



CITY OF GERMANTOWN TENNESSEE

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Telecommunications Commission Meeting

Wednesday, January 13, 2010
Administrative Conference Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sandra Abel, Bill Brody, Tony Fischer, Rodney McKelroy, Ken Ketcham, Donna Chandler Newman, Jack Parnell and Danish Siddiqui

MEMBERS ABSENT: Alderman Ernest Chism and Rik Ditter

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
William Street, GHS-TV Co-General Manager

CALL TO ORDER

Kristen Geiger called the January 13, 2010, Telecommunications Commission to order at 6.02 p.m. A roll call was conducted and a quorum was established.

MINUTES

Kristen Geiger called for the approval of the December 9, 2009 Telecommunications Commission Minutes.

****MOTION****

Donna Chandler Newman made a motion, seconded by Tony Fischer, to approve the December 9, 2009 Telecommunications Commission Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

ORIENTATION

Kristen Geiger congratulated Members on their reappointment onto the Telecommunications Commission and reviewed the Ethics Statement which everyone had signed. Kristen stated that at the next BMA on the 25th of January, that a Chairperson would be appointed.

Kristen reviewed the Chairperson appointment after a question from a Commission Member.

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COMCAST

Otha Brandon began his report by noting the price increase/decrease beginning in January 2010. He then surmised the rest of his report.

A discussion ensued among Members regarding the price wars currently going on and the quality of cable TV.

Members questioned the decline in call volumes for 18-23 December; Otha will re check the numbers and get back with the Commission.

GHS-TV REPORT

Frank Bluestein stated the December 2009 monthly statistics for GHS-TV: GHS-TV cablecast 74 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 29. The total number of programs produced for the Access Together Project for the 2009/2010 is 51.

Pending Issues

1. 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.
2. The GHS-TV schedule is no longer being listed on the Channel Guide (Channel 3).
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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 U-Verse 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.

1. Website updates nearly complete; new website set to launch end of January.
2. The new go live date for SunGard conversion is February 1. Click2Gov will shut down on Tuesday
3. January 26 with the premise system shut down scheduled for Wednesday, January 27. Security on the new system is complete and final testing is underway.
4. Video streaming – approved at December 14 Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting; contracts have been approved with equipment ordered. Launch date will be March.
5. Testing continues with Locution at Fire Station 3. The interface appears to be working correctly and staff is currently fine tuning the responses.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Public notice – in legislation
2. Utility Bill/electronic version, no bill printed/postage savings accelerated payments.
3. We can save \$34,000 plus a year for “notices”

ADJOURNMENT

****MOTION****

Kristen Geiger called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sandra Abel made a motion, seconded by Tony Fischer. Motion passed unanimously.