



CITY OF GERMANTOWN TENNESSEE

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Telecommunications Commission Meeting

Wednesday, 9th, 2009

Chairman Fischer's Residence – 6:00P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tony Fischer (Chairman), Sandra Abel, Rik Ditter, Rodney McKelroy, Ken Ketcham, Donna Chandler Newman, and Jack Parnell (Vice-Chairman)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Alderman Ernest Chism, Bill Brody, Danish Siddiqui

PRESENT STAFF LIASON: Kristen Geiger, Assistant City Administrator, Finance & General Services
Stephanie Logan, Technical Services Coordinator, Finance & General Services
Ida Griffiths, Secretary, 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 welcomed Commission Members to his home and called the December 9th, 2009, Telecommunications Commission to order at 6.28 p.m. A roll call was conducted and a quorum was established.

MINUTES

Chairman Fischer called for the approval of the November 11th, 2009 Telecommunications Commission Minutes.

****MOTION ***

Ken Ketcham made a motion, seconded by Jack Parnell, to approve the November 11th, 2009 Telecommunications Commission Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

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COMCAST

Otha Brandon stated that his report would be short and brief, he referred to the phone stats and also the drop bury report that had been handed out. Otha stated that on the drop bury report that only one was out of compliance.

There has been some channel migration and some additions to programming. News Channel 3 Anytime has gone to digital, which means that you have to have a digital convertor box.

The information needed for Comcast subscribers will be made available to the City (ie Kristen) but not via the monthly information, so that it will not become public information.

An audit is beginning on Comcast.

GHS-TV REPORT

Frank Bluestein stated the October 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 30. The total number of programs produced for the Access Together Project for the 2009/2010 is 43.

The Foundation had a meeting on December 1st. The checking account stands at \$899 as at the end of September and the Money Market account is at \$295,000.

Pending Issues

GHS-TV met with city officials to discuss Comcast's new policy of not releasing yearly subscriber count figures. A policy decision on this issue is pending.

GHS-TV has talked with Collierville officials to discuss the feasibility of providing a cable link to their city in order to receive additional exposure on the Memphis channels.

The GHS-TV schedule is no longer being listed on the Channel Guide

Shelby County Schools requests that Comcast complete wiring of Internet service in all Germantown schools. Shelby County Schools wants further discussion on different Internet options.

According to AT&T officials, AT&T U-Verse has started cable casting in the Germantown area. Germantown Community Television is not being offered at this time.

AT&T officials completed a site survey of Germantown High School and Germantown City Hall. Several decisions need to be made before moving forward with installation of the UVerse equipment. One issue involves cable casting of the City Hall meetings. The second issue involves ownership of the AT&T encoding equipment.

IT REPORT

Kristen Geiger began the IT monthly report.

SunGard conversion continues to be priority for the IT staff. Training for the new platform has been completed. Employees continue testing access and functionality. Training was in a webinar format on the test site created. Staff is now working on the check list of critical items required to be tested and functioning prior to going live.

The Locution and New World System continue to work through interface communication issues. We have established weekly meetings to open communication lines between the two vendors and City staff as well as help with timeline reports for project completion.

A tour of City facilities where potential video streaming equipment would be housed was conducted for Sub-committee members. This provided an opportunity for a visual review of how the systems would communicate in the existing layout.

Granicus, Inc. video streaming services has been added to the Board's December meeting for approval. We would like to thank all Sub-committee members for their input in the project. Once approved by the Board, a notation will be included on the City web site to promote the soon to be added service while development is underway.

A discussion ensued among Members regarding the new web site, pricing and the functions that it will provide.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Commission member were also reminded to fill out a new application if they wanted to serve on the commission again next year.

ADJOURNMENT

****MOTION****

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