

**AGENDA
COUNCIL COMMITTEE FOR
EMERGING TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS
MEETING NOTES
May 31, 2011**

Call meeting to order.

The meeting was called to order at 2:35pm by Council Member Morrison. Council Member Morrison and Council Member Riley were present.

1. General Citizen Communications (3 minutes to speak)

There were no speakers

2. Approval of minutes from the February 23, 2011 regular committee meeting.

A motion to adopt the minutes as to form from the February 23, 2011 Council Committee for Emerging Technology & Telecommunications regular meeting was made by council Member Riley; seconded by Council Member Morrison. Vote 2-0 with Council Member Shade absent.

3. Briefing: Phase II of the Austin Go Web Design and concurrent projects (Stephen Elkins, Chief Information Officer, Communications and Public Information Office)

A briefing on the Austin Go Web Design project was provided by Stephen Elkins. Mr. Elkins stated that the responses to the RFP had been received and that one was unqualified and the other was beyond the budgeted expense for the project. As a result a decision has been made to do the work in house. The Committee has asked for the team to supply information on a data portal at their next update.

4. Update: Pecan Street Project (Brewster McCracken, Executive Director)

Brewster McCracken provided information on the Pecan Street Project stating that they are currently studying residential power usage on a very detailed basis down to when and which appliance within the home is being used. This study will also compare the usage between the green homes at the Mueller Development with non-green homes outside the development which should show the energy savings of green building. The Pecan Street Project will also be building a home at the Mueller Development that will be used a research lab and looking at orientations for solar panels.

5. Briefing: Discussion and possible action on the Federal community Access Preservation Act (CAP Act) (Rondella Hawkins, Telecommunication and Regulatory Affairs Manager, Financial and Administrative Services Dept)

Rondella Hawkins presented the main points of the newly reintroduced CAP Act stating that there were three main points in the new legislation:

- It would remove the prohibition against using the Public, Education, Government (PEG) channel funds for operating expenses. Currently the funds may only be used for capital expenditures.
- It would require local cable operators to transmit the PEG channels to local governments with no charge.
- It would require the FCC to do a study of the effect of statewide franchises on local PEG channels.

6. Briefing: Discussion and possible action on a recommendation to the City Council on the proposed contract award to Public Access Community Television, Inc. for public access television management services (Rondella Hawkins, Telecommunication and Regulatory Affairs Manager, Financial and Administrative Services Dept)

Rondella Hawkins stated that the current contract will expire on September 30, 2011 and that the new contractor will be working on a reduced budget. The new contract will also include a provision for the vendor to provide some of their own funding. This will be a two-year contract with a provision for two one-year extensions.

Chip Rosenthal, Austin Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission, spoke on behalf of the commission stating that the commission was endorsing the proposal by Public Access Community Television, Inc.

A motion to recommend that the City Council approve the contract award for public access television management services to Public Access Community Television, Inc. as recommended by City Staff and the Austin Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission was made by Council Member Riley; seconded by Council Member Morrison. Vote 2-0 with Council Member Shade absent.

7. Presentation: On the Federal Communications Commission Notice of Inquiry (“NOI”) Into Local Rights-of-Way and Facility Siting Practices (Rondella Hawkins, Telecommunication and Regulatory Affairs Manager, Financial and Administrative Services Dept)

Rondella Hawkins stated that the purpose of the NOI is to accelerate the deployment of Broadband and to identify barriers such as legal issues or local policies. Local governments are opposed to this as it would limit their jurisdiction.

8. Consider agenda items for next meeting, scheduled for 3:00 pm Wednesday, June 29, 2011 or at the call of the committee chair.

The meeting date was approved.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.