

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

**DATE:** August 15, 2007  
11:00 a.m.

**PLACE:** Champaign City Council Chambers  
102 N. Neil Street, Champaign, IL

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	<b>CHAMPAIGN</b> Rick Atterberry Giraldo Rosales Ken Pirok	<b>URBANA</b> Barbara Gladney Durl Kruse
	<b>PARKLAND</b> Tom McDonnell	<b>U of I</b>

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Karen Walker, Stan Yagi, Peter Resnick, Danielle Chynoweth

**STAFF PRESENT:** Jeff Hamilton - City of Champaign  
Bill DeJarnette - Urbana

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Atterberry called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

**CABLE FRANCHISE TRANSFER AGREEMENT (INSIGHT – COMCAST)**

Chair Atterberry informed the Commission that the purpose of the meeting was to provide input to both City Councils regarding Comcast's application to takeover the cable franchises in Champaign and Urbana.

Jeff Hamilton informed the Commission that the Cities had met and negotiated with Comcast on the transfer agreements. He stated that Chair Atterberry also participated on behalf of the Commission. Mr. Hamilton said that with the assistance of Moss & Barnett, transfer Resolutions had been negotiated for both cities. Mr. Hamilton reported that the cities are still negotiating with Comcast on two issues - payment of the consultant's fees and unpaid franchise fees. Mr. Hamilton stated that Moss & Barnett also prepared a report on the transfer request. This report found that Comcast meets the technical, legal, and financial requirements necessary and recommends that the City Councils approve the transfer request.

Chair Atterberry explained that both City Councils have to act on the request by August 25, 2007, or the transfer would be automatically granted. He stated that the Cities requested a deadline extension, which Comcast extended until September 5, 2007. He also pointed out that our franchise agreements are unique in that they require the cable operator to pay for the City's legal/consultant fees related to any transfers.

Commissioner Gladney stated there have been a couple of cable transfers in the past that have likely set a precedent on this issue and should be researched. Chair Atterberry stated that the Cities may not have used a consultant for the past transfers. He also pointed out that Federal law provides only a few, narrow reasons why a transfer can be denied.

Commissioner Kruse stated he found it interesting that Comcast would balk at the payment of the consultant's fees. He stated that the cable company initiated this transfer, which resulted in legal fees for the cities. He stated that the City Councils should require payment of the consultant's fee as part of the transfer.

Commissioner McDonnell stated that the consultant's report finds that Comcast is healthy and capable of taking over the franchise. He asked what assurances the cities have that Comcast will honor the franchise agreements? Mr. Hamilton replied that Comcast is essentially taking over the existing franchise agreements and will have to follow them and the cable ordinances.

Chair Atterberry stated that Insight is essentially a lame duck and franchise negotiations won't take place until January 2008, when Comcast takes control. He pointed out that the transfer Resolution will require Comcast to accept our needs assessment findings and not require them to be redone next year.

Mr. Hamilton stated that Comcast officials stated they will continue to negotiate with local franchising authorities and will not pursue a statewide franchise. He also said that Comcast is reportedly willing to begin negotiations with the cities prior to taking control in January 2008.

Chair Atterberry stated that most of the questions he has gotten regarding the transfer pertain to the need to change InsightBB customer e-mail addresses. He reported that Comcast promised a long period of transition from an Insightbb.com to a new Comcast.net address. He pointed out that keeping the same email address prefix (i.e. bsmith2) may not be possible if those addresses are already used by existing Comcast customers.

Chair Atterberry asked if the Commission had any objections to the Resolution language. There being no objections, the Chair asked if the consensus of the Commission was to recommend the City Councils approve the Resolutions. All agreed.

There being no audience in attendance, Chair Atterberry invited the public to provide public input on the issue by contacting the Commission by e-mail at [cablecommission@ci.champaign.il.us](mailto:cablecommission@ci.champaign.il.us).

Commissioner McDonnell asked if a copy of the Resolution would be available on the Commission's website. Mr. Hamilton agreed to have them posted by day's end.

Commissioner Gladney stated she has received several questions from the public regarding cable rates after the transfer. Chair Atterberry stated that the Cities can't control rates or channel line ups. He pointed out that even though Comcast is not going to pursue a State franchise, they will still have to abide by the state's new customer service beginning January 1, 2008.

Commissioner Gladney asked if Comcast will be changing local staff. Chair Atterberry answered that this wasn't discussed as it is not under the City's control. He shared that Comcast did indicate a desire to continue covering the annual Independence Day parade.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Hamilton  
Telecommunications AV Technician  
City of Champaign