



CITY OF GERMANTOWN TENNESSEE

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Telecommunications Commission Meeting

Wednesday, December 8, 2010 – 6.00 pm

Chairman Newman's Residence

3222 Duke Circle, Germantown, TN 38139

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bill Brody, Ald. Ernest Chism and Danish Siddiqui

PRESENT STAFF LIASON: Kristen Geiger, F&GS Division Director
Ralph Gabb, Finance Director
Stephanie Logan, Technical Services Coordinator, F&GS
Ida Griffiths, Secretary, F&GS

PRESENT NON MEMBERS: Otha Brandon, COMCAST
Frank Bluestein, GHS-TV Executive Director
Taylor Williams, GHS-TV Co-Director
Matt Sloan, GHS-TV Co-Director

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Newman called the December 8, 2010, Telecommunications Commission to order at 6:47 p.m. Kristen Geiger conducted a roll call and it was noted that a quorum had been established.

MINUTES

Chairman Newman called for the approval of the November 10, 2010 Telecommunications Commission Minutes with correction on Page 2 regarding the Audit, "it was concluded that we were right on time with the Audit and proceeding with it".

****MOTION****

Ken Ketcham made a motion, seconded by Sandra Able, to approve the December 8, 2010 Telecommunications Commission Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

CHAIRMAN COMMENTS

Chairman Newman thanks Commission members for coming to the meeting/gathering and for their service to the City of Germantown. Chairman Newman recognized Taylor Williams from GHS-TV for winning the Battle of the Brains Award, and also the newspaper article on Jack Parnell. It was noted that a bullet point report was due to the Aldermen by the end of the year. Once finished, it will be passed to the Commission for comments.

COMCAST AUDIT

Ken Ketcham stated that the COMCAST audit was strictly confidential and that Commission members were not allowed to discuss with anyone other than Commission members. Chairman Newman stated that COMCAST and ATT numbers would not be discussed at Commission meetings as these meeting were public. Ralph Gabb stated that he and Ken Ketcham were about to begin the process of going through the documentation that Otha Brandon had given them.

LPFM

Frank Bluestein spoke regarding the email that he had sent out to members regarding the LPFM. He stated that the bill had passed the house vote and the senate congress committee, stating that the NAB did not want this bill passed and had got three or four republican senators to put a hold on the bill.

****MOTION****

Sandra Abel made a motion to write a letter to add the Telecom commission's encouragement to add it into a bill to move it forward if Frank Bluestein deems it necessary, Rodney McKelroy seconded and the motion passed unanimously. A discussion then ensued amongst members regarding what could be done to get the bill passed.

GHS-TV REPORT

Frank Bluestein stated that his report had been handed out to members. Tony Fischer asked if GHS-TV had spent the \$274,000 in capital on upgrades, Frank Bluestein stated yes the money had been spent. He referred members to P5 of his report. Frank Bluestein also stated that he would have an up to date report for the next meeting. Jack Parnell commended GHS-TV for the election coverage stating that it had been excellent.

COMCAST REPORT

Otha Brandon stated the Drop Bury report and said that COMCAST had started the digital initiative. Stating that all tiers will now need a DTA apart from basic cable. Customers will get 2 free DTA's but will have to pay \$1.99 per month for any others that they require. There will be a rate increase averaging 3.75% beginning on January 1, 2011. It was also noted that COMCAST were being more aggressive about cable theft.

IT REPORT

Kristen Geiger stated that there would be a final conference call with Scott Crosby the attorney regarding the variance agreement with COMCAST and the City for moving their Customer Service Center. Copies will be emails to the Commission and it will be brought before the BMA hopefully in January. Kristen Geiger also stated that she and Stephanie Logan had had an expensive conference call with the heads SUNGARD to address connection issues and the displeasure of the service. As a result of that, the head of the technology division monitoring the system to try and see what can be done to improve on the connectivity. As a result of this, the two modules spoken about at the last Telecom meeting had been put on hold.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Donna Chandler Newman stated that she would not be applying for the Telecommunications Commission next year stating that she thought it was about time to step down. Members thanked her for all her hard work and efforts, stating that she would be missed.

ADJOURNMENT

****MOTION****

Chairman Newman called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sandra Abel made a motion, seconded by Jack Parnell. The motion passed unanimously.