

Tricia Thigpen

From: Cindy Russell <crussell@gautier-ms.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2015 9:00 AM
To: tthigpen@gautier-ms.gov
Subject: FW: Public Hearing
Attachments: Invitation to Public Hearing Letter Gautier MS.doc; Notice of Public Hearing City of Gautier MS.doc; SAMPLE PUBLIC HEARING STATEMENT Gautier.doc

Tricia, please schedule to advertise public hearing for December 1st. See below.

From: Greg Fender [<mailto:ghfender@windstream.net>]
Sent: Friday, October 23, 2015 11:28 AM
To: 'Samantha'
Subject: Public Hearing

Hello Samantha,

I hope you are doing well. I am attaching for your review a public hearing package where we are recommending the City hold a public hearing regarding Cable One's request to renew their franchise with the City. I am contemplating you asking the Council to set the hearing date for December 1st at your meeting scheduled for November the 3rd that is why I dated the invitation letter for the 4th the day after the meeting. Please print that letter on your letterhead and send to Cable One via email and regular mail. Federal Law encourages cities to receive public input on franchise renewals. A public hearing is one method of doing so. We normally don't attend public hearings to help hold down cost and provide a sample statement the Mayor can read to start the hearing. We primarily need the minutes from the meeting. The more public input we have the better. Also, please advertise the notice of public hearing which is attached.

Please send me a copy of your signed letter for my files and let me know if you have any questions. Also, I still need a list of the buildings along with addresses where the City would like free cable service provided. Look forward to hearing from you.

Greg Fender
Local Government Services
127 Laurelwood Lane
Dahlonega, GA 30533
706-482-9933
706-482-9934 (Fax)
404-375-7084 (Mobile)

November 4, 2015

**VIA E-MAIL (Charlie.Oakes@cableone.biz)
AND U.S. MAIL**

Mr. Charlie Oaks
Cable One
General Manager
5100 Macphelah Rd.
Pascagoula, MS 39567

Dear Mr. Oaks:

The City of Gautier is planning on holding a public hearing regarding Cable One's request to renew its franchise on December 1, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at Gautier City Hall. We would like to extend an invitation to you or a representative from Cable One to plan on attending and briefing the City Council and citizens in attendance on your company's future plans to provide cable services in Gautier. It will be particularly helpful to learn about any plans to upgrade the system.

We would also appreciate your assistance in advertising the hearing. Should you have any questions or desire additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (228) 497-8000. I look forward to seeing you.

Sincerely,

Samantha D. Abell
City Manager

CC: Greg Fender, President, Local Government Services, LLC

Enc.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF GAUTIER
CABLE TELEVISION FRANCHISE RENEWAL**

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Gautier, Mississippi at its regular meeting on, December 1, 2015 beginning at 6:30 p.m., at City Hall council room located at 3330 Hwy.90.

The City Council will use this hearing to assess the past performance of Cable One and to determine the future cable-related community needs of the City of Gautier. This hearing will help determine the number of channels that are available, reception quality, availability of high-speed Internet service, quality of customer service, local community programming and other issues of public interest.

The City Council welcomes the public's participation in this process. Comments may also be submitted in writing to:

Attn: Ms. Cynthia L. Russell
City Clerk
3330 Highway 90
Gautier, MS 39553
gautier@gautier-ms.gov

**SAMPLE PUBLIC HEARING STATEMENT
FOR THE CITY OF GAUTIER**

The Mayor or whoever presides over the public hearing for the City should welcome everyone who has attended and explain the purpose of the meeting is to receive public comments regarding the performance of Cable One, and for the Council to learn more about the community's interest in cable television services. The Mayor should recognize certain guest such as Mr. Charlie Oakes, General Manager with Cable One. The Mayor could then read the following three paragraphs.

This public hearing is being conducted pursuant to the Cable Act of 1984, particularly Section 626 of the Cable Act, which requires an opportunity for the public to comment about the cable franchise renewal. The ascertainment process that's laid out in the cable act includes really two major points to review. One is the past performance of the cable operator and the second is the future cable-related community needs of the City of Gautier.

In respect to the future cable-related needs of the community, they could include a whole host of issues. For example, one could be the possible upgrade of this cable system and that includes everything from the channel capacity of the system to the quality of the reception you receive. Secondly, customer service, which could include from how long you have to wait on the telephone to talk with a company representative to late fees. These are just examples of some of the issues that may arise during the franchise renewal process. Please don't limit yourself to these issues if there are others that concern you. Also, please understand, if your comments are related to rates or programming preferences, these are areas the City has limited control of.

Unless there are remarks from Council members, I would like to ask Mr. Oakes from Cable One to make a presentation about what Cable One's plans are with respect to the franchise renewal and their future plans to provide cable services to the City of Gautier. Following Mr. Oakes's comments we would like to have citizens come up and comment about any issue that is important to them. (Note: please ask each person that comments to state for the record their name, occupation and address).