

# **City of Gahanna**

*200 South Hamilton Road  
Gahanna, Ohio 43230*



## **Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, August 28, 2000**

**8:30 PM**

**Council Committee Rooms**

## **Committee of the Whole**

*Rebecca W. Stinchcomb, Chairman*

*Karen J. Angelou*

*Sherie James-Arnold*

*Michael O'Brien*

*L. Nicholas Hogan*

*Thomas R. Kneeland*

*Debra A. Payne, ex officio*

**Members Absent:** Sherie James-Arnold

**Members Present:** Debra A. Payne, Rebecca W. Stinchcomb, Thomas R. Kneeland, L. Nicholas Hogan, Karen J. Angelou and Michael O'Brien

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### **ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:**

Mayor, McGregor, Isobel Sherwood, Stacey Bashore, Tom Weber, Jerry Isler, Raleigh Mitchell, Sadicka White, Don Shepherd, Shane Reidel, John Humphries, Tracie Davies, John Dobbie; Press.

### **PENDING LEGISLATION**

#### **ORD-0199-2000**

TO CREATE THE FULL-TIME UNCLASSIFIED POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS; TO PROVIDE COMPENSATION THEREFORE; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY

**Recommended for Adoption, Consent**

### **ISSUES:**

#### **Warner Cable - Request for Franchise Extension - Mary Jo Green**

Mary Jo Green of Time Warner was present to address Council, and introduced Kim Charles, Manager Government Relations, and said she has been at Gahanna cable meetings. They are here to follow up on franchise questions. They requested a 5 year extension of the contract with the City of Gahanna. During the last 7 years Warner has made two updates in Gahanna; first to 550 MHz and then to 750 MHz. They have added Road Runner and Digital, and are now competing with Ameritech and satellite dishes. Green reminded that Ameritech did get a 15 year franchise. They are keeping the City informed with regular communications, including the Annual report and three special mailings a year, and they continue to support the Herb Festival and Concert Series. They have offered free Road Runner service to all schools in the Gahanna area. She continued to review programs sponsored by Time Warner, such as the Common Good, which is a contest where high school students are encouraged to do a project on public service; only 12 students were selected this year, three of them from the Columbus Division and one was from Gahanna; Christina Ayotte. Her teacher, Tom Gregory will also receive a TV and VCR for his part in advising Christina on the development of her project. Tom Gregory is also one of 15 teachers to serve on a Time Warner educational advisory committee; he frequently uses educational programming to teach students media literacy in his TV broadcasting classes.

Green related that their services keep expanding and will soon add ESPNNews, ONN and Toon Disney effective September 1st; coming soon will be Lifetime Movie Network. With the AOL merger there are many other exciting possibilities including instant messaging on TV.

O'Brien thanked Green for coming to Council and said in the past the City needed the franchise fee to fight for good service; he does not feel we need the franchise fee anymore, and he will be offering that to the Cable Advisory Board. Mayor said right-of-way is very expensive and we still need a way to recover some of that expense. Everyone expressed that Warner has delivered good service to Gahanna, and agreed to proceed with the contract extension.

Recommendation: 1st Reading, Consent; no need to come back to committee. .

### **Electric Aggregation**

Weber said he did file the ballot issue. Davies said she has received about 20 calls from people who would like to be consultants, and most of them have no clue what they are talking about. Council members expressed that they would be happy to use AMPO; felt presentation was very good and they have a good reputation. O'Brien said he has worked with AMPO for about 15 years, and we have everything to gain from working with them, they are an organization of complete integrity.

Davies said AMPO has submitted a Scope of Services (attached to the minutes and made a part hereof) for a total cost of \$7,500. Payne said she would like to get a quote from AMPO to do the marketing/publicity for the ballot issue. Davies will follow up on this.

Recommendation: 1st Reading, Consent; back to committee with new total.

**DONNA JERNIGAN, CMC/AE, Deputy Clerk of Council**