



# Cable Commission Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 29, 2024 at 6:30 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

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## Call to Order

## Roll Call

- Famularo, Pyfferoen, and Roelke were present. Staff liaison Bennett was also present.

## Notice of Open Meeting

- Bennett stated the meeting was properly noticed.

## Approval of Agenda

- Pyfferoen motions to approve the July 29, 2024 Cable Commission meeting agenda. Roelke seconds. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

## Approval of Minutes

1. Review minutes from June 24, 2024, make any corrections, changes, etc. if needed and approve
  - Roelke motions to approve the June 24, 2024 minutes as written. Pyfferoen seconds. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

## Public Comment

- No one from the public was present for comments and staff received no correspondence.

## Unfinished Business

- The Cable Commission cited no unfinished business.

## New Business

2. 2025 Proposed Cable Budget
  - Bennett presented the 2025 Cable Budget worksheet along with information regarding the budgeting process, 2025 budget goals, and revenue and expenditure trends dating from 2022. The Cable Commission discussed various adjustments for the proposed budget.
  - Roelke motions to approve the projected 2025 Cable Budget excluding the Contribution Programs and Contribution Meetings line items to be worked on with Finance Department and to include notification to the City Administrator and the Cable Commission if those two line items include more than a 10% increase. Pyfferoen seconds. Roll call vote: Pyfferoen – aye, Roelke – aye, Famularo – aye. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

## Department Reports

3. Summary and update of revenues and expenditures in June 2024
  - Staff presented the current 2024 budget revenues along with year-to-date and projected amounts. The City has received \$11,809.18 in franchise fees this year and have not received the State Aid Payment either. No additional revenues have been reported.

4. Summary of equipment research, purchases, issues and resolutions
  - Staff presented the current 2024 budget revenues along with year-to-date and projected amounts. Bennett has purchased two Rode Videomic shotgun microphones with cables, windscreens, and a new external hard drive for editing. The new purchases totaled \$627.44. A total of \$23,918.07 has been spent in 2024 with \$41,517.54 remaining in the 2024 budget.
  - Bennett updated the Cable Commission about camera issues during meetings. Since replacing the CAT cable, there has been no new issues. Staff plans to work with Public Works to create a cable drop down cable management system for easier access and maintenance.
  - Bennett informed the commission about the streaming and video-on-demand outage caused by an accidental change in DNS records after updating firewall by the City's new IT provider, Rhyme. Bennett worked with Rhyme and Cablecast to restore the DNS records and resolve the issue. No live meetings were affected.
  - Bennett has purchased two new shotgun microphones with wind screens and connecting cables. These microphones are the replacement of the previous ones.
  - Staff has purchased a new external hard drive for use as storage for editing and is in process of researching for replacement editing computer(s). Famularo would like to have the computer(s) purchased in 2024 if possible and would like additional information at the next meeting.
5. Summary of new programs aired and streaming and video-on-demand analytics
  - Bennett shared that there were 24 new programs aired in June. It is a seasonal decrease due to vacations and lack of school sports.
  - Bennett presented Cablecast analytics for video-on-demand and streaming which showed that only Council and other City meetings made up the majority of 683 views with 162 hours and 48 minutes watched.
  - Bennett shared cable television industry insights with the commission. Notably recapping the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter earnings report from Charter showing large continuing decreases in cable customers and their focus on streaming. Bennett also shared the June report by Nielsen that shows cable and broadcast television declining to 20.5% and 27.2% of all TV watched in the US. Additionally, a highlight included a 2021 PEW Research article citing a decline from 76% of all TV viewership in 2015. Famularo asked how this affects broadcast. Bennett stated that it directly leads to declines in franchise fees – the sole means to pay for the cable operation, as well as Columbus is not on Charter's streaming options due to Charter not upgrading their transmission reception from Columbus. It's also possible Charter ends its cable TV service if it is no longer a viable business.

#### **Items for Future Agendas**

- Mayoral appointments for the two vacant Cable Commission positions
- Editing computer information

#### **Adjourn**

- Roelke motions to adjourn. Pyfferoen seconds. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Meeting is adjourned at 7:33 PM.

-Submitted by David Bennett