

**Elizabethtown Borough**  
**Public Hearing Regarding Cable Franchise Renewal**  
**October 17, 2019**  
**Minutes**

Attendance: Council members: J. Marc Hershey, William Troutman, Tom Shaud, Phil Clark, Jeff McCloud. Mayor Chuck Mummert. Staff: Borough Manager Roni Ryan, Assistant Manager Ann Roda, Public Works Director Jeff Kinsey, Planning & Zoning Manager Pam Roberts, and Chief of Police Ed Cunningham. Absent was Council member J. Neil Ketchum.

Council President Marc Hershey opened the public hearing at 7:00 PM.

Hershey announced that this is a public hearing of the Borough Council regarding cable franchise renewal for the Borough of Elizabethtown. He noted that this public hearing is held pursuant to Section 626 of the federal Cable Act, which sets forth the process for franchise renewal. He announced that the Borough's current franchise with Comcast will expire soon, and the Borough is beginning the process of renewing the franchise.

Hershey noted that this public hearing is part of the preliminary portion of franchise renewal in which the Borough reviews the cable operator's past performance and identifies the Borough's future cable-related community needs. He invited comments from any citizens who wish to speak regarding either or both of the aforementioned subjects.

Hershey also noted that franchise renewal is the best opportunity for municipalities to assert their rights with respect to their cable operator and to obtain important benefits in return for granting the cable operator the right to use their public rights-of-way. He outlined the benefits to include:

1. A State-of-the-Art Cable System now and in the future;
2. Strong Customer Service Standards;
3. Free Services to Community Facilities;
4. Better Reporting Requirements from the Cable Operators;
5. Maximized Franchise Fees;
6. Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) Channel(s);
7. PEG Capital Support Funding;
8. Legal Protections of the Rights-of-Way; and
9. Better Mechanisms to Enforce the Franchise Agreement.

Hershey noted that these are just some of the potential benefits available through franchise renewal and that citizens may address these items or any other cable-related items that are important to them.

Hershey then opened the hearing to citizen comments.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Borough Council Comment

Council member Bill Troutman commented that he prefers a shorter time period than fifteen (15) years of the agreement.

Council member Bill Troutman commented that he does not want the agreement to be exclusive, and that he does not want it to impact other cable providers.

Adjourn

There being no further comment, Borough Council closed the hearing at 7:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roni Ryan  
Borough Manager