

Minutes
Waverly Cable/Telecommunications Commission
Wednesday, December 13, 2006
City of Waverly Conference Room (Administration Office)
12 P.M.

Commission Members Present: Brent Matthias (term expires Feb. 1, 2011), Linda Schrage (term expires Feb. 1, 2010), Donna Kay Oberheu (term expires Feb. 1, 2007),.

Commission Members Not Present: Paul Wright (term expires Feb. 1, 2008), Tara Harn (term expires Feb. 1, 2011).

City of Waverly Staff Present: Dick Crayne, Jo Raap, City Attorney Gerry Carney.

Medicom Representatives Present: Lee Grassley, Doug Nix.

Other Members Present: Jim Mackay, City of Janesville, Larry Farley, City of Denver, Bruce Toenjes, City of Shell Rock.

Minutes: Commission members reviewed the minutes.

Moved By: Schrage

Seconded By: Oberheu

Yes: 3

No: 0

Absent: 2

New Business:

- A. Meeting with Mediacom officials on the City's Franchise Agreement. Administrator reviewed with group members that the City of Waverly's Franchise Agreement expires in March, 2007. Denver's and Janesville's Franchise agreements will also expire in March of 2007. Lee Grassley stated that most of the franchise agreements are the same but Waverly's is different because of the Public Education Government Channel 10. Mr. Grassley distributed Waverly's new Franchise Agreement. City Administrator Crayne asked the group to express their concerns and needs. Some of the concerns discussed were:
- Extension of Mediacom service lines to new subdivisions
 - Response times for service
 - Credit for loss of service – Mediacom representatives stated that they do credit on billing if outage is for 24 hours or more. If a customer calls Mediacom will credit them for the amount of outage time.
 - Franchise fees are regulated by the Federal Government up to 5%. Waverly is currently at 3%.

- Channel selection – 200 plus selections are owned by 7 entities – Warner, Disney, Sinclair Broadcasting, etc. Mr. Grassley informed members that these entities package their channels and suppliers have to buy the whole package rather than just one channel.

Bruce Toenjes from Shell Rock questioned whether the term agreement has to be 15 years or could it be less. He also questioned whether Mediacom's franchise would interfere with other city franchises in Shell Rock.

Administrator Crayne informed Mediacom's representatives that the City is in process of updating AV equipment in the Council Chambers and in the Civic Center and asked if Mediacom would be willing to participate in some of the improvement costs. Mr. Toenjes also asked if Mediacom would be able to provide equipment to Waverly Shell Rock Schools to broadcast school board meetings. Mediacom representatives asked for list of public buildings to look at providing service to outlying facilities.

The minimum term agreement is 5 years and the usual renewal is between ten to fifteen years. If cities want extra incentives Mediacom will want a more substantial term agreement.

Mr. Grassley informed members that Federal law will mandate that all TV's change from analog to digital by February 17, 2009 and each analog TV will need a set top box or install a cable card.

Another concern expressed were the high rates. Mr. Grassley explained that sports channels charge outrageous rates. He also stated that Mediacom has asked the FCC to intervene with Sinclair Broadcasting negotiations scheduled for January 11, 2007.

Administrator Crayne will provide Mediacom with a listing of the City's public buildings and will continue with informal negotiations. Mediacom will look at a remote camera line for WSR schools for broadcast of the School Board Meetings. Administrator Crayne will provide information to Cable/Telecommunications Commission at its next meeting to be announced at a later date.