



Cable Commission Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 23, 2024 at 6:30 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Famularo

Commission members present included Behl, Famularo, and Pyfferoen. Roelke arrived at 6:32pm. Staff liaison Bennett was also present.

Bennett stated that the meeting was properly noticed

Motion by Behl to approve the agenda for September 23, 2024. Second by Pyfferoen. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Motion by Pyfferoen to approve the minutes as written for September 23, 2024. Second by Behl. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

1. Approval of Minutes from August 26, 2024

There was no one in attendance to comment, nor any correspondence received.

Unfinished Business

2. Bennett shared the most recent updates to the Cable Ordinance that was passed by the Council at its meeting on September 17, 2024. The updated ordinance now includes modernized language, removal of a defunct position, and better aligns with State Statutes. These changes were previously forwarded to Council at the Cable Commission meeting on June 24, 2024.

Pyfferoen asked who the Grantee is. Bennett responded that the Grantee is Charter. Famularo asked if it is in line with State Statutes. Bennett affirmed that is in line and more so than before the updates.

New Business

3. The Cable Commission discussed some details for a potential interview program. The program would be interview-style and up to a half-hour long. There was discussion as to what the focus may be. Some ideas included interviewing City staff and boards, committees, and commissions to highlight projects, events, and initiatives. Other topics brought up included highlighting upcoming and recapping local events along with potentially interviewing alders. Pyfferoen and Roelke liked a previous program that was done in a similar manner. Staff expressed concerns about interviewing alders as the City is strict about political content. The Commission would prefer those interviews to be pre-recorded/edited and not "live". Bennett would like the program to be produced by a local resident. The Commission expressed concerns that certain individuals may act in bad faith editing interviews of alders. Another concern that was brought up was limited staff time. Behl would like to get kids involved if possible. Famularo cited Sun Prairie as an example. The Commission would like to keep this item for the next agenda.

Department Reports

4. Bennett reported that there was no new revenues or expenditures for the month of August.

5. Bennett reported that there were 38 new programs aired in August. Sports have resumed and include home and away football and volleyball. The streaming channel had 49 views for a little over 16 hours. Video on demand was led by City meetings that had 116 views for 10.44 hours.
6. Staff reported on Nielsen's ongoing cable TV industry viewing trends, Charter's advertising, and the merging of Dish and Direct TV. Nielsen is cited to have cable TV at 26.3% of all television viewed. It is down from 30.2% year-over-year in August. Bennett has not been able to get in touch with any meaningful Charter employees to inquire about the possibility and feasibility of Columbus being on Charter's Xumo box and streaming apps.

More discussion for the potential interview program will be on the next agenda. Famularo asked staff to follow up with comparing cable franchise fees in the U.S. The Commission would like to decrease the industry reports to be quarterly.

Pyfferoen motions to adjourn the meeting. Roelke seconds. Motion carries by unanimous vote. Meeting is adjourned at 7:26pm.

*These minutes will be possibly amended and/or approved at the next Cable Commission meeting and are submitted by David Bennett