

SUMMARY MINUTES

CITY/COUNTY TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Wednesday, April 19, 2023

VANCOUVER CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
415 W 6th Street, Vancouver, Washington

APPROVED AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER – 3:30 p.m.

A. Roll Call

PRESENT: Dicker, Green, Hale, Rogers

EXCUSED: Hinds, Shephard

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Demmon, Archer

B. Approval of Minutes for March 1, 2023

Minutes approved as submitted.

C. Review and Approval of Agenda for April 19, 2023

No changes.

II. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

No communications taken.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Cable Franchise Renewal Update

Demmon stated that negotiations with Comcast are continuing, but at a slow pace, and there are several issues to review. He stated that TV ETC staff were invited to one negotiation session to discuss PEG

equipment needs, so they are slowing working on the PEG fee conditions of the franchise agreement. He said that work also continues on customer service standards and public works issues.

Hinds asked Demmon to share any areas of the franchise that have been sticking points in the negotiations.

Demmon replied that he's not ready to discuss the issues at this time but added that there hasn't been any area of the franchise where Comcast or staff has indicated that the proposed language would not work at all. He stated that there haven't been discussions yet regarding the build out requirement in the County franchise agreement and they have just started to discuss PEG requirements. He said that staff has given Comcast proposed draft language around PEG and are waiting to receive a formal response.

Demmon added that the negotiations are just a slow process, a give and take, and that there has been some push back on areas from Comcast corporate.

Dicker said that he understood that the big negotiating points are PEG channels and equipment, and customer service standards.

Demmon replied that those are big negotiating points, but there are other areas as well such as the definition of gross revenue and building in ways to keep the PEG channels available to all subscribers.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Comcast Franchise Extension

Demmon emphasized that franchise extension is just extending the expiration date of the franchise and that all the provisions in the current franchise will remain the same.

Demmon said that the Commission's recommendation will go before the Vancouver City Council and County Council for approval. Once it's approved by both legislative bodies, Letters of Agreement will be sent to Comcast verifying that they agree to the extension.

Demmon informed the Commission that he will take their recommendation to the Vancouver City Council on May 1 for their consideration. The City has a requirement that there be 30 days

between the first reading and the second reading and public hearing. The public hearing for Vancouver City Council will be on June 5.

Demmon said that staff will schedule a Commission workshop either in October or November of this year to review the key provisions negotiated in the new franchise and seek their feedback. He added that a workshop with the legislative bodies will also be scheduled in the fall.

Demmon added that staff is planning to present the draft franchise agreement to the Commission in a workshop in mid-January and bring the recommended franchise to the Commission for approval at the March 2024 meeting. He said that Comcast agrees with this schedule.

Dicker asked if it's been the practice in previous cable franchise negotiations to ask for an extension.

Demmon replied that is an extension was granted in the past two cable franchise negotiation sessions.

ACTION: THE COMMISSION UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED RESOLUTION 2023-01 REGARDING A RECOMMENDATION TO EXTEND THE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT NOW HELD BY COMCAST OF WASHINGTON V, LLC FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED JULY 1, 2024.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Commission

None.

B. Staff

Demmon reminded the Commission that the bi-annual review of the cable operator's performance was held at their March 1 meeting. He stated that the draft performance report was at the Commission's places and sent electronically to Commissioners. He said that Comcast reviewed the report and their comments, and testimony received from subscribers has been incorporated into the report. He said that staff finds that Comcast is in compliance with the cable franchise agreement.

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Demmon requested that the Commission review the report and send any comments, concerns, or corrections to staff by April 28. He asked that the Commission only forward their comments to him and Tracie Ramirez, not the entire Commission. He said that staff will then send the final draft to the Commission in mid-May with the final report coming before the Commission for approval at the June 7 meeting.

Demmon also reminded the Commission that the election of Chair and Vice Chair will take place at the June meeting.

VI. NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday, June 7, 2023

VII. ADJOURNMENT – 3:46 p.m.

AN AUDIO RECORDING OF THIS MEETING IS ON FILE IN THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE; A VIDEO RECORDING OF THIS MEETING IS ON FILE IN THE CITY/COUNTY CABLE TELEVISION OFFICE.

Attachments:

1. Resolution 2023-01 Regarding a Recommendation to Extend the Franchise Agreement Now Held by Comcast of Washington, V, LLC for a Period of Not to Exceed July 1, 2024.

Approved _____
Date

Paul Dicker, Chair
City/County Telecommunications Commission