

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA,
ILLINOIS HELD TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2011 IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF CITY HALL**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hutchinson called the Public Hearing before the City Council of Columbia, Illinois to order at 6:30 PM.

Aldermen in attendance were: Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Hejna, Oberkfell and Roessler.

Administrative Staff in attendance were: City Administrator Al Hudzik (recorded the minutes) and Accounting Manager Linda Sharp.

Counsel in attendance: City Attorney Terry Bruckert and Ryan Moehlman, attorney with the firm of Cunningham, Vogel & Rost, P.C., the city's telecommunications counsel.

II. PURPOSE

Mayor Hutchinson stated the Public Hearing was scheduled to receive public comments on HTC Communications Co.'s ("HTC") application for a franchise allowing HTC to provide cable/video services within the City of Columbia, Illinois, and for the City Council to consider and ultimately determine whether or not such franchise should be granted.

Mayor Hutchinson then called upon Craig Hern, Vice President of Operations of HTC Communications Co., to make HTC's presentation to the Council Members. Mr. Hern gave a brief history of the HTC companies and stated that HTC Communications Co. is a sister company of Harrisonville Telephone Company, which has been providing telephone service to Monroe County residents for over 100 years - he also indicated the HTC companies have been providing internet services to the residents and businesses of Columbia since 1996, and have been active in the installation of high speed fiber for the past ten (10) years. He stated HTC's IPTV service (the protocol used to deliver cable/video services) uses the same high speed fiber/cable currently used to deliver internet services and that most of the build-out has already occurred (in order to allow said high speed internet services to be offered to the residents and businesses of Columbia); therefore, if a franchise is granted, IPTV service offerings could begin with very little delay. He also stated that HTC began providing IPTV cable/video services in other areas of their service territory (mostly in Monroe County) approximately one year ago and briefly reviewed some of the service offerings. Mr. Hern concluded his remarks by saying the HTC companies, including HTC Communications Co., strive to provide their customers with the latest and greatest technology, and that their employees have a vast amount of experience and expertise in meeting those objectives; he also stated HTC is a locally owned company with a local workforce, and that most of the infrastructure HTC will utilize to deliver its IPTV cable/video services (in the city) is currently in place in the rights-of-way in Columbia. Craig then answered all questions that were posed to him.

Mayor Hutchinson inquired if anyone else had any comments or questions - no one offered any.

Mayor Hutchinson then called upon City Administrator Hudzik to address the Council Members - Mr. Hudzik informed the council that pursuant to state and local law, the council would have to make (i) a determination as to the need for the granting of an additional cable/video franchise; and (ii) a decision as to whether or not the franchise should be granted; the council must also issue its findings to various items detailed in Section 3.1.I. of the City's Cable and Communications Code for the granting of an additional franchise - he indicated a Council Committee meeting will be scheduled for Monday, January 24, 2011 to address those items.

There being no further comments from the public or other items to be addressed at this time, Mayor Hutchinson closed the hearing at 6:43 PM.

Albert G. Hudzik

City Administrator Albert G. Hudzik

Kevin B. Hutchinson

Mayor Kevin B. Hutchinson