



**Portsmouth
Cable Commission Meeting
3:30 p.m. – April 3, 2008
City Hall/City Manager’s Conference Room**

The Portsmouth Cable Commission met on Thursday, April 3, 2008 at 3:30 p.m.

- I. Call to Order** - The following were present:
- John Gregg, Chairman
 - Louis Vinciguerra, Commissioner
 - Nancy Beach, Commissioner
 - Kathy Pearce, Commissioner
 - Brian Gregg, Commissioner
 - Gary Lowe, Alternate

Also present were Alan Brady, City of Portsmouth Webmaster, Suzanne Woodland, Assistant City Attorney, Jay Somers, Comcast, Al Bishop, Portsmouth Housing Authority and Reporters Dave Choate, Portsmouth Herald and Charles McMahon Foster’s Daily Democrat.

Chairman John Gregg called the meeting to order at approximately 3:35 p.m.

- II. Approval of Minutes – March 6, 2008** - Voted to approve and accept the minutes of the March 6, 2008 Cable Commission meeting. Motion passed.

- III. Comcast Representative Regarding Digital Conversion** – The Chairman welcomed Jay Somers and the Committee introduced themselves. Mr. Somers stated he is present to help clarify what is going to take place in February 2009. Comcast prepared a handout that Mr. Somers presented to the Committee explaining the Digital Transition. Mr. Somers stated that if you are a cable TV subscriber or any other type of satellite service, nothing will happen, everything will be the same. He pointed out that there is much confusion on the part of the public about all this and referenced a communications program that would be taking place throughout the remainder of the year to inform people.

The issue will be for people who do not subscribe to either cable or satellite. Their signals will go dark on February 19, 2009. These people - who have rooftop and rabbit ear antennas - will need to take action using a coupon available from the government and get a converter box. The coupon program commenced January 1, 2008. Each household may request two coupons which are valid for 90 days only and can be redeemed by retailers e.g. Best Buy.

Mr. Somers presented the Committee with a kit prepared by Comcast entitled “Preparing for the Broadcast Digital Transition”.

Mr. Somers then asked the Committee if there were any questions. Kathy Pearce then referred to the questions that the Committee prepared for Mr. Somers and went through all 30 questions. (See attached).

Mr. Somers suggested having a technical person from Comcast be present at a meeting to explain the difference between digital and analog, high definition and answer the technical questions.

Nancy Beach referred to Portsmouth Elderly Housing and how the residents were confused. Mr. Bishop stated that every apartment has Comcast cable so there should be no issues for these Portsmouth housing units.

The Chair thanked Mr. Somers for attending.

Suzanne Woodland suggested the Commission digest what was learned today, look at the materials and then put together a plan is for getting out information to Portsmouth residents.

IV. Non Public Session (meeting with Legal Counsel)

MOTION made by Brian Gregg to go into non-public session. Seconded by Kathy Pearce. Motion passed.

The Commission then went into non-public session.

MOTION made by Kathy Pearce to go back into public session. Seconded by Brian Gregg. Motion passed.

V. Adjournment - MOTION made by Kathy Pearce. Seconded by Brian Gregg. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine E. Boucas