



Cable Commission Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 27, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Call to Order

Famularo called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

Roll Call

A quorum of the Cable Commission present consisted of Behl, Famularo, and Roelke. Staff liaison Bennett was also present.

Notice of Open Meeting

Bennett stated that the meeting was properly noticed.

Approval of Agenda

Roelke motions to approve the agenda for Monday, January 27, 2025. Behl seconds. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of Minutes from November 18, 2024

Behl motions to approve, as written, the minutes from the meeting of November 18, 2024. Roelke seconds. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Public Comment

There was no one present for comments and no correspondence was received.

Unfinished Business

2. Approved Cable Fee Schedule for 2025

Bennett presented the updated fee schedule regarding the equipment rental. Bennett stated the version approved by the Cable Commission was deemed to be discriminatory, but after some tweaking of requirements to waive the fee, it was deemed acceptable. It was then reviewed by Council and passed at the Council's January 7th meeting. Bennett included a list of equipment for rent and a draft of the application. Roelke asked if the Cable Commission is able to review applications if needed. Bennett confirmed and planned to forward select applications to the Commission if needed. Bennett will have the form on the City website.

3. Creating Topic List for Possible Short-Form Video Show

The Cable Commission discussed narrowing down its previous list of topics and narrowed it down to notable residents, department activities, Arbor Day, and highlighting service organizations. During discussion, Bennett stated that DailyDodge / WBEV is looking for content for its Community Comment program and that the City has a partnership to air their Columbus-related content on cable. When historical topics arose, Bennett cited that the Historical Society is currently planning for their Tap into History series. Behl asked about schools and Bennett informed the Commission that the School District has its own A/V program and is currently focused on broadcasting sports. The Commission focused on highlighting service organizations and asked Behl to reach out to

Kiwanis about participating. Behl will inquire at their next meeting and update the Cable Commission at its next meeting.

New Business

4. Council Chamber AV Updates Discussion and Possible Direction

Bennett informed the Cable Commission about working on a plan to upgrade the A/V equipment in the Council Chamber. Bennett showed a picture of shoddy installation from the original wiring and would plan to utilize a less cable / wireless system. Famularo gave an example of Watertown's setup and offered to give Bennett a tour sometime. Famularo will send Bennett a list of vendors from their upgrades.

5. PCI Compliance Resolution – Discussion of Options and Possible Action

Bennett informed the Cable Commission about the issue related to the Recreation Department's failed payment card information system (PCI) compliance checks. These are designed to find potential threats of data breaches. The City's IT provider, Rhyme, had singled out the Cablecast system as the cause due the system's need to go through the City's firewall to distribute video for TV, online, and Roku. Bennett has worked with Rhyme and Cablecast to remedy the issue, but each attempt still resulted in failed PCI checks. As a last-resort option, Rhyme suggests the Cablecast units are disconnected from the City's network. Bennett assured that since this would discontinue the cable operation as the Cablecast units wouldn't be able to distribute video, that Rhyme provides quotes for getting the system on its own internet with its own security and a remote way for City network enabled equipment to communicate with the Cablecast once it's on its own network.

Bennett has not had any quotes received from Rhyme and recommended that the Cable Commission not make a decision at this time to disconnect the Cablecast system from the City network. As a backup plan if the quote is too expensive to maintain or the plan is unfeasible, Bennett will seek out approval from Council to live stream to the City's official YouTube channel. Famularo asked about a social media policy due to comments. Bennett stated that the City has been working on one for the last couple of years. Bennett will update the Commission once Rhyme sends in its quotes.

Department Reports

6. Cable Budget Update

Bennett updated the Cable Commission with the December budget statement. \$36,071.07 in franchise fees along with \$12,891.97 have been received in 2024. Bennett expects additional franchise fees to be received for the 4th quarter as the current amount is off significantly from projections. Staff has projected it to be under \$50,000 for 2024.

Notable expenditures totaled \$587.66 in November and December and included HDMI extenders, a 4x4 HDMI switch, an audio mixer, and various cabling to assist in testing equipment and address aging cables and equipment. An additional \$56.17 has not been processed yet for extra cables. Not including the non-processed expenses, there is \$25,937.48 remaining in the 2024 budget.

7. Cable TV Industry Report

Bennett gave a brief update on the state of cable television to begin the year. One of the highlights is cable TV having a 4.4% year-over-year decline and only encompassing 23.8% of all TV watched. Charter lost over a million subscribers and is now entirely focused on its broadband and streaming services. Comcast, the second largest cable TV provider has begun to spin off its cable assets along with Paramount Global also looking to let go of its cable holdings. Other mergers and acquisitions are expected due to a more friendly Presidential administration. Bennett also noted from the FCC's Future of TV Initiative Report that ASTC 3.0 could have a negative impact as cable

and satellite providers are citing compatibility issues, costs, and lack of capacity for the new TV standard.

Items for Future Agendas

Items for the next agenda include the topics for short-form video, Council Chamber A/V upgrade, and an update and possible decision for dealing with the PCI compliance checks.

Adjourn

Roelke motions to adjourn the meeting. Behl seconds. Motion carried by unanimous vote. The meeting is adjourned at 7:23pm.

****These minutes will be approved at the next Cable Commission meeting and may be amended as necessary and are respectfully submitted by David Bennett, Communications and Economic Development Coordinator.****

***A quorum of city committees and/or commissions may be present at this meeting. No action will be taken or considered by those committees and/or commissions.**