

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY OF NEW BERLIN
COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 20, 2005
5:00 PM

Please note: Minutes are unofficial until approved by the Communications Committee at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Members Present: Aldermen Harenda, Gallagher and Hopkins

Excused: Dave Broker

Absent: Michael Passineau

Others Present: Marilyn Gauger, City Clerk and Sue Schaefer, Information Technology Manager

Alderman Harenda called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM.

New Business:

Approval of Minutes from the January 19, 2005 meeting.

Motion by Alderman Hopkins to approve/accept the minutes as printed.

Seconded by Alderman Gallagher and carried unanimously.

Old Business:

Discussion of review/requirement of a City Public Access Channel

Tabled.

Update from Professional Audio Designs Inc on their previously submitted proposal of Audio / Visual equipment for programming and a voting board. Cable updates in Council Chambers / Possible improvements to cable system

The Committee received an April 18, 2005 email from Mike Holzinger regarding the system. Professional Audio Designs came in and reviewed the system. They indicated that the current voting board might be permanently affected by a new wiring system.

Alderman Gallagher indicated that although he did not want to spend the money, the money we could have problems with hand voting. Alderman Hopkins agreed.

Marilyn Gauger suggested that maybe the vendor could show us a board that he installed elsewhere or that she and Sue Schaefer could visit a site in the metropolitan area to see one.

Further discussion was held on Option 1 and Option 3 of the proposal. Alderman Harenda suggested that staff look at Option 1 and verify that it is compatible with our system.

Motion by Alderman Hopkins to purchase Option 3 in the amount of \$20,468.37 contingent on staff approval. Seconded by Alderman Gallagher and carried unanimously.

Staff will report back to the Committee on Option 1 at a later meeting.

Networking of City Structures – Fiber Optics – Time Warner Contract Review / Discussion of Previous Committee Actions

Alderman Harenda indicated he discussed these issues with the City Attorney. He passed out letters dated February 17, 2005 and April 15, 2005 from City Attorney Blum addressing the subject of the fiber optics. He indicated that there was a basis for us to tell Time Warner that they had not fulfilled the present contract and that we had legitimate issues with them. The can be addressed in the next contract discussion and no action is needed at this time.

This Committee will consider putting together a Sub-committee regarding the Time/Warner contract.

Responsibilities of the Communications Committee/Structure/By-Laws
Tabled.

Discussion on the renewal of the Time Warner Cable Contract – Expires 4/25/07.

Tabled due to discussion above.

Review City of New Berlin policy for allowing public usage of Council Chambers for meetings, this includes use of AV equipment and broadcasting.

The Committee agreed that there were a number of issues regarding the use of Council Chambers and AV equipment.

Alderman Gallagher said that the other Aldermen were aware of past issues regarding the use of the room (Council Chambers) and he did not believe the Council Chambers should be used for political purposes. He further stated that if a citizen wanted to use the facilities (i.e. – voters forum) that maybe there should be a cost charged for it.

Alderman Hopkins said that he thought there was a valid reason for allowing voter forums to use the space as it allowed the citizens of New Berlin a chance to hear what candidates for office had to say.

Marilyn Gauger said that the Voters Forums started with the League of Women Voters and that some other Towns held such forums.

Alderman Harenda agreed to get a City Attorney update on this subject. He also thought that our policy should allow for Open House Hours for the Mayor and Aldermen. He agreed that there should be no campaigning during the Open House Hours.

Alderman Harenda will also request a City Attorney update at a future meeting regarding the use of the Government Access Channel.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:02 PM.

Submitted by:
Alderman Hopkins