

Telecommunications Commission

Wednesday, September 23, 2015 – 5:30 P.M.

Council Chambers – Brecksville City Hall

Members Present: Jack Shott, Gerald Broski, Jim Steiger, Eric Hall, Darryl Mancini

Members Absent: John Guardado, Joe Fleming

The meeting began at 5:30 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance. Roll was called with two members absent. The committee then approved the minutes from the last meeting on May 14, 2015. Motion to approve by Gerry Broski, seconded by Jim Steiger. All were in favor.

New Business

Kevin Lynch from AT&T gave a brief update on the merger of AT&T and Direct TV. With the completion of the merger, the two companies will now have more bargaining power to negotiate when it comes to programming. The number of AT&T subscribers is somewhere around 13 million and Direct TV is around 25 million which will enable them to obtain better pricing. It has also opened up markets in Central and South America since Direct TV has already been established in those areas of the world.

Kevin also explained that House Bill 64 (which was the state budget) passed and in a portion of that budget was a Telecom amendment allowing AT&T to start to prepare their network for transition to an all digital network. Currently the process is starting in Ohio and within the next 6-9 months they will begin putting in an all fiber network. There will actually be two networks up and running (which already exist) however, there is an all copper network that has been there for years and AT&T will be replacing it with more and more fiber. AT&T will target areas that have service above ground and work with cities that have underground utilities to determine how to get fiber to the homes.

Lastly, Kevin reported that AT&T purchased the assets of two Mexican cell phone companies that were in bankruptcy. This purchase has allowed US and Mexican customers programs where they can now dial and it is part of their minutes, whereas in the past a carrier would have been needed to call there.

Customer Complaints

There were no complaints to review at this time.

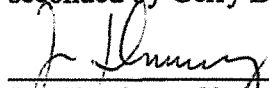
Franchise Fees

AT&T fees have continued to grow due to the quality of service and promotions that have been ongoing.

Open Forum

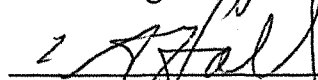
Councilman Representative Broski gave a brief overview on some of the projects in the City such as the repair of Old Town Hall, the Blossom Master Plan and the new Police Department.

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m. Motion by Jack Shott, seconded by Gerry Broski. The next meeting was set for Wednesday, November 18th.



Joe Fleming – Chairman

Jim Steiger - Secretary



Eric Hall – Vice-Chairman

Minutes prepared by recording secretary Christine Dubiel