

On their return the agenda began the Administration Section Item No. "3-A"

A. Proposed Resolution for City Cable 15 Channel Policy

Mr. Iman stated at the request of Council a proposed resolution was drafted to establish a policy which limits the use of City Cable 15 by individuals holding any federal, state or local elected office. If approved, the language in the resolution will be added to the existing channel policy effective July 1, 2005.

2005.183 Motion by Fracassi, supported by Siver.

WHEREAS, Channel 15 is the City of Southfield's governmental channel; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Channel 15 is to serve the people of the City of Southfield, by providing accurate, quality and informative television programming about policies, services, and activities of Southfield government, and to stimulate and encourage all residents of the City to involve themselves in local governmental issues and processes; and

WHEREAS, in order to promote and ensure fairness and objectivity in Channel 15 programming and use, the City Council is desirous of establishing a policy which limits the use of the channel by individuals holding any federal, state, or local elective office ("Elected Official(s)").

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT effective July 1, 2005, except as expressly otherwise provided herein, no Elected Official shall have a dedicated program cablecast on Channel 15, and the City's Cable Department is hereby directed to discontinue delivery of any programming on Channel 15 which is produced by or on behalf of any Elected Official; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT the City Cable Department may continue to include Elected Official(s) in cable programming which reflects activities of such Elected Official(s) occurring in the normal course of their official duties, such as the Mayor's annual State of the City Address, City events and ribbon-cutting events, Regular City Council meetings, Candidate's Forums, etc.

The resolution was approved 5-1; Bell opposing.

The next item on the agenda was No. "3-B" - Approval to Purchase Books, Electronic

**Approved
June 13, 2005**

SPECIAL MEETING
(CONDUCTED AS A COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE)
OF THE COUNCIL
CITY OF SOUTHFIELD

May 9, 2005

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**Approved
June 13, 2005**

SPECIAL MEETING
(CONDUCTED AS A COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE)
OF THE COUNCIL
CITY OF SOUTHFIELD
MINUTES

May 9, 2005

The meeting of the Council convened at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Conference Room of the Municipal Building, 26000 Evergreen Road, Southfield, Michigan, with Council President Sylvia Jordan in the Chair. PRESENT: Council Members Roy Bell, Donald Fracassi, Myron Frasier, Sylvia Jordan, and Kenson Siver. EXCUSED: Sidney Lantz and Joan Seymour. ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Brenda Lawrence, City Clerk Nancy Banks, City Administrator Dale Iman and City Attorney Jack Beras. There being a quorum, Council was in session.

The first item on the agenda was the Cable 15 Television Program for Elected Officials and Policy for Cablecasting.

Kathy Sherman, Cable Manager, stated that currently, Cable 15 follows the FCC guidelines on airing programs by elected officials. The guidelines call for the removal of programs by elected officials 45 days before a primary election and 60 days before a general election. If Council decides to allow elected officials= programs, she asked that they review the policy established in 2004.

Cable 15 currently runs a number of political programs such as: State Senator Gilda Jacobs, The Condino Report, County Government with Eric Coleman and Today=s Women with Mayor Brenda Lawrence.

Councilman Fracassi stated that prior to the past administration, there was a policy against politicizing Cable 15. However, during the previous administration certain elected officials were allowed to air political programs. He strongly believes the City needs to return to the policy against politicizing Cable 15. Cable 15 should be used to provide information on upcoming events, provide news and information about the City. If elected officials want to be on TV they can use the public access or education channel.

Councilman Frasier voiced his agreement with Councilman Fracassi. He sees no reason for each elected official to have a program. State officials should be allowed to have programs provided the programs address issues affecting Southfield. He expressed opposition to County commissioners airing programs on Cable 15.

Mr. Iman stated that Ms. Sherman was there only to present information on how the Elected Officials Programs would be handled if approved by Council. Ms. Sherman was not there to make a recommendation.

Ms. Sherman stated that she had previously presented the FCC guidelines to Council however the policy was never formally adopted.

Councilman Bell stated that he understands that the FCC guidelines are being used to determine cutoff dates prior to an election, however, currently there is no Council adopted policy on elected officials programming. He has no objection to local elected officials having programs but it needs to be with the understanding all officials have to receive the same amount of assistance from staff. Staffing availability comes into question and if staffing isn't available then maybe the programming should be disallowed. He is not opposed to the programs by State and County officials as long as the topics apply to Southfield residents and businesses.

Councilman Siver stated that he agrees that the policy is applied equally or not at all. He appreciates what Cable currently affords us, such as the occasional interview during a community program. There are other programs he would prefer to see on the air.

Mayor Lawrence stated that one of the objectives of cable is to provide information. When the programming was started she provided the concept, the list of people to interview, the mission and the objective to Cable 15. The City Administrator, at that time, approved the programs. There has been favorable response to the program. The program interviews women in various professions about their work. She is in favor of removing programs at the cutoff dates but does not want them eliminated entirely.

Councilman Siver responded that he has seen the Mayor's show and the show celebrates the person being interviewed. The only political aspect to the show is that it is hosted by the Mayor. He has no interest in doing a show. If all elected officials have programs what affect does that have on cable programming.

Councilman Frasier pointed out that the information being given on the Mayor's show could be done by a different host and remove any hint of politicization.

Councilman Fracassi reminded Council that the traditional policy of the City has been to not politicize Cable 15. The City of Warren is a good example of what happens when you politicize a cable channel. Cable 15 should be for publicizing events happening in the City and keeping the residents informed.

City Clerk Nancy Banks stated that as City Clerk she also serves as Election Director. She noted she was contemplating doing a hands-on demonstration of the new voting equipment for Cable 15 and

questioned where such programming would fall, in terms of politicization. Council President Jordan suggested that the Deputy City Clerk could do the demonstration. She asked what Cable 15's practice has been in the past.

Councilman Frasier stated he would view a program educating the public on new voting equipment as one of the once in a lifetime programs, it would not be a regular program.

Ms. Sherman responded that until a few years ago the City did not have any shows by elected officials. There was no written policy.

Council President Jordan asked if Cable 15 had ever aired campaign ads. Ms. Sherman answered with an emphatic No.

Council President Jordan voiced her opposition to programs hosted by elected officials, including State officials. State officials can be interviewed by Cable 15 on a periodic basis.

Councilman Bell indicated that he opposed programming by local elected officials but had no opposition to programming by State officials.

Mayor Lawrence questioned how Council could oppose residents hearing what their elected officials in Lansing are doing.

Councilman Siver noted that State officials have other avenues for keeping the public informed.

A consensus of Council was taken. The options were: no elected officials programming with the exception of the voting machines and special issues such as the State of the City, no local elected officials but continue the bi-monthly reports by State officials, or no elected officials programming and quarterly interviews of State officials would be conducted by Cable 15 staff.

Consensus vote:

1. No elected officials programming with the exception of the voting machines and special issues such as the State of the City. No one voted for this option.
2. No local elected officials but continue the bi-monthly reports by State officials. Councilman Frasier voted for this option.
3. No elected officials programming and quarterly interviews of State officials would be conducted by Cable 15 staff. Councilman Bell, Councilman Fracassi, Councilwoman Jordan and Councilman Siver voted in favor of this option.

The consensus was for no programming by local elected officials and quarterly interviews of State

and County officials.

Mayor Lawrence questioned why local officials were being muzzled. Why Council would decide other elected officials have something of value to present to residents but local officials are banned. Mr. Iman stated that what separates the two groups is that Council determines Cable 15's budget. He recommended interviewing State officials only while they are in session instead of quarterly.

Councilman Frasier stated that local elected officials are out in the community on a regular basis and opportunity for casual appearances on Cable 15 at special events.

Councilman Bell asked Council President Jordan if she would restate what the consensus of Council was regarding elected officials programming on Cable 15. Council President Jordan stated that the consensus was that there would be no programming by local elected officials, however, the State Representative and State Senator to have a quarterly interview by Cable 15 to update residents on issues affecting the City of Southfield.

Council President Jordan stated that she wants to make sure that the City is fair. Ms. Sherman stated that in practice, she sees the position of Mayor, Council President and President Pro-Tem as positions elected to be spokespeople. When filming an event she would approach one of those three individuals first, if they are not in attendance she would feel free to interview someone else.

Councilman Bell asked if Federal officials are being excluded. Ms. Sherman indicated that Senator Carl Levin has requested a quarterly show and he was told an answer could not be given immediately.

Councilman Bell stated that he has no problem with State and Federal officials using cable to provide residents a state and federal perspective.

Councilman Fracassi noted that if the City had a no politicizing policy, the City would not receive requests.

Clerk Banks suggested that State and Federal officials be interviewed on the City=s News program. The interviews can be treated as a news story. Council President Jordan stated she thought the City Clerk had a good idea.

Council President Jordan inquired if Council agreed that the congressional leaders update residents through the City=s news program. Ms. Sherman asked if it is done as a news story would it still be on a quarterly basis because she will need to find a way to keep track of who is interviewed and how often they are interviewed.

Ms. Sherman stated it was her understanding that Cable 15 would be allowed to interview anyone from the County level and up on any news show to get their opinion and it would be directed in a

non-political way. Cable 15 would also have editing privileges. If a situation arises with which Cable 15 is uncomfortable, she would consult with the City Attorney, Jack Beras or the City Administrator, Dale Iman.

Mr. Iman recommended bringing the policy back for final adoption and then the policy would become effective. Ms. Sherman stated that the Mayor had one more show ready for broadcast in June.

The next item on the agenda was a Resolution of Support Nominating Eight Mile Road for Designation as a Michigan Heritage Route.

Nik Banda, Director of Planning and Business Resource Development, stated that the Eight Mile Boulevard Association has requested that the Southfield City Council support the Association's effort to have Eight Mile Road designated as a Michigan Heritage Route by adopting a Resolution of Support. City staff continues to play a vital role in the evolution of the Eight Mile Boulevard Association and strongly recommends Council's adoption of the proposed resolution. If Council concurs with staff, Mr. Banda indicated he would present the resolution for formal consideration at the Council's Regular Meeting on May 16, 2005.

The consensus of Council was to refer the Resolution to the Regular Meeting of May 16, 2005 for formal consideration.

At the regular meeting of the City Council, held on May 9, 2005, at 7:30 p.m., the City Council (Mayor and Council Members) discussed the Resolution of Support Nominating Eight Mile Road for Designation as a Michigan Heritage Route (Resolution No. 9, 2005) and the City Council (Mayor and Council Members) adopted the Resolution of Support Nominating Eight Mile Road for Designation as a Michigan Heritage Route (Resolution No. 9, 2005), which was read and approved by the City Council, 26000 Southfield City Council, at the regular meeting, on May 9, 2005.

Attest: _____

City Clerk