

MINUTES OF CABLE TV COMMISSION MEETING
February 3, 2016
CITY HALL ANNEX – 1st FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM #1

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jennifer Tigges (Chair), Ron Tigges, Sr. Carol Hoverman, Pauline Maloney, Mark Dolson.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kathy McMullen (Vice-Chair), Alan Vincent.

OTHERS PRESENT: Craig Nowack, City of Dubuque
Jim Barefoot, Mediacom
Mike Willis, University of Dubuque
Nathan Ripperger

JTigges called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

Acceptance of the Agenda

Upon a motion by Hoverman, seconded by Maloney, the Agenda was approved 5 - 0.

Approval of the Minutes of January 6, 2016

This item was tabled pending receipt of the January 6, 2016, meeting minutes.

Public Input

There was no public input.

Grant Recipient Letters

Willis and Ripperger thanked the Commission for its funding support which has enabled them to produce much of the programming they sent to the shared educational access channel in 2015. Ripperger noted that UD's media program is in its infancy and they don't have the students yet to produce more programming, especially collegiate sporting events. He also noted that they could not obtain permission to broadcast some of the presentations they recorded over the course of the year. JTigges wondered if the university sports teams themselves had game recordings that could be broadcast, but Ripperger lamented that such footage was usually an extreme wide shot that was not particularly interesting to watch for the average viewer. He also stated that the lack of play-by-play audio was a factor as well.

Nowack noted that he had received no letters from Dubuque Community Schools except for the one that came from The Forum, nor had he received anything from Holy Family Catholic Schools.

Request for Funding

Nowack presented a request for funding on behalf of the City of Dubuque which replaces the request he made last month. Last month's request, which the Commission approved, did not go to the City Council for final approval because of a mathematical error. The current request is for \$6285.35 for the purchase and installation of three pieces of equipment to stabilize CityChannel Dubuque as it originates programming in HD. The equipment includes a cleanswitch router to provide synchronized switches between various video sources on air, a frame synchronizer to correct variant signal problems that have caused some trouble in the on-air operation, and a test pattern generator that can generate various HD test patterns and colored backgrounds to fill the side pillars created when upconverting a 4 x 3 SD signal to a 16 x 9 HD signal. This funding request will reimburse the City for the equipment that has already been installed and which has corrected the problems that need addressing. Upon a motion by Dolson, seconded by Maloney, the request for funding was approved 5 - 0.

Mediacom Cable Report

Barefoot reported that staffing issues at Mercy Medical Center, since resolved, took Mercy Mass off the air for a short period of time. He also provided an update on his attempt to reach out to the local churches who provide worship service recordings for air to help them improve the technical quality of those recordings. And finally he noted that he has been in contact with two women who would like to produce a local talk show to air on the public access channel.

Cable TV Report

Nowack stated that the City's budget season is upon us and that he would be presenting the Cable TV budget to Council at the end of the budget hearing on Monday, February 8. He informed the Commission that Cable TV has started re-inserting in-meeting presentations in HD into City Council meeting recordings in order to improve picture quality. He described the workflow they use to make that happen. He updated the Commission on the digital encoding project and noted that he expects the one millionth weather record from the weather station atop City Hall Annex to be obtained on Sunday. That weather station was placed there in August 2006 to provide current downtown weather information for CityChannel Dubuque. He also updated the Commission on new programming for the channel.

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Hoverman, seconded by Dolson, the meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.m.