

Rochester Government Channel Minutes

July 27, 2016 Meeting

Members Present:

City Councilor Tom Willis, Chair

Rick Healey - Resident Volunteer

James Graham - Resident Volunteer

Others Present: Celeste Plaia, Government Channel Coordinator

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at **5:35 PM**.

II. Approval of minutes May 25 2016 meeting

A **MOTION** was made by Rick Healey to accept the minutes of the May 25, 2016 meeting. The motion was seconded by Jim Graham. The **MOTION CARRIED** unanimous voice vote.

III. Public Input

There was no one for public input.

IV. Franchise Committee Update

The Government Channel Coordinator reviewed events and outlined communications with Metrocast. Several questions were raised and discussed, including how do we contact other providers and where in the process can they be considered. Committee members commented on the overall satisfaction on service and good customer service they have received when troubleshooting internet problems with Metrocast. Of most concern is cost. The coordinator summarized her review of Metrocast performance against the current agreement, noting that their response to technical issues for the Government Channel has been quite good, but the instances of dropped signal and audio problems during broadcast of public meetings remain a concern.

The committee brought up the concern and discussed the future modes of how people watch TV, as well as where the industry is going and what devices will people need to watch content. The Coordinator suggested this would be a good time to take a public survey as part of the ascertainment process. The Committee overall agreed to the idea that we shouldn't assume what people want and a survey would be a good idea.

The Coordinator also shared some points she would like to see in the franchise agreement. Tom Willis stated our charter is with the Government Channel only but closing of the local studio has affected us somewhat and we have not seen a huge outcry. Also the Government Channel committee can contribute with help needed for the franchise committee. Jim

Graham stated we should also have to check in 5 or 10 years down the road on industry developments.

Councilor Willis asked if Metrocast will share its marketing data, and we should look at other communities, not just communities surrounding Rochester. The committee agreed that they would like a status report after the first franchise committee has met in order to take other action.

V. Other

Tom Willis reviewed the action of City Council which was to accept the programming policy set forth and sent for approval by the Government Channel Committee. He also brought up the Annex project, and that the plans have some provisions for future use for a studio. The Coordinator said that she has been involved with some preliminary meetings with the architects to discuss the conduit and infrastructure to be in place should we decide to have the small conference room to broadcast from. She also noted this would expand the operating budget and should examine needs carefully. Tom Willis suggested we keep an eye on developments and have this for future discussion.

VII. Adjournment

Jim Graham **MOVED to ADJOURN the meeting at 6:45 PM**, Rick Healey seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Celeste Plaia
Government Channel Coordinator