

**Minutes
Flatonia City Council
Regular Meeting
October 12, 2004**

Present:

Mayor	Lori Berger
Councilpersons	Carlene Carlock Robert Bizzell Steve Morrill Len Waska
City Staff	Robert Wood – City Manager Melissa Brunner – City Secretary Leonard Cox – Police Chief Gregory Robinson – Code Enforcement Officer

Opening Agenda:

Call to Order Mayor Berger called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Citizen's Participation

Bryan Milson spoke to the City Council about the condition of Garbade Lane. Regina Lighteard addressed the City Council in regards to the May 2004 Flatonia Municipal Election.

Reports:

Mayor's Activity Report

Mayor Berger had nothing to report.

Council Members' Activity Reports

None of the Councilmembers had anything they wished to report

Police Chief's Report Chief Cox presented the activity report for the month of September 2004. He further reported that Officer Rudloff should be able to return to work this month.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Wood reminded Council of the grant they had assisted the Chamber of Commerce with through Texas Yes. The Chamber did receive the grant and currently has the logo on all of the Czhilispiel advertising. He further reminded Czhilispiel was coming up and the city crew was busy helping to get the City ready. Wood also told the Council that all of the council members are invited to attend the Office of Rural Community Affairs meeting where the City will be presented with a photo-op check for a grant received from them that will be used to replace water lines. Wood also reminded all council members who were planning on attending the Texas

Municipal League conference that it is also at the end of the month. City Manager Wood and Mayor Berger met with some Union Pacific officials and they seem to be interested in resolving some of the issues with their property in town not being taken care of. Berger and Wood also discussed the concerns of the speed of trains that go through Flatonia. Berger and Wood also asked about the upgrades to the railroad crossings that had been discussed at an earlier council meeting that would help alleviate the "horn" problems that we have with the railroad and both are so expensive that they are both very expensive and would become the responsibility of the City.

Planning and Zoning Commission Report

There was nothing to report this month.

Economic Development

There was nothing to report this month.

Public Hearing opened at 6:18 p.m.

PH9-1. Many members of the community were in attendance to discuss their concerns in regards to the cable television available in Flatonia. Roberto Montalvo the Area General Manager of this area and John Adams the Manager for this specific area were in attendance from Cebridge Communications.

Kathryn Geesaman asked when high speed internet would be available through Cebridge Connections. She is interested in this for her hotel. Montalvo stated that Flatonia will be in the second phase when the high speed internet begins to be incorporated into their programming. She further asked about whether Fox News might be offered. Montalvo stated that he would have to check into that.

Paula Krametbauer questioned Montalvo about the cost of the cable here versus what is paid by a relative of hers in Houston. Her relative gets a lot more services for only a small amount more. Why are the services here so little when we pay the same as others? She gets no answers from the service people when she calls. Montalvo responded that the "density" of home per mile of the service area out here makes it less cost effective to have the services offered in Houston. Mrs. Krametbauer stated that the competition is satellite service here in town and that the cable company needs to upgrade services here in order to increase the "density" of home per mile.

Wilma Faltisek she loves Cebridge because she can get the Houston channel. She is not happy with the reception for Channel 26 out of Houston. She was told that the wiring in the office here in town has to

be re-done and it will be done in the next month and that should improve the reception.

Edwin Zapalac asked the price for hooking up four televisions in his home. Mr. Adams stated that he will check on the new prices and get back to the people of Flatonia.

Bryan Milson complained that any wind causes the loss of at least half of his channels. He replaced the line from his house to the pole. He asked why he should stay with Cebridge versus going with a satellite service. Montalvo responded that he would have maintenance look at his service the next week. Montalvo stated that he should stay with Cebridge because they give back to the community. Milson further stated that he has had to spend money "fixing" a problem that is not actually his problem. Mr. Milson asked about the pricing versus the number of channels, specifically in comparison to Bastrop.

Leonard Barta stated that the service technician has disconnected his service several times when he was supposed to be disconnecting someone else. The technician stated that he should just tell the Cebridge office not to bill him for that time. Mr. Adams stated that he should call him and the cable will be fixed immediately. He further stated that he has had to do his own repairs because the technician does not seem to realize what the real problem is. Montalvo stated that all of the technicians were going for more training since they have taken over the cable service. Montalvo further stated that Cebridge is trying to change the way the company has been operated in the past because that is no way to operate a business.

Lori Berger asked how long Cebridge has been in business. Cebridge officially came into being in February of 2004. This is a new business that Charter Communication came up with that is all new management. Berger further stated that the only time we saw anyone from Classic Cable and now from Cebridge is when it was/is time to renew the contract. She stated that she thinks that people are so disgusted with the service that was here and we can't get a for sure answer of when things are going to be fixed or upgraded. Montalvo stated that they will try to make their faces a little more well-known in town.

Sharon Schaefer stated that every time she called about a problem with her service, she was told that it was the "sun spots". She has been promised a \$5.00 credit "about 200 times". Mrs. Schaefer also stated that Bloomington gets a lot more channels for only \$34.95.

Mr. Adams stated that Bastrop does get more channels.

Ervan Zouzalik sent a letter in regarding his concerns with the cable service in Flatonia. He stated that there are quite a few Catholic persons in Flatonia and he asked if the EWTN channel could be

provided in the basic package to serve the Catholic community. He stated that the satellite channels that he has are far superior in quality to the cable channels.

- PH9-2. City Manager Wood stated that Mr. Jasek wants to add on to an existing home that is already too close to the property line as per the current set-back requirements. Wood read the responses from persons within 300 feet of the property in question. Everyone who responded was in favor of the variance. Mr. Jasek spoke about the changes he was looking at making to the home and the property.

Closed at 7:14 p.m.

Deliberation Agenda – opened at 7:15 p.m.

- 10-1. Steve Morrill motioned to approve the request from Donald Jasek for a variance at 119 Middle Street. Len Waska seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion carried.
- 10-2. No action was taken on the renewal of the cable television franchise agreement with Cebridge Communications.

Council took a break from 7:20 p.m. until 7:32 p.m.

- 10-3. Steve Morrill motioned to approve the changes to the playscape bid from Gametime. Carlene Carlock seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion carried.
- 10-4. Steve Morrill motioned to authorize the City Manager to negotiate the contract with Colorado Fayette Medical Center for the lease of antenna space on the City of Flatonia Water Tower. Len Waska seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion carried.
- 10-5. Steve Morrill motioned to authorize the City Manager to sign an agreement with MBIA Muniservices Company. Len Waska seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion carried.
- 10-6. Steve Morrill motioned to accept the bid from La Grange Ford for a 2005 Crown Victoria at \$20,782 for a new police vehicle. Len Waska seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion carried.
- 10-7. Steve Morrill motioned to authorize the City Manager to go out for bids on the sale and removal all four of the former rent houses on Garbade Lane. Carlene Carlock seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion carried.
- 10-8. Steve Morrill motioned to authorize the City Attorney to proceed with the City's motion for sanctions in regards to the Regina Renee Lighteard vs. the City of Flatonia lawsuit. Len Waska seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Signed

Lori Berger
Mayor

Attest

Melissa Brunner, TRMC
City Secretary

Approved this 9th day of November, 2004.