

**City of Bloomington
Telecommunication Council
Business Meeting – March 6th, 2009**

Common Council Chambers
City Hall at the Showers Building
401 N. Morton St.

I. Members Present: Carl Zager, Duane Busick, Eric Ost

Others in Attendance: Rick Dietz- ITS, Kevin Bowlen – ITS, Michael White – CATS, Phil Mayer - WTIU

II. Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Duane Busick to accept the February minutes, Eric Ost seconded the motion. All moved. Motion was passed.

III. Public Comment – None

IV. Reports

1. Telecom Members

Carl - Task force Report on Emergency Overrides

The bill has come out of committee in the house, and now is on the Senate side to see if it can be brought to the floor. A synopsis of Bill #1619 – Emergency Override Systems was given.

DIGEST OF HB1619 (Updated February 25, 2009 4:04 pm - DI 84)

Emergency override system. Requires the planning and assessment division ("division") of the department of homeland security to recommend to the general assembly a system that allows certain political subdivisions to provide: (1) audio and visual emergency information; and (2) instructions to certain franchise holder's subscribers within the political subdivision's jurisdiction during a local emergency or a local disaster through an emergency override. Requires the division to consult with certain associations and groups while developing its recommendations. Requires the division to make its recommendations not later than November 1, 2009.

Current Status:

We are very pleased with the efforts, particularly that of Rick Dietz, Jim Comerford, Jeff Schemmer, Mike Saterfield, and Iris Kiesling. These individuals contacted their counterparts across the state to help gain support for this bill.

Suzanne – (Report via email read by Carl)

President Obama on Tuesday March 3rd, nominated Julius Genachowski as chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. He must be confirmed by the United States Senate. He was the top aid to the FCC Chairman under democratic president Bill Clinton. He was a classmate of President Obama at Harvard Law. He was also an advisor to President Obama on telecom policy. As held positions at Interactive Corporation, and recently at technology investment firms Rock Creek Ventures, and Launch Box Digital.

2. CATS – Michael White

Monthly Report

- Programming listed for the month

- Thanked the Monroe County Commissioners, City Council, Town of Ellettsville, City of Bloomington, and Monroe County Library for the funding received.
- February – Black History Month
- With funding, CATS could possibly cover more governmental work sessions, and get the city courthouse wired like the City Council Chambers.

Carl – Read a communication from Sarah Laughlin, Director of the Monroe County Public Library PEG Channels

On February 18, 2009, the Board of Trustees of the Monroe County Library approved a resolution urging the public utility, IURC, to take action to provide quality access to the public, education, governmental PEG Channels. The Monroe County Library hosts 5 PEG television stations. In 2008, the libraries channels cast 16,731 hours of government meetings, foreign language news, and educational, cultural, and library programming. In a 2008 community survey, more then 60% of cable subscribers in Monroe County reported that they had watched the channels in the preceding year, proof of the high value that Monroe County residents put on civic engagement. The council is urged to support three items in this resolution.

- 1) That the IURC use its authority to assure that AT&T complies with the conditions of their state issued certificate of franchise authority by providing access to the 5 PEG channels managed by the library, as well as the channel managed by WTIU on the AT&T U-verse system.
- 2) That all PEG channels receive equivalent placement to local broadcast channels and not be relegated to a portion of the AT&T architecture which requires additional menu functions and significant wait time for selected channel to appear.
- 3) That all PEG channels receive full band width re-transmission equivalent to other local broadcast channels and signals not have less then full screen broadcast quality.

Carl also noted an article from the Chicago Tribune, written by David Greasing on February 3, 2009 The lead on the article is that AT&T has cutting edge technology and a beefy balance sheet but the companies handling of community programming channels in Illinois, and other states is putting a big black spot on the blue sky logo. At the heart of a growing controversy there are questions about AT&T’s U-verse service, a marvel of modern technology that pipes 320 channels of television programming over the phone lines violates state law and federal rules regarding fair treatment of community programming. The fight over AT & T U-verse still in the early stages shows what happens when corporate power runs up against entrenched community opposition.

Carl applauds these efforts, and the resolution will be put into the records.

CATS Report on City Grants

2 memorandums of understanding with the City

- 1.) Enables CATS to use the Sony Any Cast System of the city. It is being used on a regular basis to produce a variety of meetings, Saturday’s Child, and community events.
- 2.)
 - A.) CATS collection (dating back to 1974) is being worked on to save this material. Seeking information on the older shows, encourage people to contact CATS with any information they might have on any of the older shows once they are aired.
 - B.) To get away from tape playback to a file delivery system for content.
 - C.) Digital Playback – Eric Ost
 Download format – quick time format, pod-cast
 Web Interface – data based entry
 Searching Interface – graphic design, interfacing with the city

3. WTIU – Phil Meyer

Quarterly Report Highlights

- 40th Anniversary

- 4 digital channels on air
- 5th Anniversary of the PEG channel
- Columbus lost signal for a day and a half
- Membership campaign going on
- Time Warner Cable in Terre Haute will carry WTIU as primary PEG channel.
- No word from Comcast

4. ITS Dept. – Rick Dietz

- BDU Meeting on Thursday 3/5 at 4:30pm
- Mention the two sponsors for House Bill #1619
Evansville Representative Becker and Arnold
Educational component of the bill is it has been an eye opening experience for many communities.
- PEG Platform - Hardware is being configured and will be installed in the next few weeks in the telecom hotel. In tandem with that we are working on use agreements that touch specifically on issues brought up at these meetings and the libraries resolution and the letter sent to the IURC.

5. Comcast and AT&T – No Report

Comcast – 4th quarter statement for 2008 was received.

A franchise fee payment of \$166,622.14 was also received.

Duane: That still seems more than what was previously received.

Carl: That is what we said after receiving the 3rd quarterly statement.

We no longer get a detailed report that we can follow were the money is coming from. They break it down into Basic, Premium, Installation, Digital, Pay- Per-view, and Equipment but that is it. We know it is a certain percentage of the revenue.

AT & T - Received franchise payment for 4th quarter, the amount \$16, 142.11, with no breakdown.

ITS Dept. reported

AT&T Total revenue for 2008 \$41,371.28

Comcast total revenue for 2008 \$667,617.41

Carl: We thank the subscribers of Monroe County.

V. Old Business

Reports to City Council

Comcast, EAS, Local Emergency Overrides – already covered

PEG – covered by Library resolution

Telecommunications Council Charter – No question, or comments

VI. New Business

Digital Conversion – June 12th, 2009

Phil Mayer reported that over 400 stations have already turned off their analog signals.

VII. Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting

Tuesday April 7th, 2009 at 7:30

Common Council Chambers in City Hall at the Showers Building

401 N. Morton St.