



## Staff Report – Public Hearing for Ordinance

February 20, 2024 Council Regular Meeting

Public Hearing - Ordinance No. 24-003 Franchise Agreement with Comcast Cable Communications Management, LLC

Presenter: Steve Wall, Public Works Director

Time Estimate: 10 minutes

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**BACKGROUND:** City of Camas Ordinance No. 2652 was adopted in July 2012 and authorized a 10-year extension of a Franchise Agreement with Comcast of Washington V, LLC (“Comcast”) through August 5, 2022. The agreement extension has since expired, but is still valid as both parties have been working in good faith on a new franchise agreement.

**SUMMARY:** Comcast Cable Communications Management, LLC (“Comcast”; previously known as Comcast of Washington V, LLC) through its local representatives requested a Franchise Agreement with the City to construct, install, maintain, extend, and operate cable communications facilities within the City right-of-way. The non-exclusive franchise agreement and any facilities installed in association with the agreement will be used to serve current and future Comcast customers with cable services. The draft franchise agreement has been reviewed by staff and the City Attorney, as well as Comcast representatives.

The approval process for the Franchise Agreement includes the need to hold a public hearing to receive public testimony regarding the agreement. Following the public hearing and at Council’s direction, an Ordinance would be presented to City Council for consideration for adoption.

**BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY:** In accordance with Section 3.3 of the draft agreement, Comcast shall continue providing complimentary cable services to the schools, libraries and public institutions identified in Exhibit A. Additionally, Exhibit B to the draft agreement provides for customer service standards consistent with past agreements with Comcast.

**BUDGET IMPACT:** In accordance with the City’s adopted 2024 Fee Schedule, Comcast will pay the City’s \$5,954 administrative fee for processing the Franchise Agreement. Additionally, per section 7.1 of the draft agreement, Comcast shall pay to the City a Franchise Fee of five percent (5%) of their annual gross revenue within the City. Comcast would also be obligated to pay to the City any utility taxes if enacted in the future, up to a total of 4% for the first 10 years, then any amount statutorily authorized after 10 years at the discretion of the City.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends the City Council hold a public hearing, take public testimony, then direct staff to place the Ordinance on the March 4, 2024 Regular Meeting Agenda for adoption.