

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
COUNCIL

SUMMATION OF MINUTES
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 5, 2008

I. **Introduction and Comments**

Members present:

Jesse Strycker
Carl Zager
Suzann Owen
Eric Ost

Others present:

Justin Goodwin
Michael White
Rick Dietz

Public:

II. **Approval of Minutes**

Owen motioned to approve the January 8, 2008 minutes. Zager seconded.
Minutes approved 4-0-1.

Old Business

IV. **Public Comment**

Reports and Announcements

A.) BTC Members

Owen had an update regarding statewide franchising in Tennessee and all the questions and concerns that have arisen in Tennessee about other states regarding PEG Channels and their placement in channel lineups. There is extreme financial weight being brought by the phone companies to get the state franchising passed in Tennessee. The Big 10 Network is still a hot topic with most states and the ability to receive this channel after state franchising is passed.

Ost stated that there was a hearing on 1/29 before the Federal Senate Energy and Commerce that dealt with many of the same issues that are being dealt with on the local level. Ost stated that the testimony was very similar to the issues that are being talked about at the local level. AT&T and Comcast were present. The topic was funding and the existence and channel placement of the PEG Channels. The representative from Comcast had stated that Comcast was very interested in the preservation of the PEG Channels. The representative from AT&T stated that the PEG Channels are all very new to AT&T at this point. Ost stated that there was some confusion at the meeting regarding what the difference is between local and national emergency override alerts. Zager stated that AT&T has more control over local emergency overrides than they lead the public to believe.

Owen stated that the public, in general, is using cable at a different level than they were years ago. People can find the higher numbered channels and with multicasting there will be more channels in the higher end of the channel tier.

Ost stated that he feels that larger companies are disenfranchising the PEG Channels and their importance to the local viewers.

Strycker stated he was really surprised how smooth the Insight to Comcast transition was and so far he thought the change was good.

Zager stated that they have been so tied up in the discussion of franchising that they have not discussed the role or change of roles for the TCC officers. Strycker stated that he thought it had been two years since they had discussed officers. Zager requested that the reelection of the officers be added to the agenda for the 3/4/08 TCC meeting.

B.) CATS

The report is in the official record.

White presented the monthly report to the council.

White also had the CATS annual report that he presented to the council.

White stated that he recently saw a commercial for one of the new video providers that stated that they would also provide all local channels along with their cable channels; White stated that they knew this was not true.

White stated that he noticed that the PEG Channels did not have the same resolution as the premium cable channels; though PEG Channels are considered premium channels. White stated that from what he has seen from UVerse that the PEG Channels, CATS, can do better with the channel resolution.

Strycker asked if there has been any type of contact regarding Comcast taking over Insight or has it been a seamless switch. White stated that they did get a letter, as most providers did, but other than that there has not been a whole lot of contact from Comcast themselves but that they are still dealing with the same people they were when Insight still owned the company.

C.) Bloomington Digital Underground

Dietz stated that he thinks that a channel should be defined by user experience and what AT&T has defined as a channel is different and puts out a different platform that does not act or behave like a regular channel.

The proposal that AT&T came forward with regarding PEG Channels has really put the burden on CATS and away from them and Comcast. They have different options for picking up the signal.

Beth Rhodes, with the IURC, stated in the next month there would be a discussion regarding PEG Channels and a meeting would be able to be set up so that all involved and interested parties could meet and discuss the PEG Channels.

D.) WTIU/TIU2

The report is in the official record.

No one from WTIU/TIU2 was present. They are only required to attend meetings on a quarterly basis. Strycker and Owen presented the report to the council.

E.) Comcast

No one from Comcast was present. They are not required to attend due to the franchise being at the State level now. Strycker openly invited Comcast to attend the TCC meetings. Ost asked if they were in receipt of the Comcast franchise fee; at meeting time the fee check had not arrived.

F.) AT&T

No one from AT&T was present.

Owen stated, for the record, that the TCC was in receipt of the franchise fee payment of \$73,311.80. The payment to the City of Bloomington is \$3,665.59.

III. Old Business

IV. New Business

Reelection of TCC officers.

V. Adjournment

The next official meeting of the Telecommunications Council is set for Tuesday March 4, 2008 at 7:30 in the City Council Chambers