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MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: JOSHUA TETZLAFF, CITY ADMINISTRATOR
SUBJECT: COMCAST CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT
DATE: SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

At its meetings on September 5, 2023, the City Council held a public hearing to take comment on a potential franchise agreement with Comcast. There were no members of the public that shared their opinion. After discussion, the City Council voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the Ordinance on first reading.

Previous memo language:

When I started with the City, one of the items I started pursuing was updating the franchise agreements with CenterPoint Energy and Comcast. Last year, the City entered into a franchise agreement with CenterPoint Energy and once that was completed, I started working with Bob Vose from Kennedy & Graven to negotiate an agreement with Comcast.

Working off the previous agreement, and discussing industry norms with Mr. Vose, we went back and forth with Comcast to negotiate the continued distribution of cable and internet service within New Prague.

Some of the more meaningful things that Comcast has agreed to are as follows:

- This agreement has a term of ten (10) years).
 - Language that requires the undergrounding of infrastructure, similar to how the New Prague Utilities Department is undergrounding all of their infrastructure.
 - Language that requires removal of infrastructure that isn't being used.
 - Language that requires access to at least one public access channel, should the City wish to use it.
- There is also language that allows the City to collect a fee for the equipment needed to broadcast.

After reviewing this agreement, both internally and with Kennedy-Graven, I believe this to be a solid franchise agreement, fair to both the City and to Comcast.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the second reading of the Comcast Cable Franchise Agreement.