

Councillor Crane at this time questioned who has the right pursuant to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 116A to award the franchise in view of a conflicting section of the City Charter, and requested a report from the City Solicitor.

At this time Mr. John Commerford, an investment banker from Boston stated that the Committee and the City Manager should consider the possibility of cooperative ownership of cable which would allow for local control and would also pay taxes to the City.

At this time Councillor Crane submitted the following motion:-

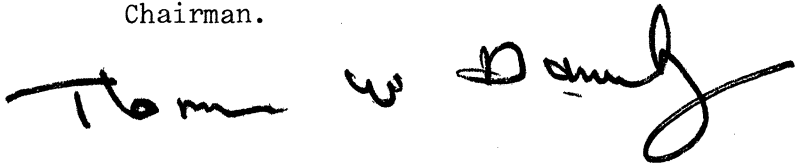
ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to take the appropriate steps to engage the necessary individuals to conduct a construction feasibility study as soon as possible.

The motion was approved by those committee members present on a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

For the Committee,

Councillor Thomas W. Danehy,
Chairman.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas W. Danehy", written in a cursive style.

City of Cambridge

In City Council.....February 23, 1981

The Public Service

Committee

to which

was referred the report of the City Manager's Cable Television Advisory Committee, held a public hearing on said report, Wednesday, February 11, 1981 beginning at 6:15 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall

Councillor Danehy opened the hearing by stating this would be an informational hearing to review the report of the Committee and he requested Mr. Joseph Sakey, Chairman of the Cable Television Committee to come forward to make a presentation.

At this time, Mr. Sakey reviewed the work of the eleven member Committee over the past several months including the fact they had conferred with approximately 25 individuals who were knowledgeable in the field of Cable Television. He further stated that it is his belief and that of the Committee that Cable Television will be one of the most important technological advancement in modern history. Mr. Sakey further stated the Committee believed it was important because of the historically poor track record of private ownership to maintain municipal control of the cable operation.

At this time, Councillor Vellucci questioned the time frame involved between the franchise award and installation. Mr. Sakey responded by stating that both a construction feasibility study and a municipal feasibility study must be done prior to awarding a franchise, but both studies could be done by the end of 1981.

At this time City Manager Sullivan stated his praise for Mr. Sakey and his Committee for a job well done, and further that he had agreed with Mr. Sakey that once the Council Committee has met, he would take steps to initiate the construction feasibility study. He further stated there was a statute which allows cities which have a light company located within it to make it the authority for operating the cable.

Mr. Sakey stated that the construction study would review the 130 miles of streets within Cambridge and the study would determine type of construction needed to actually lay the cable. He stated 30 cities across the country have cable already and that another 20 are seriously reviewing its' installation.

REPORT

Committee on Public Service for
meeting held on Feb. 11, 1981
re: report of the City Manager's
Cable Television Advisory Committee.

In City Council,

Feb. 23, 1981

2/23/81

Report Received-

Referred to the
City Manager for
action

copy sent to City mgr. 2/24/81
(dl)