

## **North Metro Telecommunications Commission Meeting Talking Points**

March 16, 2022

- ▶ Upgrades to city channels have been completed for all cities that requested them. The new layout better features video and community messages with additional choices for weather, time and social media feeds. It is a design that provides a variety of informational sources that can be tailored to each city's needs.
- ▶ NMTV has produced 210 programs over the last three months including city meetings, high school sports, including sectional and state tournaments, local news, and municipal programs like Mayor's Minutes, a series of programs with the Blaine Police Department, and the recent Guns N Hoses fundraiser event.
- ▶ NMTV is testing two closed captioning systems to verify that they function on all programming platforms. Technical difficulties were found on the streaming channels, and it is important that the captions work on cable channels, streaming channels, Youtube, and the OTT channels like Roku and AppleTV. Testing continues, but it is hoped that closed captioning will be available on all North Metro programs by June.
- ▶ The Supreme Court declined to review the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court's decision regarding the FCC 621 Order. However, the appeal of the order to the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit did result in some favorable results for cities, primarily that costs to be considered franchise fees could only be assessed at marginal costs and not market rates. Action could be taken by the FCC or Congress to overturn or alter the Order. The Cable Commission will consider supporting the Protect Community Television Act at its next meeting.

**PLEASE encourage your council members to call me if they have any questions you can't answer. I would be happy to answer any questions they may have. Heidi Arnson at NMTV. Direct line is 763-231-2801. Email is [harnson@northmetrotv.com](mailto:harnson@northmetrotv.com).**