

COLUMBUS CABLE COMMISSION MEETING

COLUMBUS CITY HALL

February 21, 2018 6:00 p.m. 2nd Ward Room, City Hall

Chairman Theilen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Members present: Jason Theilen, Andy Traxler, Peter Kaland Michael Thom and Chet Bembenek.

Absent: None.

Also in attendance: Jesse Wilson and JT Cestkowski.

It was reported that the City Clerk's office, as required by appropriate Wisconsin Statutes, had given proper public notice of the meeting.

Motion by Kaland, second by Bembenek to approve minutes of January 13. Motion carried.

Motion by Kaland, second by Traxler to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

No citizens were present to make comment.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Consider Adding Internet Access to the Pavilion:** Wilson made the Commission aware of the difficulties involved getting internet access to the Pavilion. First is that there is not cable running to the building. Running cable could be costly, though Wilson was unsure exactly how much it would cost because when he tried to contact Charter for a quote he lacked the City's relevant account details needed to get an estimate.

Kaland asked what was to be gained from adding internet access to the Pavilion. He noted that the amenity was unlikely to cause the building to be rented out any more than it already is. Wilson said it would add video streaming capabilities to the area around the building. Bembenek said it would allow the School District to better utilize the Pavilion in crisis management situations.

Both Wilson and Traxler felt this could be considered a Tourism Commission issue and expenditure.

Commissioners were sympathetic to provide the service to the School District, should they need it. There was interest in getting a quote of costs before further action was taken. Cestkowski will try to get a hold of the City's Charter account information and get the needed details to Wilson. Thom said he would discuss the issue with the City Administrator to figure out what the next steps should be.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Consider Equipment Purchase:** Wilson brought a proposal in the amount of \$947.74 to purchase a teleprompter, a protective case for the teleprompter, a case for the new camera as well as miscellaneous cables. Wilson said the teleprompter in particular was needed to save time on 980 News shoots as memorizing lines was tedious.

Kaland was of the opinion that the cases and prompter would pay for themselves.

Thom asked what made for a good teleprompter. Wilson said that it was the quality of the glass and glare protection.

Traxler asked if the Teleprompter had uses beyond 980 News. Kaland suggested that it could be used in an emergency response situation to deliver a prepared statement.

A motion was made by Traxler and seconded by Theilen to approve the listed equipment for purchase in an amount not to exceed \$1,000.00. Motion carried.

- 2. Consider Streaming Additional Committee/Commission/Board Meetings:** Wilson reported that when he first began work with the city, he would regularly stream five or six different meetings. Over the course of the years, many local government groups either stopped meeting in the Council Chambers or requested that their meetings not be streamed.

The Commission brainstormed potential groups that could be streamed, but felt there was a line to be walked. On one hand the Commissioners wanted to create government transparency, and on the other they were cognizant that being on camera might make some people shy away from participating.

Ultimately the Commission felt they should encourage the appropriate groups to meet in the Council Chambers, rather than try to force compliance via a recommendation to the City Council.

- 3. Staff Reports & Updates:** Wilson and Cestkowski reported a positive response to 980 News. Kaland asked that a press release be put in the paper about the new show.
- 4. Consider ADA Compliance of Channel 980:** Wilson reported that the League of Municipalities and Wisconsin Community Media were attempting to find 20 communities to each contribute \$1,000.00 to hire an attorney to help the participating cable access channels assess to what degree they must meet Americans with Disabilities Act regulations. Wilson also noted that the report from the attorney would only be a recommendation.

Commissioners were concerned that the recommendation would leave the Commission liable to follow through even if it were beyond the Commission's means.

Thom asked Cestkowski to contact the city's attorney for consultation before the Commission takes further action.

- 5. Judicial Candidate Forum:** Wilson reported the Columbia County Bar Association wanted to host a candidate forum using the Council Chamber's A/V equipment ahead of the Spring General Election on April 3.

Traxler felt the Bar Association should help offset the cost in labor incurred by the Commission. Thom said any fee should be small to function as an acknowledgement that the Bar is an outside group using City contractors and equipment.

Bembenek asked if the Commission had any policy on who is allowed to broadcast. Kaland said the Commission has steered clear of partisan races or unequal broadcasts.

A motion was made by Thom and seconded by Traxler to approve the Judicial Candidate Forum with the condition that the Columbia County Bar Association pay a \$50 fee as acknowledgement of the city labor and equipment being used. Motion carried.

- 6. Consider Policy Review:** Cestkowski said that the City was reevaluating its website and social media policies. He felt this would be a good time to also review the Cable Commissions policies. The Commission asked Cestkowski to review the current policies and bring recommendations to a future meeting.
- 7. Discuss Proposed Amendment to State Senate Bill 425:** Commissioners reviewed a letter that had been sent by Mayor Thom and Commission President Theilen to State Senator Scott Fitzgerald expressing the City's opposition to a rumored amendment to State Senate Bill 425. A provision that would eliminate the franchise fee obligation cable providers have to local municipalities for use of utility poles.

The Commission thanked the two for their quick action on the issue.

- 8. 2018 Cable Programming and Issues:** Thom asked that a piece be produced on the lead lateral and sewer lateral replacement program.

Next scheduled meeting – March 14, 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Adjournment: Motion by Kaland, second by Traxler to adjourn at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

JT Cestkowski, Secretary