

Call to Order

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. at Troy City Hall.

Roll Call

Present:

Kent Voigt	Nancy Chen, Student
Bryan Wehrung	Cindy Stewart, City Liaison
Tom Belian	Penny Marinos (8 pm)
Lisa Martinico	

Absent:

Brian Wattles, Alan Manzon

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes of January 17, 2007 with one change – section I Cable not Bable.

Motion by Kent Voigt
Seconded by Lisa Martinico
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Introductions

New Member - Tom Belian is a 10 yr resident. Works in IT @ Flagstar Bank. Does programming with CMN as a volunteer.

Correspondence

A. Comcast – Channel Addition & Repositions – March 13, 2007

Channel additions – WTVS, Bloomberg, WDWO (total Christian TV)
Channel reposition – ESPN Classis (28 to 265)
Also digital classic will no longer be available to new customers.

B. Comcast – Upgrading Broadband Network – February, 2006

Comcast is upgrading its broadband network in Troy area. Upgrades will allow them to add Comcast Digital Voice. Since 1996, Comcast has spent over \$2 billion on Michigan's advanced broadband infrastructure to ensure their network performance is 2nd to none.

C. Comcast – Upgrade to Local Broadband Network - \$13 million investment – February 15, 2007

Upgrade to local broadband network had officially begun, a \$13 million investment. This represents a portion of the \$2 billion investment made in the last 10 years in Michigan region in order to provide technology and innovative new products.

Articles

A. AT&T Ready to Take on the Cable Television Competition – Free Press – April 12, 2007

Livonia will be one of the first communities in the state where AT&T plans to challenge the dominance of cable in offering channels not available with an antenna. Most communities have only one cable provider and AT&T hopes to tap into consumer frustration by offering an alternative. Livonia was one of the few to support the new law and AT&T also installed the necessary infrastructure in 2006.

B. Cable Penetration Hits 17 Year Low – MultiChannel News – March 19, 2007

Cable penetration dropped to a 17-year low of 61.3% in Feb. as pay TV competition from direct-broadcast satellite and telephone rivals continues to eat into the basic subscriber counts of cable distributors. Analysis conducted by Nielson Media Research.

C. Analog Television Sets Outlawed – TVWeek.Com – Mar. 8, 2007

As of March 1, companies are restricted from importing analog TV's from foreign countries. In 2 years, over-the-air analog TV broadcast signals will go dark as part of the Congressionally mandated push toward an all digital medium to help free up airwaves. In the U.S. there are about 20 million U.S. households using pure analog sets. The govt. has approved \$1.5 billion for a voucher program to help analog TV owners arrange the switch. The digital converter box will cost \$50-\$70 and the govt. voucher coupon will be worth \$40. Check www.dtvtransition.org

D. Telephone Companies Entering into the Video Arena – December 21, 2006

Television companies getting help in elbowing their way into the video arena that the Cable industries has dominated. Federal regulators moved to speed up the local approval process for phone companies seeking to compete. The action came in a 3-2 vote by the FCC.

E. Senate Clears Way for Cable TV Reform – Detroit News – Dec. 13, 2006

F. New Era Arrives for Cable Customers – Free Press – December 13, 2006

New Business

VRAD/Cable/Phone boxes – Troy Yards: Concern that these boxes are not aesthetically pleasing – tilted, doors open, hanging. Can this board do anything? Let people know they can call the City to complain. In a future Troy Today, put info re: if cable/phone needs repair, please call the City.

Old Business

The City of Troy has received a Uniform Video Service Local Franchise Agreement from AT&T. This uniform agreement is the result of 2006 PA 480 (MCL 484.3303), which was effective January 1, 2007. AT & T has also served a Uniform Video Service Local Franchise Agreement on several other metropolitan Detroit communities.

Prior to this new law, communities were able to negotiate cable franchises with any proposed providers. Although the annual franchise fee was one item of negotiation, municipalities also insisted on other provisions, such as requiring providers to procure appropriate insurance coverage, requirements for the cable providers to make their services available to the entire community (including the less affluent sections of the City), and a demonstration of their experience and financial security. With the passage of the new law, communities are precluded from negotiating any of the above referenced items.

Under the new law, once a municipality receives a Uniform Video Service Local Franchise Agreement from a proposed provider, it has 15 business days to determine whether the application was complete. The City received AT&T's Franchise Agreement on March 29, 2007, so if the City is going to object to the completeness of this uniform agreement, it would need to be done at the April 16, 2007 City Council meeting. Upon information and belief, there are some communities that are objecting to the completeness of the AT&T Franchise Agreement, based upon the fact that AT&T has failed to fill in the appropriate franchise fee and/or PEG (Public, Education, and Government Access) fee information and/or AT&T has failed to provide a map that meets or exceeds national map accuracy standards.

City Administration does not recommend objecting to the completeness of the AT&T Franchise, since the franchise amount is clearly based on the franchise amount paid by the incumbent cable provider with the largest customer base in the City of Troy (currently Comcast). The PEG fees are also based on the amounts in the Comcast franchise. In regards to the map, the City can pass a

resolution requesting more detailed information as soon as the installation plans are finalized. As allowed by the new law, the map is confidential, and not subject to public dissemination.

If the City does not object to the completeness of the AT&T uniform cable franchise, then it will be automatically approved 30 days after receipt of a complete agreement (April 27, 2007). The uniform franchise is for a 10- year period of time, with 10-year renewals thereafter. The franchise fees will be 5%, which will be offset by any payments that AT&T makes under the METRO Act. The total cable franchise revenue for the City of Troy will likely be substantially reduced as a result of this new law.

B. Report on Web Publications from members

C. Wireless Oakland Update

A small part of Troy is functioning (Rochester & Hartland). Cisco and Microsoft are partnering with Wireless Oakland.

Staff Report

A. WTRY Cable Guide

B. CAC Member Listing

C. ICCA Meeting Notes – Final – January 24, 2007

D. Next Meeting: Thursday, July 19, 2007.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Lisa Martinico, seconded by Kent Voigt.
Approved Unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm

Bryan Wehrung

Cindy Stewart, Recording Secretary