

**SPECIAL MEETING OF  
CHAMPAIGN-URBANA JOINT CABLE AND  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

DATE: October 12, 2000  
Thursday, 8:00 a.m.

PLACE: 303 Fairlawn  
Urbana, IL 61801

MEMBERS PRESENT:            CITY OF CHAMPAIGN            CITY OF URBANA

Tom Bruno  
Jeff Newnam  
Tom O'Rourke

Barbara Gladney  
John Peterson

PARKLAND

UI

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Brian Silverman  
  
Tom McDonnell

Carolyn Kearns  
Joe Wiedman  
George Badger

STAFF PRESENT:

Teri Legner

Steve Holz  
Amy Rose

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michael Willner and Colleen Quinn of Insight  
Melody Brucker, AT&T

Chairman Peterson called the special meeting of the Champaign-Urbana Joint Cable & Telecommunications Commission Meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

Michael Willner presented Insight's services – interactive digital television, high-speed data connections and telephone service.

He noted that AT&T wanted to concentrate their efforts in larger markets such as Chicago. They opted to sell their smaller markets such as Champaign to Insight which is a company that specializes in serving 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> tier markets. Mr. Willner said that by doing this, Champaign-Urbana will be guaranteed digital interactive services, high-speed data connections and telephones much sooner.

Interactive digital services include electronic white pages where local businesses can advertise interactively with audio and visual presentations; where they can get homework assignments from the local guide – it's easy for teachers to provide notes, messages, via telephone to the site. The services are very similar to web offerings but are via television which is more accessible to students.

Insight has digital video on demand with the usual VCR type features – FF, pause, RW. These services are fully deployed and utilized in Rockford, Illinois. Because of numerous optional cable services Insight offers they can hold down basic cable rates. Total digital packaging is \$16.85.

Mr. Willner noted that because Champaign Urbana already has a recently-rebuilt system, it will not experience long delays before receiving these products.

It was noted that subscribers will be able to get services they get now without the need for a set top box. If a sub wants more, they will need a box.

Mr. Willner noted that they will not modify current channel offerings on basic service and take channels to the digital level just to get subs to purchase additional services. Pay services may get moved to the digital bandwidth to utilize the plant more efficiently.

Commissioner O'Rourke suggested many things have changed since the set top box arguments in 1994. Subscribers are probably more willing to accept changes today.

PEG channels will remain on analog frequencies. They will not be moved to digital. Cities would be able to put their websites on the "local source", an interactive digital service.

Mr. Willner noted that they would like to begin operation in Champaign-Urbana in January, 2001. New services will be launched within 3-6 months of the change of ownership. Telephone will be rolled out within 2 years.

For Insight, the downside of the Champaign-Urbana system is that there are so many offerings on the analog levels already. But, this will not change, at least in the short term. He noted that the sports channel costs are expensive and in the long run may have to be moved to digital.

#### NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting date will be October 18, 2000 at 7:00 P.M.in Urbana.  
Meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Submitted by:

Teri L. Legner  
Assistant to the City Manager

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