

**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL**

**Summation of Minutes from  
Tuesday March 6, 2007**

**I. Introduction and Comments**

Members present:

Duane Busick

Carl Zager

Jesse Strycker

Eric Ost

Others present:

Michael White, CATS

Phil Meyer

Rick Dietz

Christina Fulton

Justin Goodwin

**Public:**

John Gregrudous

Pat Riesenam

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Busick motioned to approve the December 5, 2006 minutes. Zager moved to approve, Strycker seconded. In favor: 4-0-1. Busick motioned to approve the January 9, 2007 minutes. Zager moved for approval, Strycker seconded. In favor: 4-0-1.

**Old Business**

**A). Rewriting of the Telecommunications Ordinance**

The council has received the new language for the telecommunications council ordinance. Dietz stated that over the years there have been variations and drafts to the ordinance. The discussion arena is still open and nothing is yet set in stone. Busick stated that after looking over the language and comparing it to the language used in 1999 and the July 2006 language the council approved and then seeing the new language Jackie Moore from the City Legal Department added that the items that have been removed are

items of real specificity. Busick mentioned the name change from City of Bloomington Telecommunications Council to the Information and Communications Technology Committee that is written in the new language. Dietz stated that this only a working draft on the language and he is working with Vickie Renfro from the City Legal Department on all telecommunications issues for the City of Bloomington. Busick motioned to approve the language of the proposed draft ordinance. Zager moved that the council approve the draft ordinance. Ost seconded the motion. All in favor: 4-0-1.

#### **IV. Public Comment**

Mr. Gregrudous was present to address his Insight Communications basic cable issues and digital signals. He recently purchased a digital television and was pleased he could get digital channels on his new television. In mid December 2006 all of his digital channels had disappeared. Upon calling Insight he was told he needed a digital cable box to receive the channels. He was confused how some channels were still able to be viewed but others, even without the box, remain cryptic. Insight told him that they were going to do nothing to solve the problem and he would need to get a digital cable box to receive the channels. Mr. Gregrudous thinks that Insight is in violation since the channels were available for a period of time and then were halted, he believes this is a public service issue. Mr. Gregrudous has also filed a complaint with the FCC regarding this problem. Strycker stated that in his findings he has never found any rhyme or reason why this goes on, but that it does go on in other markets as well. Mr. Gregrudous asked the council to help him with this problem and in communicating with the IURC. Zager asked Mr. Gregrudous to be patient with the council since the lines of communication are being learned since this whole process is new.

Ms. Riesenam is a new subscriber to AT&T U-verse Service. Her complaint is regarding not being able to get CATS. She spoke with the company and they did not know what she was talking about. She wanted to ask the council to try to work to get CATS added to this service. Ms. Riesenam stated she can use the VCR only if she is taping what she was watching, not while she is watching something else at the same time. The representative told her that she would not be able to do this without a DVR box. She took the lowest level of service after her trial period; the DVR is not available if one chooses this type of service. She recently also got DSL. Her email and two of her phone lines quit working. She asked a technician to please look at the lines. He told her that another technician had looked at the outside box and that could have messed up the inside lines, but they were all working fine. Her DSL did begin working but she could not send any messages through email. She called UITS and the representative asked her if her service was through AT&T. She had to change her port on her computer since AT&T blocks some ports, the representative helped her change the port and now it is working just fine. Busick stated that he would call AT&T and ask them when they plan on carrying the access channels and suggested that Ms. Riesenam send a letter to the editor of the newspaper regarding this problem. Ost asked how Ms. Riesenam had found out about this service. She called them back by using \*67, upon reaching them and after looking the number back up in the phone book the representative began asking her about her cable and internet service that she currently had. Zager wanted to know if AT&T talked to anyone in Bloomington about their services being added. Zager asked Rick Dietz if AT&T has contacted the City of Bloomington. Dietz stated that the only contact they have had with AT&T is where they need to send a check for being in the City of

Bloomington and offering service. Dietz stated that AT&T has not replied to an email he sent them with questions regarding the services. Zager stated that he would like to get AT&T into a meeting with the council so everyone can get onto the same table regarding the service they are providing. Ost stated that he thought AT&T, or any other provider would contact the council and the City of Bloomington before offering these services; they have not.

### **III. Reports and Announcements**

#### **A.) BTC Members**

#### **B.) CATS**

**The report is in the official record.**

White presented all reports to the council.

White wanted to state, for the record, that AT&T has not contacted CATS about adding the access channels to their line up.

Busick asked White about Channel 7. Busick stated that he is still not getting Channel 7. White asked if there was a trap on it, Busick said there was. White stated that he has been instructed by Insight that anyone who tells him that they can not get Channel 7 after checking their channel line up to contact Insight because they should be receiving the channel now since it is an access channel.

#### **C.) Insight Communications**

**The report is in the official record.**

No one from Insight was present to present the report.

Busick had a copy of the check for Insight's 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Franchise fees dated January 17, 2007. The check was for \$160,745.72. He stated that this was the largest check he had seen Insight write to the City and this means that their subscribers must be up significantly.

#### **D.) WTIU**

**The report is in the official record.**

Meyer presented his quarterly report to the council.

Meyer stated that AT&T did contact WTIU regarding analog Channel 30 on October 30, 2006. Meyer stated that he does believe that they are being broadcast on the AT&T line up in Indianapolis but he wanted to ask Brett Howard if this was correct. Meyer stated that he was not sure if AT&T was going state-wide, but that is what he believes they will do.

### **IV. Old Business**

#### **A.) The role of the BTC.**

Busick motioned to approve the council report that they had drawn up during their work sessions regarding the role of the council so it could move forward to be presented to the Board of Public Works and the City Council. Ost moved to approve the report. Zager seconded the motion. All in favor: 4-0-1.

## **V. New Business**

The council had a citizen complaint regarding an NEAS announcement on February 14, 2007. There were two separate tests. One at 4:45 and lasted about forty-five seconds and the other at 4:55 and lasted a minute and half. His question was why were the two tests necessary and why was there and rock and roll music playing in the background. The citizen contacted emergency dispatch and was told that Insight was the initiator of the tests. The citizen wanted to also know who was in charge of true emergencies. Ost said normally the programming will be interrupted with a screen telling the viewer that there is going to be a test performed and that when they are performed they normally only last about thirty seconds. Ost was not sure why there was rock and roll in the background. Zager stated the emergency broadcasts are a very important service to the community and intended to provide information pertaining to a serious event. The tests are necessary, but the time frame, the length and the type of music baffles him and takes away the seriousness of the warnings, this is especially due to the time of the year that it is and the threat of severe weather always cropping up around the state. Ost stated that they need to inquire with Insight regarding these tests that the customer is complaining about.

## **VI. Adjournment**

The next official meeting of the Telecommunications Council will be Tuesday April 3, 2007 at 7:30 in the Council Chambers.