

Cable TV & Communications Commission Meeting
Thursday, June 9, 2011

Present:

Commissioners Present: John Gregg, Brian Gregg, Kathy Pearce, Nancy Beach

Absent: Bill Southworth

Also Present: Asst. City Atty, Suzanne Woodland and Intern Lauren Jenkins

Called to Order: 3:45pm

- Minutes from last meeting approved. Kathy Pearce motioned. Brian Gregg 2nd.
 - Discussion to amend minutes to strike in Part III where Brian Gregg made the comment, "...appears to have no momentum..." Brian Gregg does not recall making that statement. Brian Gregg moved to approve minutes with changes. Kathy Pearce 2nd.
- Discussion about cable subscription rates.
 - Boston want to set rates for Basic Tier. John Gregg asked that this be reviewed to see if Portsmouth could do the same. Lauren Jenkins made a presentation about the legality of implementing this. She stated that because Portsmouth has no effective competition we could regulate the price of the Basic Tier package.
 - Kittery regulates Basic Tier and Hampton is looking in to it.
 - New Jersey currently has a number of communities that regulate Basic Tier prices.
 - John Gregg recommended we speak with Dottie Grover about this to get input. John Gregg will contact her and the Commission agreed to wait and see what she had to say before moving forward.
- Hi-speed Tele-communications update:
 - There was a tele-conference with EDC members, Eric Gregg, Josh Cyr and Nancy Carmer that John Gregg, Brian Gregg and Bill Southworth about how to proceed to gather information regarding Portsmouth's ability to offer hi-speed access to businesses and residents.
 - Those on the call all agreed to contact hi-speed providers about their future plans. They are all to report back to Nancy Carmer by June 17th.
 - Brian Gregg and John Gregg will report back to the Commission at the next meeting.
- Cable Commission Charter discussion.
 - The Charter was established by a City Ordinance so to make any changes the Commission would have to go before City Council for 3 readings and then the Council would vote on whether or not to accept any changes.
 - With the probability that cable TV will not exist as we know it in the near future, it was agreed that the Commission would hold off making any changes to the Charter (that might include overseeing hi-speed access) until there is a discussion with the EDC sub-committee about whether the roll of the EDC should include this or should the Cable Commission take over those responsibilities.
 - It was agreed that all Commission members should send any ideas or thoughts about any possible changes to the current Charter to Suzanne Woodland on or before August 4th.

Motion to adjourn made by Kathy Pearce. Brian Gregg 2nd.

Next meeting: August 11, 2011 at 3:30 pm