

CITY OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

AGENDA # 7

A G E N D A R E P O R T

DATE July 16, 2002

ITEM Ordinance 2829, Amending Ordinance 2620 pertaining to a franchise agreement with TCI Cablevision.

INITIATED BY TCI Cablevision (AT&T Broadband)

ACTION REQUESTED Adopt Ordinance 2829 on he final reading

PRESENTED BY Peggy J. Bourne, City Clerk/Records Manager

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RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended the City Commission adopt Ordinance 2829 on final reading.

MOTION: I move the City Commission adopt Ordinance 2829.

SYNOPSIS: TCI Cablevision (AT&T Broadband) requested the City to formally accept the assignment of the franchise agreement from TCI to Bresnan Communications Inc. State statute requires that franchise agreements be acted upon by ordinance. Ordinance 2829 was written to accommodate TCI's request formally amending Ordinance 2620.

BACKGROUND: In 1983, the Great Falls City Commission adopted Ordinance 2303 establishing a franchise agreement with Group W Cable Company. In 1991, a new franchise agreement with TCI was approved. It provided for a 27 year term at the request of TCI. TCI was about to rebuild the cable system in Great Falls to include a fiber backbone in the cable television infrastructure. The City receives 5% of TCI's gross revenues as compensation from TCI for unlimited use of the City's rights-of-way and easements. It is not anticipated that the assignment of the franchise agreement to Bresnan Communications will negatively affect the franchise fees collected nor impact the level of cable service offered within the City of Great Falls.