

Rochester Government Channel Minutes
January 9, 2017 Meeting
City Council Conference Room, 5:30PM

Members Present:

City Councilor Tom Willis, Chair
James Graham – member

Others Present: Celeste Plaia, Government Channel Coordinator
Not Present: Rick Healey -member

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at **5:52 PM.**

II. Approval of minutes July 2016 meeting

A **MOTION** was made by Tom Willis to accept the minutes of the September 2016 meeting. The motion was seconded by James Graham. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote.

III. Public Input

There was no one for public input.

IV. Metrocast Franchise Renewal

The Government Channel Coordinator outlined the progress of the Franchise Negotiations, and summarized a few points of Metrocast's counter proposal. The Coordinator also stated she has not finished reviewing the document, and that the Franchise Committee would be meeting at the end of the month to discuss. One of the main points discussed was the need for grant money. Councilor Willis stated that Metrocast as taken away a venue the community and city had been utilizing to create local content, and the ask for "seed money" to have equipment is justified. Committee was in agreement. The committee agreed to continue to ask for the option of a 3rd cable channel, Council Willis also noted it is hard to tell whether the demand for Public Access is there. Coordinator reported that she has had several parents in the community ask about why school sports and concerts are no longer televised, and has suggested to them that the interest be made known to the school department. Committee agreed this would be a school channel or public access function. Concerning Public Access content, Jim Graham stated to look at the growth with business and housing development the city is facing and that the needs of the city will grow. Also discussed was the need for a studio type facility for the city itself, and whether it could be utilized to its full extent, as well as the idea of expanding city programming to include videos of community interest. Jim Graham suggested to consider content carefully, and to look at other models of programming policy.

V. Budget Items

The Government Channel Coordinator overviewed the Gov.Ch. budget for FY18. Items proposed include a slight increase in the Camera Operator budget line to cover 2 to 3 more meetings to televise, and live streaming service yearly costs. Capital proposals include upfront cost of hardware and installation for live streaming signal, as well as audio upgrades to accommodate live call in participation. Coordinator also noted there was still CIP funds to cover the AV upgrade in Chambers, and an earmark for upgrade to HD equipment in Chambers in the next coming fiscal years.

VII. Adjournment

Jim Graham **MOVED** to **ADJOURN**, Tom Willis second the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Celeste Plaia
Government Channel Coordinator