

**Rochester Government Channel  
MEETING  
February 17, 2016**

**Members Present:**

City Councilor Tom Willis, Chair  
James Graham - Resident Volunteer  
Rick Healey - Resident Volunteer

**Others Present:**

Celeste Plaia, Government Channel Coordinator  
City Manager Daniel Fitzpatrick  
City Attorney Terence O'Rourke

**MINUTES**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM. Introductions of the Committee were made.

**Public Input**

There was no one for Public Input.

**Discussion**

Tom Willis, Chair (newly appointed) noted that the committee has not met in some time. He asked what was discussed at the last meeting. He stated that the two areas for concern were MetroCast Ch.12 changes and the upcoming Franchise agreement.

Topics for discussion of the last RGC meeting (held in May 2013) regarded new updates to Government Channel equipment (which had been implemented in 2013-2014) and Government Channel program policy re-write.

The Committee gave more background information regarding policy programming re-write. A draft was completed and agreed upon by the Government Channel Committee; however, policy was not brought to City Council. One of the main issues that the Committee clarified at the time is whether to consider underwriting. The committee voted to not use underwriting on Government Channel productions.

The Chair brought up the current issue of Metrocast Local Origination Programming services ceasing in March. There was much discussion on clarifying the differences between local origination and Public Access programming. It was also discussed whether the Government Channel Committee should revisit the programming policy to

consider expanding types of programming in lieu of Metrocast not providing production services. The Coordinator will provide to the Committee copies of original Government Policy Paper and Draft that was created by the Committee in 2013. The Committee also asked what kind of programming could be considered and what an “in between stage” to Public Access could look like. The Coordinator will provide some ideas for policy wording and examples of programming for next meeting.

The Committee discussed whether to move towards a Public Access station. Several comments have been made that there has not been a lot of feedback from the public yet, but the City Manager’s Office and the Coordinator have both had some complaints and requests for public access programming. The Committee agreed to be in a “wait and see” position regarding public reaction for lack of Channel 12. It was noted that the public is not aware that the public access station is an option.

### **Franchise Renewal**

Terence O'Rourke, City Attorney, gave a summary and time line of the upcoming Franchise renewal process. The Committee was asked if they would like a representative on the Franchise Committee in addition to the Government Channel Coordinator. There was some discussion on whether the Government Channel Committee should work as a sub-committee to the Franchise Committee to submit suggestions. Also in question is whether the Mayor should review the make-up of the Government Channel Committee before any action is taken as no one has been appointed for several years.

### **Other**

The Committee will meet on March 23, 2016, at 7:00 PM.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Celeste Plaia  
Government Channel Coordinator