

OWOSSO CABLE ACCESS ADVISORY COMMISSION

APRIL 11, 2011

5:02 P.M.

PRESIDING OFFICER: VICE CHAIRPERSON MICHAEL TILLOTSON

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: VICE CHAIRPERSON MICHAEL TILLOTSON

PRESENT: Commissioners Shaffer Fox, Jeffery Gulick, Christopher Hardwick, Eddie Urban, and Vice Chairperson Michael Tillotson.

ABSENT: Chairperson James Gutting.

SET TIME LIMIT AND RE-AFFIRM RULES OF CONDUCT

Motion by Commissioner Fox to reaffirm the Rules of Conduct and set a time limit of 1 hour.

Motion supported by Commissioner Hardwick and concurred in by unanimous vote.

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Fox to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion supported by Commissioner Hardwick and concurred in by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 14, 2011

Motion by Commissioner Fox to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 14, 2011 as presented.

Motion supported by Commissioner Gulick and concurred in by unanimous vote.

CITIZEN COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

City Councilperson Martenis inquired as to when the latest City Council meeting will be broadcast. It was noted that the timing of the broadcast is dependent on when the program is submitted for playback.

There was discussion regarding the fuzzy reception on both channels 95 & 96. It was noted the City hopes to be connecting to a fiber optic cable soon which should resolve much of the issue.

There was further discussion regarding potential violations of our cable franchise agreement by Charter, frustration with the lack of quality and funding, and paying a third party for access to fiber optics when Charter should be supplying a quality connection. At the request of the Commission Councilperson Martenis agreed to speak with the City Manager about their concerns and report back.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

QUARTERLY STATUS REPORT

The Commission briefly went over the status report.

There was discussion regarding what the City should be receiving in franchise fees, moving the channels back to their previous locations on the dial (3 & 16), and the fact that few people know they can receive channels 95 & 96 with even basic service.

It was suggested a representative from Charter come to a future meeting to answer questions. The suggestion was turned down because members felt they would receive only lip service.

Commissioner Fox suggested the Commission compile a list of wrongs committed by Charter as well as log all future contacts with them. He went on to suggest all written communications be sent by certified mail with a return receipt requested.

BUDGET COMMUNICATION

There was discussion regarding how much the City receives in franchise fees, asking Council for 2% of the 3% franchise fee to fund cable operations, the lack of people willing to sponsor programs for the channel, and the intent for the money when Council established the franchise fee.

Commissioner Gulick felt the City was being shortchanged by Charter in that they do not provide City residents with access to a production studio nor have they provided up-to-date lines and equipment for the City to connect to their system. He felt this was a violation of Federal law and should be pursued.

Motion by Commissioner Urban to extend the meeting 15 minutes.

Motion supported by Commissioner Fox and concurred in by unanimous vote.

There was discussion regarding the alternatives should the City decide not to renew its franchise agreement with Charter, installing Wi-Max for the entire city using federal stimulus money and having the City offer service to residents, locations for a potential studio here in town, and how the Comcast ruling affects the City's situation.

CITIZEN COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Hardwick for adjournment at 6:09 p.m.

Motion supported by Councilperson Urban and concurred in by unanimous vote.

Amy K. Kirkland, City Clerk