

**MINUTES**  
**Public Hearing of the College Park City Council**  
**Tuesday, April 24, 2012**  
**7:02 – 7:17 p.m.**  
**Needs Assessment for Cable Franchise Renewal Negotiations**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Fellows; Councilmembers Dennis, Afzali and Mitchell.  
Councilmember Day arrived at 7:14 p.m.

**ABSENT:** Councilmembers Wojahn, Kabir, Catlin, and Stullich.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Joe Nagro, City Manager; Janeen Miller, City Clerk; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Chantal Cotton, Assistant to the City Manager; Steve Groh, Director of Finance; Steve Halpern, City Engineer.

Mayor Fellows opened the Public Hearing for the needs assessment for cable franchise renewal negotiations at 7:02 p.m. City Attorney Suellen Ferguson gave an overview. The needs assessment is required for the Comcast renewal negotiations process. The 15 year franchise agreement with Comcast will end in 1½ years. Part of the process is determining the needs of the community going into the future. This will be an ongoing process; the City can provide its comments to the consultant hired by the consortium. The consortium, which is all of the municipalities in Prince George's County plus the County itself, is working together to renegotiate the Comcast Cable franchise.

Mayor Fellows invited comment from the audience.

**Tom Davis, Chair, College Park Cable Commission:** Chairman Davis summarized the letter submitted to the Council. The main thing is to maintain the status quo as the negotiations proceed over the next 15 months. Anything that we yield to Comcast we also must give to Verizon. Therefore, they want to maintain the three existing cable channels we have, maintain the City 5% user fee and 3% PEG fee, maintain current customer service levels, continue to receive customer service reports, continue use of the intergovernment network, have Comcast continue to maintain the I-Net without any cost to the City and other I-Net users, provide more elastic language for the use of the PEG fund, connect the I-Net to the Inter County Broadband Network, expand the use of the I-Net beyond current users to include all of the municipalities, and provide additional sites for current local government users to connect to the I-Net without paying additional fees.

In response to a question from Councilmember Mitchell, Chairman Davis said that if a customer has a problem with service to let the Cable Commission know about it so that they might be able to help.

Councilmember Afzali suggested including questions in the City's next resident survey about cable needs and service.

**Jane Hopkins, member, College Park Cable Commission:** Discussed the types of call center statistics that are made available to the Commission.

There was discussion about adding the type of call center statistics that the City receives to the negotiation list.

There were no additional comments from the audience.

**Adjourn:** Mayor Fellows adjourned the Public Hearing at 7:17 p.m.

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Janeen S. Miller, CMC  
City Clerk

Date  
Approved