

APPROVED MINUTES OF CABLE TV COMMISSION MEETING

Nov. 17, 2021

HYBRID MEETING (City Council Chambers & Virtual)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pauline Maloney (Chair), Jennifer Tigges, Ron Tigges

MEMBERS ABSENT: Garrett Heidenreich, Alan Vincent

OTHERS PRESENT: Randy Gehl & Felicia Carner, City of Dubuque; Nathan Smith, Dubuque County Historical Society

- Maloney called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Acceptance of the Agenda

- Upon a motion by RTigges, seconded by JTigges, the agenda was accepted by a vote of 3 - 0.

Approval of the Minutes of June 16, 2021

- Upon a motion by RTigges, seconded by JTigges, minutes of the June 16, 2021, meeting were approved 3 - 0.

Public Input

- There was no public input.

Staff Update

- Gehl introduced Felicia Carner, the City's multimedia specialist, who started employment with the City in August and filled the vacancy created by Cable TV Coordinator Craig Nowack's retirement. She spoke briefly with the commission and summarized her previous experience. Gehl also provided an update on the equipment upgrades made recently to the City Council Chamber's broadcast system to enhance broadcast functionality of virtual meetings. These improvements were funded with a PEG grant recommended by the commission in summer 2021.

Review of PEG Fund

- As a follow-up to the commission's request that Gehl further explore any flexibility in allowable uses of PEG funds, Gehl provided commissioners with a copy of related language from the state code related to cable franchises. Because Mediacom operates in Dubuque under a state franchise, it applies to use of Dubuque PEG funds. The code states, "All fees collected pursuant to this subsection shall be used only for the support of the public, educational, and governmental access channels." Gehl also said he discussed the issue with City of Dubuque Senior Counsel Barry Lindahl and former Cable TV Coordinator Craig Nowack, both of whom agreed that use of the funds is limited to support of PEG channels. Gehl informed the commission that the only way to change the state franchise language would be through state legislation. Commissioners

briefly discussed the issue and agreed with the assessment, but expressed a desire for more flexibility with use of the funds.

PEG Fund Request

- Gehl and Carner reviewed a \$30,200 PEG fund request (attached) from the City of Dubuque for equipment needed for CityChannel Dubuque to continue its growth of high-quality programming at an increased quantity. A memo explaining the request and three bids/estimates for the equipment were submitted with the lowest-bidding vendor recommended as the source. Commissioners reviewed the request and equipment list and asked Carner several questions. Upon a motion by JTigges, seconded by RTigges, the commission voted unanimously to recommend PEG funds be used for the purchase.
- Gehl then explained the Dubuque County Historical Society had submitted a PEG fund request the afternoon of the previous day (Nov. 16). He then shared the application form that was submitted along with the equipment lists/estimates and additional clarifications that were provided by DCHS. Nathan Smith, a DCHS employee, was a virtual participant in the meeting and answered several questions from commissioners related to the request. Commissioners agreed that additional detail was needed to fully consider the request. Smith said he would provide the requested details and the commission agreed to review at its next meeting, which they agreed would be held at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 8, for the purpose of further consideration of the request.

Next Meeting

- Commissioners agreed to meet at 5 p.m on Wednesday, Dec. 8. Gehl said the meeting would again be held in a hybrid format, offering in-person or virtual participation.

Adjournment

- Upon a motion by RTigges, seconded by JTigges, and 3-0 vote, the meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.