



MINUTES

**Committee on Intergovernmental Relations
Tuesday, September 6, 2016 @ 3:30 p.m.
10th Floor Conference Room, City Hall**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:39 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Council Member Adam Hussain, Chair
Council Member Judi Brown Clarke, Vice Chair-arrived at 3:53 p.m.
Councilmember Tina Houghton, Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Collin Boyce, IT Director
Dominic Cochran, City TV
Randy Hannan, Mayor's Executive Assistant
Sean McBrearty, Clean Water Action
Jim DeLine

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Comments will be taken at the specific agenda item.

MINUTES

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HOUGHTON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM AUGUST 2, 2016 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

Council Member Hussain amended the agenda to address the City TV/AT&T Michigan/Comcast topic.

DISCUSSION –

City TV/AT&T/Comcast

Council Member Hussain recapped the request for their attendance to discuss AT&T channel placement, franchise fees, and City TV equipment. At the July meeting Ms. Simmons with the City Attorney office confirmed the law suit filed by the City was settled, but she had noted there were equipment items that now needed to be addressed at the City level. Mr. Cochran was invited to attend this meeting to update the Committee on the equipment details.

Mr. Cochran detailed for the Committee the reason AT&T placed the City channel at 99, was because all PEG channels are 99, and the user then can choose which show they want to watch. The City initially was not happy with that because you can now browse to find it, but have to specifically request 99 because it is a web interface. Council Member Hussain asked if the changes were a violation of the franchise agreement. Mr. Hannan provided a brief history on the agreement, which originally the City had 7 channels, but once AT&T went to u-verse service, it changed how PEG channels were on their system. The Administration did not believe the City was getting what they were legally entitled to under State and Federal law, so they pursued a ruling from the FCC. It came to a point that the FCC would not do anything with the complaint so the Administration decided to walk away from the litigation. Since that time Mr. Cochran has been working with AT&T on technical issues and equipment, and the law will require the City to provide our signal compatible in a format for channel 99. Mr. Cochran continued with more history on delays due to transition to HD, the flux in the industry on that equipment, and producing in HD. The City is now talking to the AT&T engineers on the system and encoder they will need. The encoder is the system that takes the signal as it leaves as and analog from the City and makes it to AT&T or Comcast. The City delayed any purchases because they were told by AT&T the equipment was changing in 6 months, however that was 2 years ago. The new equipment has now been released and should last 5 years. This will accommodate the City's two channels. The equipment purchase is being done through the City IT Department as infrastructure purchase. AT&T has informed the City that once the equipment is installed and they send out the signal it will 6 weeks turn over time to launch. Mr. Boyce acknowledged that the IT Department is working on the vendor and sole source.

Council Member Hussain asked how long the whole project and transition would take, and Mr. Cochran noted it could take up to 12 weeks. Mr. Cochran then provided a list of equipment that has been purchased so far.

Council Member Hussain then moved the topic to the issues recently with Comcast, such as screens freezing, some households have broadcast on one floor but not another, pixels, and volume. Mr. Cochran stated that if it is something that cannot be replicated it is a Comcast issue, and if the TV broadcast in the booth is current with no issues it is not the broadcast itself, but an issue in the residents neighborhood. Council Member Brown Clarke asked how often the contract with Comcast gets reviewed, and if there are known intermittent issues is feedback provided to Comcast on their performance. Mr. Cochran confirmed they do check in quarterly on complaints.

Council Member Hussain asked about the issues with volume of the microphones in different areas of the dais. Mr. Cochran announced they will be purchasing a compressor which will take a target decibel for the microphones along with purchasing 12 new microphones.

Council Member Hussain asked about the issues people have during the live streaming. Mr. Cochran noted they are trying to dial in on the issue to be more reliable.

Mr. Boyce added to the conversation that they hope in 90 days to have a secondary provider to the City to migrate data into a more efficient manner. Mr. Cochran stated his hopes that the City will be changing from something video /audio signal to something more IT based.

Mr. Cochran distributed equipment quote for specifications for the items other than the encoder, which has to be a sole source at \$25,000. Mr. Boyce added to the information that they were projecting what the needs will be 3 years from now, and completing a large area of storage to incorporate their needs.

Council Member Houghton asked if there were plans to market the City channel on AT&T once it launches on Channel 99. Mr. Cochran affirmed the plan.

Council Member Houghton referenced the “assistance listening system” on the material quote and asked how many, and which ones would be used. Mr. Cochran stated there would be 5 in the back of the Chambers for use by the public, however they hope with the new audio there would not be as much of a need.

Council Member Wood asked about changes to the live stream. Mr. Cochran admitted they do have a new carrier with no advertising, but it is no longer free there is a monthly fee.

Council Member Wood asked if the new Channel 99 will only be the Council meetings or will have continual programming. Mr. Cochran stated it will be a regular channel 24 hours a day, and AT&T along with Comcast will have the same line ups.

Council Member Wood asked Mr. Hannan if the City has been receiving the PEG funds. Mr. Hannan affirmed that 5% goes into the general fund, and supports those expenses. Then there is 2% in restrictive to PEG systems. Comcast can only be spent on equipment and with AT&T since they claim they are not cable they are not subject to the cable ACT. Council Member Wood asked how the City was going to make sure they got the PEG fees from AT&T once the channel goes online, and also if AT&T has been rebating the customer because they don't have the City channel, is the City still getting the full amount. Mr. Hannan stated their agreement is 2% and that is what the City gets from them, if they rebate to a customer that is their lose.

Council Member Brown Clarke referenced the notes on the new server space, and asked Mr. Boyce who owned it. Mr. Boyce stated the new one would be owned by the IT Department and would be leasing space on it.

The Committee consensus was that they were satisfied with the information and answers provided on the issues.

Council Member Houghton asked if there was a source to use to provide statistics on the users. Mr. Cochran admitted that the providers do not want to share that information. The question was then if the City could provide a survey to determine age group, who, the platform, customer satisfaction, streaming, if they are Comcast or AT&T customers, and other stats. Mr. Hannan informed the Committee that the Franchise Agreement is not flexible so to ask questions on items that the City cannot change would not be wise. Council Member Brown Clarke added that if the City does not have influence, then they you set themselves up for expectations.

RESOLUTION- Support of HR 182 and CR15 to Shut Down Line 5

Council Member Hussain made note that the item was referred from the Committee of the Whole to this Committee to review the resolution and re-word it for acceptance by the full Council.

Mr. McBrearty outlined the work of Clean Water Action along with the Coalition on Oil and Water Don't Mix over the last 4 years. They have worked with environmental councils, F.L.O.W. from the upper peninsula on tactics to get local resolutions passed. They are pursuing the pressure campaign on the project since there has not been a response from the Attorney General or Governor to shut down Line 5. Their group is field canvassing and talking to communities about environmental issues. Mr. McBrearty stated that actually the Sierra Club worked with East

Lansing and Ingham County, at which point he distributed the Ingham County resolution. The website of information his organization is www.oilandwaterdontmix.org

Council Member Hussain asked if the majority of the communities approved the resolution as written, at which Mr. McBrearty confirmed.

Council Member Hussain pointed out that the Council was informed at their last meeting there is a Task Force and Advisory Board in place performing independent risk analysis and alternatives. They were told this reporting would be done by summer 2017, so some members on Council considered any action until that time. Mr. McBrearty made the Committee aware he knew about the Task Force and Board, also informed them that that Advisory Board will meet in Lansing on September 19th and he plans to attend. His organizations will plan to continue to push to have Line 5 shut down by winter.

Council Member Brown Clarke asked Mr. McBrearty his opinion on the scope of deliverables from the Task Force and Advisory Board. Mr. McBrearty opinion was that these groups will only prepare a report no action. Council Member Brown Clarke asked where the data in the resolution was getting pulled from.

The Committee began the review of the resolution, confirming that the first seven (7) paragraphs were ok. Council Member Houghton did ask that references on the statistics in paragraph seven (7) be added, along with any other references throughout the document.

In paragraph eight (8) the committee removed “shaky track” and asked for references. Paragraph nine (9) they asked Mr. McBrearty to provide reference as to whom the “violation” was with, who detected the “pinhole leak”. Council Member Hussain asked who did the dive when the leak was detected, and Mr. McBrearty could not answer that but did state that at one point the Natural Wildlife did their own dive.

Paragraph 10, the Committee made the change to remove “one of the worst and most expensive” and change to “the largest inland”. The references should be provided.

Paragraph 11 was changed to add “and it has been recently detected that there is corrosion in this pipeline; and” The references should be provided.

Paragraph 12 was deemed okay by the Committee.

Paragraph 13 was completely removed, and paragraph 15 will also be removed unless Mr. McBrearty could provide specific information on “the plan”.

Paragraph 14 is in need of specific references on where the information came from.

Paragraph 16 and 17 were okay by consensus of the Committee.

Paragraph 18 has dates that will remain blank until the City of Lansing City Council determines it will sign.

Paragraph 19 was deemed okay as written by the Committee.

The Committee in paragraph 20 removed the sponsor names of Sarah Roberts and Jeff Irwin.

Council Member Brown Clarke asked if there was a general letter for municipalities to sign instead of a resolution. Mr. McBrearty admitted they do have letters from private individuals, but not municipalities. When they do write a letter they are asked to alter the format to accommodate their community.

Council Member Hussain asked where things stood with Clinton and Eaton County and the cities in those areas. Mr. McBrearty admitted it is a capacity issue, and they are getting passed what they can when they can. He did also add that he has not heard of a resolution being introduced and not passing. Council Member Brown Clarke referenced the letter and resolution

from Traverse City that Mr. McBrearty sent to the Committee, and asked if a letter should come from the Mayor or Council. Mr. McBrearty stated noted there was no preference, but most are coming from the Council's.

Council Member Houghton asked if the Chair of the IGR Committee could reach out to the Mayor's office for a letter of support from him.

Mr. McBrearty was asked to forward information from his upcoming September 19, 2016 meeting.

The Committee on IGR will meet again on October 4th where this topic will appear again for final clarification on the resolution.

Adjourn at 5:15 p.m.

Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary,
Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on October 4, 2016