

**CHAMPAIGN-URBANA CABLE TELEVISION AND
TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
STUDY SESSION**

DATE: April 13, 2005
Wednesday, 4:30 p.m.

PLACE: Champaign Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT:	CITY OF CHAMPAIGN	CITY OF URBANA
	Richard Atterberry	Barb Gladney
	Giraldo Rosales	Peter Resnick
	Karen Walker	

PARKLAND	UI
	Stan Yagi

MEMBERS ABSENT: Brian Silverman, Tom McDonnell

STAFF PRESENT: Chris Foster

OTHERS PRESENT: Melody Brucker, Alex Crowley, Dan Schiller

Call to Order

Chair Atterberry called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM.

Setting the Agenda

The location of the April 20th regular meeting was changed to the 2nd Floor Conference Room in the Urbana City Building.

Commissioner Gladney asked if anyone was interested in joining the public access committee. She added that we should spend a bulk of our budgeted money to bring in outside experts on cable re-franchising.

Commissioner Rosales said that he would join the public access committee and ask if anyone else on the Champaign City Council was interested.

No other changes were made to the agenda.

Study Session

Melody Brucker of Insight Communications announced that Insight would be joining the phone business and soon launching Insight Phone.

Alex Crowley of Insight informed the commission about the new Insight Phone product.

- Telecommunication companies are becoming significant competitors in the phone business
- Insight is not doing Voice Over IP, they are using a hybrid product
- Voice Over IP relies on the internet - calls goes out over the internet
- Insight Phone is much like a traditional phone call, call goes across Insight's network and then is sent to a public phone switch network instead of the internet

Chair Atterberry asked if the signal from his house to the head end was digital or analog,

Mr. Crowley said that it was digital.

Mr. Crowley explained the difference between VOIP 911 and traditional 911

Traditional 911

- Carrier facilitates the registration to the 911 database
- Your service is physically tied to your home
- Your information is communicated whether you can speak or not
- If the call is disconnected your information remains active

VOIP 911

- Depends upon the subscriber for registration
- Service is tied to an IP address not a location
- Requires you to communicate your location and situation
- If the line disconnects your communication ends

Mr. Crowley went on to talk about Insight Phone:

- Insight is able to port numbers, which means if you change to their service you can transfer your number over
- Insight has been able to upgrade their networks to improve their monitoring ability
- Allows them to see problems festering instead of being a reactionary company
- Insight doesn't want to be phone company, they just want to have a complete bundle of internet, television, and phone service to provide to their customers

Commissioner Walker asked if the service would be regulated like a phone service.

Mr. Crowley said that they are acting in a regulated way; they are following all of the rules put forth by the state. Insight Phone could be considered an information system, but they are still acting as if they will be regulated. He added that Insight Phone should be available in 2005.

Commissioner Rosales stated that Insight Cable is regulated and taxed by the local municipalities, but the internet is not required to be regulated. He asked if municipalities will be able to regulate or tax Insight Phone or if it will be treated like the internet.

Mr. Crowley said the regulation of phone is actually overseen at the state and federal level. Some counties and municipalities do get involved in the regulation on a smaller scale.

Chair Atterberry asked if Insight is equipped to deal with a telephone outage.

Mr. Crowley stated that Insight has methods and procedures in place that would deal with that situation.

Commissioner Resnick said that ISP's are starting to cut off VOIP traffic. Mr. Resnick wanted to make sure that customers will be able to use whatever device they want despite what company it is from.

Mr. Crowley stated that choking off your competitors is not a smart and good way to do business.

Chair Atterberry clarified that Insight phone is not subject to the franchise fee but they are paying state, federal, county, and municipal taxes such as 911.

Commissioner Yagi noted that companies are changing hands often and convergence is going to be very common in the future. He added that companies will be bundling their services to provide discounts for there customers.

Audience member Dan Schiller told the Commission that the session was very valuable and that it was important to keep people up to date on their alternatives for services. He added that the issues of regulation were murky at best and probably would remain so for quite some time.

Adjournment

Chair Atterberry adjourned the meeting at 5:07 PM.