Telecommunications Commission Minutes. Donna Chandler Newman made a motion, seconded by Danish Siddiqui, to approve. The Motion passed unanimously.

It was noted that from now on, all Minutes, Agenda's and attachments will be sent via PDF – Ida to resend this meetings attachments to Sandra as a test.

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### COMCAST REPORT

Otha began his report.

10,005 Comcast cable subscribers for May, 2009

- Up 9 subscribers from April, 2009
- Down 354 subscribers from May 2008

Otha stated that Comcast will have a number of special offers available for viewers in anticipation of the digital switchover in June starting with basic TV at just \$10.00 per month for 12 months.

Comcast wants to close the West Street office and move all Customer Service processes to the Players Club offices. Office sales will stay at the West Street office. As it is 0.4 miles out of the City and open for business purposes on Saturdays. The City will need to review the Ordinance as it states that Comcast is supposed to have an office within the City limits.

A new sub-committee was set up to look at the Ordinance. The members will be: Chairman - Bill Brody, Donna Chandler Newman, Sandra Abel, Rik Ditter and Rodney McKelroy.

A discussion then developed between Commission Members regarding amending the Franchise Agreement and moving the Service Center.

Chairman Fischer asked about Jack Parnell's question from an earlier meeting regarding leased lines. Otha's answer was that Comcast lease to Time Warner Telecom but he would check to make sure.

Bill Brody asked about the commercial volume increase – He requested that Otha check this out and Commission members said that they would try and note the channels involved.

Pending Items:

- Otha asked for the contact information for GHS-TV for the sharing option with Collierville.
- Internet in schools – still waiting for contact from someone to discuss this – schools must contact Otha to get this moving.
- Schedule on Channel 3 – Cannot segment Germantown from other Channel "17" – Otha will see if it is an equal issue.
- Over 60% penetration in digital market – Germantown

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### **GHS-TV REPORT**

Frank then stated the May 2009 monthly statistics for GHS-TV: GHS-TV cablecast 744 hours of monthly programming, 70 non-repeat local and national television shows cablecast. The number of television shows produced locally by GHS-TV for the 2008/2009 season was 343. Total number of shows taped was 32.

GHS-TV has produced 100 Access Together Projects in total for the season. They hit all the benchmarks that they wanted to hit and are very pleased with the results.

Frank also pointed out that this is the most significant report because it is the year End Report. After Capital and Shelby County – payments balance will be basically depleted.

Misc:

- GHS-TV won 2 awards – By far the most for Stations of our size. A full report will be provided for the next meeting to show the awards.

### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

Kristen Geiger began her review of the update, providing details where necessary

She also stated that the Utility Ordinance as discussed at the previous Telecom meeting was passed at the May 8<sup>th</sup> 2009 BMA (landscape maintenance; clarifying language; adding language regarding official language.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Chairman Fischer called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bill Brody made a motion, seconded by Rodney McKelroy. Motion passed unanimously.