Telecommunications Commission

Monday, February 29, 2016 – 5:30 P.M.

Council Chambers – Brecksville City Hall

Members Present: Gerald Broski, Joe Fleming, Darryl Mancini, Gene Lustik, John Guardado,

Members Absent: Jim Steiger, Jack Shott

Others Present: Kevin Lynch – AT&T

The meeting began at 5:30 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance. The first order of business was the oath of office administered by Council Representative Broski to Darryl Mancini, Joe Fleming and Gene Lustik. Next new officers were elected as follows: John Guardado, Chairman, Darryl Mancini, Vice-Chairman and Joe Fleming as Secretary. The commission then approved the minutes from the November 18, 2015 meeting.

New Business

Kevin Lynch from AT&T gave an update on the fourth quarter franchise fees. The fees were a little over $15,400, an increase of about $900 over the previous quarter. He reported that Direct TV seems to be doing well since the FCC approved the merger in mid-2015. Costs are much more streamlined on the Direct TV side due to less equipment and lines to maintain. Since Direct TV was a larger company as far as the number of customers, they had better bargaining power when it came to video providers. AT&T U-Verse had 5 million customers when they went to providers such as HBO, Showtime and Turner Broadcasting whereas Direct TV had 30 million so they could work out better deals. Direct TV also has a Satellite TV sales tax which is collected by the state of Ohio. Ohio is only one of five states in the country that has such a tax. AT&T is asking the state to make some changes to the law since it doesn't seem fair to apply an extra sales tax on customers that want to watch satellite TV, as opposed to having cable or internet TV. There are no franchise fees on Satellite TV since there is no right of way use for delivering the service. Kevin also mentioned that AT&T is continuing to build out fiber optics to homes in the greater Cleveland area providing even more services than ever before since they are finding more people are moving toward internet products. In the Brecksville area no further build-outs are planned.

Customer Complaints

There were no complaints to review at this time.

Franchise Fees

AT&T had a slight increase, cable remained about the same.

Open Forum

Council Representative Broski gave a brief update about what has been happening in the city, such as the possible move of McDonald's, the new police station, the hiring of new police officers and the city garden on Stadium Drive.

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m. Motion to adjourn by John Guardado. Seconded by Gerry Broski.

John Guardado – Chairman

Joe Fleming - Secretary

Darryl Mancini – Vice Chairman

Minutes prepared by recording secretary Christine Dubiel