

**CHAMPAIGN-URBANA CABLE TELEVISION AND  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**DATE:** October 19, 2005  
4:30 PM

**PLACE:** Urbana Council Chambers  
400 S. Vine, Urbana, IL

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	<b>CHAMPAIGN</b>	<b>URBANA</b>
	Karen Walker Giraldo Rosales Brian Silverman	Barb Gladney Peter Resnick Durl Kruse
	<b>PARKLAND</b>	<b>U of I</b>
	Tom McDonnell	

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Rick Atterberry, Danielle Chynoweth, Stan Yagi

**STAFF PRESENT:** Chris Foster - City of Urbana  
Jeff Hamilton - City of Champaign

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Melody Brucker, Insight Communications  
Art Svymbersky - Insight Communications  
Jim Lee – Insight Communications

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice-Chair Walker called the regular meeting of the Champaign-Urbana Cable Television and Telecommunications Commission to order at 4:36 PM.

**MODIFICATIONS TO AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

No changes were brought forward.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The following minutes were approved by the Commission, as presented.

- A. July 20, 2005 – Quarterly Meeting
- B. September 17, 2005 – Special Joint Meeting
- C. September 17, 2005 – Special Study Session Meeting

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Jeff Hamilton presented the cable complaints and correspondence from Insight Communications for the quarter.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Broadcast Retransmission Agreement Update**

Melody Brucker indicated that formal negotiations are continuing with local broadcasters. All current agreements expire on 12/31/05 and they are still working towards renewal. Commissioner McDonnell stated that broadcasters can claim “must carry” and require that their channel be carried or “retransmission” and ask that the cable operator pay them for their broadcast signal. Commissioner Resnick asked what the advantage is to Insight to carry the broadcast signals. Ms. Brucker responded that it adds value to their product. Topic was tabled until the next meeting.

### **B. National Franchising Legislation Update**

Mr. Hamilton reported on the current status of the National Franchising Congressional Bills and reported that the City of Champaign had sent letters opposing them to Washington, D.C. Chris Foster reported the City of Urbana had done the same. Commissioner Resnick asked if the Cities could reclaim all the cable wiring in the rights-of-way and take over the system if they wanted to. Commissioner Silverman responded they could, but they won't. Commissioner Gladney then provided more information on the legislation and information about alternatives others are recommending. Commissioner Resnick agreed to ask Commissioner Chynoweth if they could work together and prepare another more detailed response for our Congressional representatives. Commissioner McDonnell suggested that the Commission gather public input which can also be sent to our representatives. The Commission set this as the January Study Session topic, which Commissioner Resnick will organize.

### **C. Sue Buske Franchise Renewal Presentation Follow-up**

Commissioner Resnick reported he enjoyed the session and audience questions. He questioned if internet access can be negotiated in the franchise agreement. In her presentation, Sue Buske indicated “no”, but Commissioner Resnick asked if it could in fact be negotiated, just not required? Commissioner Silverman offered that you can negotiate anything and that he disagreed with Sue Buske's statement. Commissioner Gladney said we need to practice due diligence and follow the franchise renewal rules. Commissioner Silverman suggested that we make sure we get a consultant. Mr. Hamilton reported that both Cities are working together and plan to hire a consultant. Commissioner Silverman suggested more municipalities be involved in the process. Commissioner Kruse asked if the Commission can pick the consultant. Commissioner Silverman replied that the Commission can submit and recommend consultants for consideration. Commissioner Kruse suggested that the Commission research consultants soon. Commissioner Silverman stated that the cable operator reimburses the Cities for the consultant.

## **REPORTS**

### **A. Committee Reports**

Technical Committee: No Report

PEG Committee: No Report

Public Access Committee: Commissioner Gladney stated the Committee will present its report at the Commission's Special Study Session scheduled for November 9, 2005.

## **B. Staff Reports**

1. **Champaign:** Mr. Hamilton reported Champaign has been very busy with Public Access Study Committee meetings and special Cable Commission meetings.
2. **Urbana:** Mr. Foster reported Urbana has also been busy working on the Public Access Study Committee report. He reported UPTV is fully staffed with one full time and two part time employees and that Urbana recently hired a City Attorney. Mr. Foster reported the studio has been used to produce four programs and that new UPTV equipment would become available from the Urbana Police Department. He also reported UPTV is looking into a digital playback system.

## **C. CATV System Operator Report**

Art Svymbersky supplied Insight Communications' quarterly statistics and reported good customer growth this quarter. Mr. Svymbersky reviewed new channel launches including: The Travel Channel; WAND-HD; and Fox Sports Midwest. Commissioner Silverman informed Mr. Svymbersky that Channel 21 has no audio. Mr. Svymbersky replied that a necessary piece of equipment is on order. Vice-Chair Walker asked how many HDTV channels Insight currently offers. Mr. Svymbersky answered they now carry eight HDTV channels. Commissioner Resnick asked why WAND-HD won't launch immediately. Mr. Svymbersky replied the necessary equipment hasn't been received yet. Commissioner Resnick asked if WICD-HD and WILL-HD is currently being negotiated? Ms. Brucker reported they are. Commissioner Silverman asked if Insight will continue to charge extra for HD channels. Ms. Brucker reported there is currently an additional charge for everything except the broadcast-HD channels. Commissioner McDonnell asked if cable channels and broadcasters are both required to go digital. Jim Lee replied that only broadcasters are required to go digital, but that Insight receives 70% of the cable channels digitally now. Most of these are down-converted to analog for most customers. Vice-Chair Walker asked for an update on Insight Phone. Ms. Brucker reported they won't launch until the entire system is checked, but that they plan to launch as soon as possible. Unlike other VoIP services, Insight Phone will have 9-1-1; long distance, local numbers and area customers can keep their current numbers. Mr. Lee then provided technical information on how the customer's phones are connected to the cable line.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. NATOA Conference Report**

Vice-Chair Walker reported that the Commission had received Commissioner Chynoweth's written report. Item was tabled to the next meeting.

### **B. Cable Compliance Report**

Mr. Hamilton reported that Insight passed the 2004-2005 Annual Compliance Report and that the report is for Champaign only, not Urbana. Commissioner Silverman moved to accept the report, seconded by Commissioner Resnick. Motion carried unanimously.

## **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

None.

### **COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS**

Commissioner Gladney reminded everyone that the Public Access Study Committee will present its report to the Commission on November 9, 2005. Commissioner Silverman thanked Insight for adding Fox Sports Midwest and commended them for listening to their customer's programming requests. Commissioner McDonnell reported a past technical problem with the Parkland Channel feed. He stated the problem had been reported to and fixed by Insight. He urged Insight to monitor the PEG Channels regularly and to be proactive in correcting such problems.

### **NEXT MEETING DATES AND ADJOURNMENT**

Next meetings were set for November 9, 2005 (Special Study Session); January 11, 2006 (Study Session); and January 18, 2006 (Quarterly Meeting).

The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Hamilton  
Telecommunications/AV Technician  
City of Champaign