

MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING
RESOLUTION NO. 31-17
MARCH 20, 2017 – 6:30 P.M.

RESOLUTION NO. 31-17 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER
TO AMEND THE RENEWAL CABLE TELEVISION FRANCHISE
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH AND
COMCAST OF MAINE/NEW HAMPSHIRE, INC.

Mayor Hilliard opened the public hearing at 6:35 p.m.

City Attorney Katherine B. Miller addressed the Council and recounted the process the City has gone through. The last agreement was a very solid agreement for 5 years. All specific requirements are being met by Comcast. The City has no jurisdiction over the rates or the area where we get our service from. The City has done its due diligence, and the best steps for the City would be to amend the current agreement to extend the termination date out for another 5 years. We are in very good shape for the next few years.

Councilor Witham stated that one part of the agreements allows the city to assess a small fee. Attorney Miller said that is correct. The fee is for the public right of way. It is essentially like rent.

Councilor Soldati asked how we are doing in comparison to other cities of our size. Attorney Miller said we are excellent. Each cable company is a little different. She explained how the use of the utility poles is now different than what it used to be and how that affects the cost of cable.

There being no further comments from Council or the public, Mayor Hilliard closed the public hearing at 6:40 p.m.

Trish Harris, City Clerk

Dana s. Hilliard, Mayor