

**City of Milpitas
Unapproved Minutes
Telecommunications Commission
July 21, 2008**

I. Call to Order & Roll Call:

Telecommunications Commission Vice Chair Dinesh Gupta called the meeting to order.

Members Present: N. Gupta, I. Munir, R. Shaw, D. Gupta, H. Tran, W. Lam, S. Ahuja Alt 2

I.S. Staff B. Marion, E. Pasion

Members Absent:

Excused: A. Alcorn, S. Bansal

City Council: A. Gomez

II. Pledge of Allegiance:

The members of the Commission recited the Pledge of the Allegiance.

III. Announcements:

No announcement made.

IV. Approval of the Agenda:

Motion to approve the agenda as submitted.

M/S N. Gupta / H. Tran Ayes: 7

**V. Approval of the Minutes
June 16, 2008:**

Commissioner N. Gupta noted that he was not present to make motions to items 4 and 5.

Motion to approve the minutes as amended.

M/S R. Shaw / H. Tran Ayes: 7

VI. Citizen's Forum:

No comments made for the record.

VII. New and Continued Business:

1. EarthLink Wi-Fi Update.

Bill Marion, director of the city's Information Services Department, provided an update, via telephone, involving the current status the Milpitas Wi-Fi network transition.

Staff has been working on reviewing two possible wireless providers that can operate a citywide wireless network.

VeriLoft is a paid subscriber WiFi service currently providing service in Pacifica and Half Moon Bay, California.

Silicon Valley Unwired, a non-profit venture of Google and iNet Solutions, is the second party interested in operating the WiFi network. This group would operate the wireless internet access as a free-use basis.

Feed back from the public leaned more towards a free access service versus a paid subscription service.

Staff is recommending that commission support drafting a agreement with Silicon Valley Unwired.

The commission asked of the level of support for the city-wide network. Staff noted that each provider had various levels of service to the network. Each would be providing a basic level of maintenance and upgrades to the wireless network over a period of time. Kurt Bohan commented that free access to internet should be a moral responsibility to provide the service to all citizens seeking WiFi internet access. The commission also asked if there has been any downsides of operating a free network, such as the Google-Mountain View WiFi network. Staff reported that the level of service provided for user help has been primarily online versus a paid subscriber service that would provide live technical support. However, Silicon Valley Unwired's plan of network expansion and equipment upgrades in the maintenance of the existing wireless network had it benefits in for the Milpitas wireless network.

Motion note, receipt and file the report and recommended to the city council that it support a contract agreement with Silicon Valley Unwired to support and operate a wireless internet network in the Milpitas area.

M/S D. Gupta / H. Tran Ayes: 6 No: 1

2. June 2008 Information Services Report

Staff reported on the monthly highlights for June 2008.

Staff reported that information services has been replacing it current inventory of Nextel cellular phones with a new service contract and new direct-connect radio phones that also have Blue-Tooth device connectivity.

Staff has implemented a card-key access system to the Public Works/Police department building as well as the city's refueling station.

Information Services has also been involved in the preliminary review of the new Senior Center proposed technology rollout.

It is currently working on establishing free Wi-Fi access at the city's Sports Center Complex, Community Center, Senior Center and in the City Hall Council Chambers through the city's network.

Staff is also working on the expanded coverage and use of the CRW online permitting system for the city's Public Works and Code Enforcement departments.

The city's GIS department has been working on improving on the details of the city's fire department and water system mapping information. GIS has updated information involving jet fuel service lines for local airport that were not previously documented.

Motion note, receipt and file the report

M/S D. Gupta / H. Tran Ayes: 7

3. MCTV Studio and Working Group.

Vice Chair D. Gupta reported that the working group met regarding participation on the growth of MCTV26.

He reported that formal filing of the of non-profit status has been applied with the State and the next goal will be to develop by-laws language for the non-profit.

Work continues to add more functionality to the MCTV26 website and training of volunteers has been successful. Staff noted that it has completed several additional programs to be added to the programming rotation. Commission Tran reiterated staff's active participation in assisting in the day-to-day operation of the studio. Staff noted that it has been assisted by Kurt Bohan in the weekly studio usage.

Motion to note, receipt and file.

M/S H. Tran / W. Lam Ayes: 7

4. Roundtable Discussion

Commissioner Ahuja asked if there were any public outreach regarding the February 19, 2009 analog to digital transition television signal conversion.

Staff reported that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has been aggressively promoting the fact that on February 17, 2009, all over-the-air analog television signal transmissions will cease operations and move to an all digital over-the-air broadcast.

This primarily concerns television consumers currently using traditional antennas to received local over-the-air television signals. These consumers must purchase a digital set-top converter box in order to receive the new digital television signal. Since late 2007 the FCC has instituted a program whereby consumers can register for a discount credit card that would

allow for the purchase of a digital converted box from local electronics retailers. This would give the ability to receive the new over-the-air digital signal with no interruption of service after the February 19, 2009 start date.

Cable services providers, such as Comcast and AT&T U-Verse, have already installed equipment in their infrastructure convert the digital signal before it reaches the subscribers. They have started their own customer out reach assuring subscribers that the digital signal transition will not have any effect on the current services that they provide.

VIII. Adjournment of Meeting:

Meeting adjourned to August 18, 2008 commission meeting.