



LOWELL CITY COUNCIL
TECHNOLOGY AND UTILITIES SC MINUTES

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

March 25, 2025

Date:

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: City Council Chamber, 375 Merrimack St., City Hall / Zoom (Hybrid)

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call were C. Jenness, C. Chau and C. Scott. Also present were Miran Fernandez (MIS), Austin Ball (Deputy CFO) and C. Mercier, Adam McCue (LTC), C. Nuon and Atty. Bill August (Zoom).

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

C. Jenness called the meeting to order noting those in attendance and agenda item.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Mr. Fernandez made an opening remark in the form of letter of City Manager and calling a public hearing as per statutory requirement for the renewal of the cable contract. Mr. Fernandez opened matter up to the public and Mr. McCue and C. Nuon commented on the need to renew the contract and the benefits to the City. Atty. August noted his representation for the City during negotiations indicating that the 5% license fee was the most the statute allowed. C. Chau questioned process of negotiations. C. Scott questioned changes in new contract. Mr. Miran indicated that there were no substantial changes in the contract. C. Jenness recognized the success of the negotiation team.

Mr. Fernandez provided presentation entitled "Comcast of Southern New England Community Antenna Television System Franchise Renewal License". The following was covered in the presentation: Overview –



renewal procedure and meaning; No other cable operators – infrastructure reasons and Atty. August indicated that this was a non-exclusive agreement; Non-negotiable items – non-video services, rates, channel lineup and channel lineup; Negotiated items with results – 5 year, non-exclusive, PEG (Public/Education/Government), max franchise fee, senior discount, I-Net no cost and high speed internet. Mr. Fernandez noted the reason for positive recommendations; good vendor, good service and fiscal stability. Mr. Fernandez noted that City Manager was only person to have authority to execute contract and is non-assignable. Atty. August noted the benefit of no charge for data transfer on the I-Net. C. Jenness commented on the franchise fee paid by Comcast. Atty. August noted that there was a larger federal fee involved as well. C. Chau requested dollar amounts with those percentages. Mr. Fernandez indicated in the area of \$700,000 dollars. C. Chau questioned budget of LTC. Mr. McCue indicated the support for the renewal and that LTC would need other sources of funding. C. Scott questioned data used for customer response. Mr. Fernandez noted the company provides that data. C. Scott commented on the senior discount. Atty. August noted it was not part of the contract but in a side letter which companies as always honored. C. Jenness questioned what further action is needed. Atty. August noted that the City Manager has sole authority to execute the contract.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to Adjourn by C. Scott, seconded by C. Chau. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM.

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