

MILFORD CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
October 25, 2010

A Meeting of Milford City Council was held in the Joseph Ronnie Rogers Council Chambers at Milford City Hall on Monday, October 25, 2010.

PRESIDING: Honorable Mayor Joseph Ronnie Rogers

IN ATTENDANCE: Councilpersons Steve Johnson, Garrett Grier III, S. Allen Pikus, Jason Adkins, Owen Brooks, Jr., Douglas Morrow, James Starling, Sr. and Katrina Wilson

ALSO: City Manager David Baird, Police Lieutenant Steven Rust and City Clerk/Recorder Terri Hudson

COUNSEL: City Solicitor Timothy Willard

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rogers called the Council Meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

The Pledge of Allegiance followed the invocation given by Councilman Starling.

COMMUNICATIONS

Nothing new to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Downtown Delaware Awards

Mayor Rogers recalled at the last meeting he announced that Milford had received four of the eight 2010 Downtown Delaware awards at the Delaware-Maryland Downtown Revitalization Conference in Rehoboth.

George Carroll and Chuck Stanko, owners of Dolce Coffee and Bakery, won the award for Outstanding Main Street Merchant; the Bug and Bud festival won an award for Best Special Event; and Scott Angelucci won the award for the Best Façade Improvement Over \$10,000 for the new Riverwalk Center for the Arts.

He reported that Gary Emory, Director of the City of Milford Parks and Recreation Department, won the award for Main Street Champion for his volunteer efforts downtown. Because Mr. Emory was out of state at the time the awards were presented, Mayor Rogers accepted on his behalf.

Mayor Rogers then presented the plaque to Mr. Emory, who was in attendance.

Delaware Main Street
“Main Street Champion”
Downtown Milford Improvements 2010

Mr. Emory stated that this is the result of the partnership with DMI, Chamber of Commerce and Milford Museum. He accepted the award on behalf of the entire parks and recreation department noting it is a team effort.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Rogers advised that Ordinance 2010-17, 2010-18 and 2010-19 are being officially introduced as was discussed at the October 11, 2010.

The mayor recalled council previously approving some incentives with the hope of attracting interest in new construction which would have a positive long term impact within the city. The ordinances allow the sewer, water and electric impact fees be waived by extending the current deadline of December 31, 2010 until June 30, 2011.

City Manager Baird reported that there has been \$101,000 waived which has been retained by the business community for reinvestment. The \$101,000 investment has generated \$5.7 million in activity through building permits. He plans to provide updated numbers at the November 8th council meeting.

Introduction of Ordinance 2010-17/Sewer Impact Fees/Waiver Extended

ORDINANCE 2010-17

WHEREAS, the City continues to encourage the building of residential and commercial structures within the City limits; and

WHEREAS, the waiver of impact fees authorized by Ordinance 2010-8 led to more projects being launched; and

WHEREAS, City Council has learned that building permit values increased in July and August 2010 when compared to the same period in 2009; and

WHEREAS, to further stimulate the local economy, it is in the City of Milford's best interest to extend for an additional six months the waiver of sewer impact fees.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF MILFORD HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. Chapter 185 of the Code of the City of Milford, entitled Sewers, Article III §24 Impact Fee Established, §185-24-D shall be amended by extending the deadline from December 31, 2010 to June 30, 2011 as follows:

§185-24 D. The sewer impact fee described in §185-24C shall be waived for all permits issued between June 3, 2010 and ~~December 31, 2010~~ **JUNE 30, 2011**. The waiver shall be for a maximum of 5 EDUs per project. The City will continue to collect the impact fee charged by Kent County during this period.

Section 2. Chapter 185 of the Code of the City of Milford, §185-24-D(1) and §185-24-D(1) shall remain in effect until the extended deadline of June 30, 2011:

§185-24 D (1) To qualify for the impact fee waiver, construction must be completed and a certificate of occupancy received in accordance with the following schedule:

Single Family Residential	6 Months
Multi Family Residential	12 Months
Commercial	12 Months

§185-24 D (2) Any structure that does not receive a certificate of occupancy in accordance with this schedule shall be ineligible for the impact fee waiver and shall pay the required impact fee in full prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy.

Section 3. Dates

Introduction to City Council—October 25, 2010

Projected Adoption by City Council—November 8, 2010

Projected Effective Date—January 1, 2011 - June 30, 2011

Introduction of Ordinance 2010-18/Water Impact Fees/Waiver Extended

ORDINANCE 2010-18

WHEREAS, the City continues to encourage the building of residential and commercial structures within the City limits; and

WHEREAS, the waiver of impact fees authorized by Ordinance 2010-9 led to more projects being launched; and

WHEREAS, City Council has learned that building permit values increased in July and August 2010 when compared to the same period in 2009; and

WHEREAS, to further stimulate the local economy, it is in the City of Milford’s best interest to extend for an additional six months the waiver of water impact fees.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF MILFORD HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. Chapter 222 §31 of the Code of the City of Milford, entitled Water, shall be amended by extending the deadline from December 31, 2010 to June 30, 2011 as follows:

§222-31 I. The water impact fee described in §222-31H shall be waived for all permits issued between June 3, 2010 and ~~December 31, 2010~~ **JUNE 30, 2011**. The waiver shall be for a maximum of 5 EDUs per project.

Section 2. Chapter 222 of the Code of the City of Milford, §222-31-I (1) and §222-31-I (2) shall remain in effect until the extended deadline of June 30, 2011:

§222-31 I. (1) To qualify for the impact fee waiver, construction must be completed and a certificate of occupancy received in accordance with the following schedule:

Single Family Residential	6 Months
Multi Family Residential	12 Months
Commercial	12 Months

§222-31 I. (2) Any structure that does not receive a certificate of occupancy in accordance with this schedule shall be ineligible for the impact fee waiver and shall pay the required impact fee in full prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy.

Section 3. Dates

Introduction to City Council—October 25, 2010

Projected Adoption by City Council—November 8, 2010

Projected Effective Date—January 1, 2011 - June 30, 2011

Introduction of Ordinance 2010-19/Electric Impact Fees/Waiver Extended

ORDINANCE 2010-19

WHEREAS, the City continues to encourage the building of residential and commercial structures within the City limits; and

WHEREAS, the waiver of impact fees authorized by Ordinance 2010-10 led to more projects being launched; and

WHEREAS, City Council has learned that building permit values increased in July and August 2010 when compared to the same period in 2009; and

WHEREAS, to further stimulate the local economy, it is in the City of Milford's best interest to extend for an additional six months the waiver of water impact fees.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF MILFORD HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. Chapter 119 of the Code of the City of Milford, entitled Electrical Standards, shall be amended by extending the deadline for the waiver of Electric Impact Fees as follows:

The electric impact fee established under this Chapter shall be waived for all permits issued between January 1, 2011 and ~~December 31, 2010~~ **JUNE 30, 2011.**

Section 2. The following sections of Chapter 119 of the Code of the City of Milford shall remain in effect until the extended deadline of June 30, 2011:

To qualify for the impact fee waiver, construction must be completed and a certificate of occupancy received in accordance with the following schedule:

Single Family Residential	6 Months
Multi Family Residential	12 Months
Commercial	12 Months

Any structure that does not receive a certificate of occupancy in accordance with this schedule shall be ineligible for the impact fee waiver and shall pay the required impact fee in full prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy.

Section 3. Dates

Introduction to City Council—October 25, 2010

Projected Adoption by City Council—November 8, 2010

Projected Effective Date—November 18, 2010 - June 30, 2011

ADJOURN

Mr. Pikus moved to adjourn the council meeting, seconded by Mr. Brooks. Motion carried.

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Terri K. Hudson, CMC
City Clerk

MILFORD CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
October 25, 2010

The Milford City Council met in Workshop Session on Monday, October 25, 2010 in the Joseph Ronnie Rogers Council Chambers of Milford City Hall, 201 South Walnut Street, Milford, Delaware.

PRESIDING: Honorable Mayor Joseph Ronnie Rogers

IN ATTENDANCE: Councilpersons Steve Johnson, Garrett Grier III, S. Allen Pikus, Jason Adkins, Owen Brooks, Jr., Douglas Morrow, James Starling, Sr. and Katrina Wilson

ALSO: City Manager David Baird, Police Lieutenant Steven Rust and City Clerk/Recorder Terri Hudson

COUNSEL: City Solicitor Timothy Willard

The Workshop Session convened at 7:17 p.m.

Carlisle Fire Company/Chair John Watson/Life Safety Rings Program/Mispillion River

John Watson presented the following Power Point Presentation to City Council:

IN MEMORY OF DEE'JION M. FULLMAN
SPONSORED BY
CARLISLE FIRE COMPANY INC.

ON AUGUST 16TH, 2010 A YOUNG BOY DEEJION FULLMAN LOST HIS LIFE WHILE PLAYING BASKETBALL AT THE BASKETBALL COURT DOWNTOWN. MR. FULLMAN HAD WENT IN TO THE WATER TO RETRIEVE HIS BASKETBALL AND NEVER RETURNED HOME. AFTER SEVERAL FAILED ATTEMPTS OF BYSTANDERS TO SAVE MR. FULLMAN, 911 WAS ACTIVATED. MR. FULLMAN'S BODY WAS LATER RECOVERED BUT IT WAS TOO LATE. AS A RESULT, THE MEMBERS OF CARLISLE FIRE DEPT. MADE THE DECISION TO ASSEMBLE A COMMITTEE TO MAKE THE RIVERWALK A SAFER PLACE FOR OUR CITIZENS.

DROWNING STATISTICS IN DELAWARE:

*EACH DAY IN THE UNITED STATES, NINE PEOPLE DROWN;

*FOR EACH DEATH CAUSED BY DROWNING, THERE ARE 1-4 NONFATAL SUBMERSION ACCIDENTS SERIOUS ENOUGH FOR THE VICTIM TO BE HOSPITALIZED;

*IN NEARLY 9 OUT OF 10 CHILD-DROWNING DEATHS, A PARENT OR CAREGIVER CLAIMED TO BE WATCHING THE CHILD;

*BASED ON RECENT STUDIES FROM THE DELAWARE HEALTH STATISTICS CENTER IN 2007, ACCIDENTAL DEATHS RANKED #5 IN THE TOP TEN LIST FOR LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH; ACCIDENTAL DROWNING AND SUBMERSIONS WERE 3 PERCENT OF THIS TOTAL.

The Committee

*THE COMMITTEE IS COMPOSED OF SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE CARLISLE FIRE COMPANY;

*ALL OF WHICH COME FROM DIFFERENT BACK GROUNDS AND PROFESSIONAL CAREERS;

*ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE COMPASSIONATE ABOUT WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY AND TARGET GOAL IS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY.

Goals of the Committee

- *TO PROVIDE LIFE RING STATIONS ALONG THE RIVER WALK AND AREAS OF CONCERN;
- *TO SECURE FUNDING FOR THE PROJECT THROUGH DONATIONS, GRANTS, ETC.;
- *TO PROVIDE THE CITIZENS OF THE CITY WITH WATER SAFETY INFORMATION.

How We are Going to be Successful

- *SECURE ADEQUATE PROJECT FUNDING TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE PROJECT;
- *PUT LIFE RING STATIONS IN AREAS OF CONCERN WITH THE ABILITY TO MAINTAIN THEM IN THE FUTURE YEARS TO COME;
- *WORK WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES, ORGANIZATIONS, ENTREPRENEURS, MILFORD PARKS AND REC AND THE MILFORD CITY COUNCIL;
- *HAVE PROJECT-SPECIFIC FUND RAISERS;
- *CONTACT LOCAL NEWS MEDIA;
- *OPEN A PROJECT SPECIFIC ACCOUNT FOR DONATIONS AND ONE TIME SCHOLARSHIP OFFERED IN MEMORY OF DEE'JION M. FULLMAN;
- *LOOKING AT AN ANTICIPATED PROJECT COMPLETION DATE IN EARLY SPRING 2011

WHAT ARE LIFE RING STATIONS?

THEY ARE STATION'S THAT HAVE A LIFE RING AND 90 FEET OF ROPE THAT CAN BE THROWN TO A DROWNING VICTIM TO ATTEMPT TO BRING THEM TO SAFETY

EXAMPLE OF LIFE SAFETY RINGS TO BE INSTALLED IN COMMUNITY

WHERE WOULD WE INSTALL THE STATIONS?

- *THE MILFORD POLICE STATION BOAT RAMP
- *GOAT ISLAND BRIDGE
- *ALL BRIDGES ALONG THE RIVER WALK
- *SILVER LAKE
- *SPILLWAY AT OLD MASTENS LUMBER YARD
- *HAVEN LAKE BOAT RAMP
- *WHEREVER A BUSINESS OR ENTREPRENEUR WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR ONE

HOW DO YOU SPONSOR A STATION?

- *CONTACT THE COMMITTEE;
- *LET THEM KNOW YOU OR YOUR BUSINESS WANTS TO SPONSOR A STATION
- *LET US KNOW WHERE YOU WANT IT
- *COMPLETE PROPER DONATION DOCUMENTATION
- *MAKE A DONATION FOR THE FULL PRICE
- *THE COMMITTEE WILL HAVE IT INSTALLED AND RECOGNIZE YOUR DONATION WITH A MOUNTED PLAQUE (businesses that want to donate the entire station).

THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE CARLISLE FIRE COMPANY WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE MILFORD CITY COUNCIL AND THE CITIZENS OF MILFORD FOR THEIR TIME AND SUPPORT IN OUR FUTURE PROJECT.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

JOHN WATSON, CHAIRMAN

BRENNON FOUNTAIN
DORIAN BENNETT
FRANKLIN FOUNTAIN
KEVIN PETTYJOHN
THOMAS DRUMMOND
ALEX INGRAM
ROBERT CAIOLA
MICHAEL LOVE
RICK DEPUTY
RICHARD "BUTCH" COMSTOCK

Mr. Watson advised the committee walked the Riverwalk last Tuesday night and found some additional areas of concern. They still have some questions about where the stations should be placed. There is some concern about the distance between the bridges noting the original plan was to place them at each bridge.

Mr. Pikus asked the cost. Mr. Watson provided the following fees:

Cabinet with life ring and 90 foot of rope, audible alarm (battery operated)...\$439.00 plus the costs of adding your name to a plaque for those that sponsor an entire station.

When asked how the alarm works, Mr. Watson advised that once the glass is broken and the door is opened, the audible alarm will sound.

Mr. Watson reported that the 30-inch life ring is the best option and can fit a small child up to a fairly decent sized adult. They can be placed on a pole or mounted to a railing, block wall, etc. One is ordered which Mr. Watson offered to bring it back for council to see after it arrives.

Carlisle Fire Company will purchase the first station and have it installed in the area of the basketball court. A brick podium will be built and a plaque added in memory of Dee'Jion.

Mr. Starling referenced the scholarship mentioned and asked if that ties in with the swimming scholarships being offered to children unable to swim. Mr. Watson advised they are hoping that any donations left over after this project is completed will be incorporated into a one-time scholarship for a student that graduates Dee-Jion's graduation year though they are still working on specific details.

Parks and Recreation Director Gary Emory was present and added that his department offers swim lessons throughout the year. The Boys and Girls Club and Parks and Recreation will be offering scholarships for swimming lessons for disadvantaged students. He said the Boys and Girls Club came up with the proposal for a member of their club, but instead they decided it should be offered to the entire school district in the name of Dee'Jion Fullman.

Mr. Watson advised their original plan was for eight stations from Silver Lake to Goat Island. They are hoping to get enough funding to place them in other areas, one of which will be the Pop Warner Field next to Marshall Pond. He added that anyone who wished to place one in a specific location could do so by sponsoring a station.

Mr. Pikus gave his blessing for the project and suggested the city purchase a station. Mayor Rogers agreed adding the city is 100% supportive of the project and is confident the community will back it as well. Mr. Starling added that in addition, individual council members should partner and purchase a station by divvying up the costs.

The mayor then complimented the fire department on their efforts with this project and thanked them for the work and hours they put in away from their families.

Mr. Kenton said that mayor and council agreed to allow them to make those changes.

He then invited everyone to their annual Christmas Party on December 6th from 2-4 p.m. though an official invitation will follow.

He concluded by saying they appreciate the help they get from the council noting that Councilman Pikus, Adkins and Grier were involved in a couple of historic operations around town and were thinking about possibly coming under the auspices of the Commission of Landmarks though they decided to go it alone. They are thrilled the city is willing to help them noting the taxpayers are basically helping them to pay for about half of their expenses. The balance of the money is raised through projects.

Mr. Kenton said they contemplated becoming a department in the city, but realized they were not close enough to a city department to do that and the 501(c)(3) was already in place. He feels changing the name will work out and wanted council to be aware of what they are doing.

Comcast Update/Thomas Worley/Director Government Regulatory Affairs

Mr. Worley provided council with the following update on current and future Comcast services:

As many will remember, back in the 90's we were primarily a basic video company with a 65-plus channel line and a fledgling new service called high speed internet. In 1996, we began investing billions of dollars in our nationwide cable. To date, this investment in Delaware, including Milford, totals over \$300 million. The benefits of the investment are very clear. We have dramatically increased our video offerings, while at the same time, improved the picture and audio quality of those services creating new viewing option such as video on demand and digital video recorders. We have significantly increased our internet speeds, have added new product lines like telephone and Comcast Highspeed 2Go. We are also beginning to make these products more mobile under the concept of accessing them anytime anywhere.

Today, we offer over 400 channels with the vast majority in a digital format with superior picture quality and sound. Of these channels, many are high definition, offering close to 50. We are on the cutting edge of channel programming delivery—3D. We were the first company in the nation to offer 3D programming.

Comcast has a digital guide which projects out seven days and allows you to look up programs on any channel with a brief description.

We have video on demand which is one of our more popular services. Back in the 90's, customers had to call a telephone number to order a movie and there were only three or four choices on five or six channels. Today we have over 13,000 on demand video choices.

We also have digital video recorder which is a very popular feature and allows a customer to stop, pause or record something anytime, as well as run backwards and forwards. This allows you to watch what you want when you want.

Back in the 90's, the internet download was at 1.5 megabytes. Today in Milford it is 50 megabytes with a 10 megabytes upload speed. The higher speeds are called wideband. With our internet service, we offer the Comcast.net ISP with the Norton Security Suite at no additional charge. A lot of people do not realize that Comcast has one of the largest ISP's in the nation.

We also have a Comcast security website called the Comcast Security Channel to assist families as they struggle to protect their identities, children and digital assets when using the internet.

They also have a program when they go out and meet with groups. I am meeting with a Foster Parent Group in Georgetown on Wednesday night to talk about ways to assist them in protecting their foster children when they are on line.

They are also in telephone service now as they were back in the 90's. Comcast Digital Voice is an innovative and reliable IP-enabled home phone service that delivers all of the functions of traditional phone service, plus enhanced features that are integrated with other Comcast services. Comcast Digital Voice offers digital-quality phone service with unlimited direct-dial local and domestic long-distance calling. We offer web access to voice mail, E911 service and twelve popular calling features. In addition, Comcast offers the SmartZone Communications Center, an online communication application that allows customers to manage their e-mail, voice mail and universal address book all in one place. You can actually bring up your voice mails, listen to them and forward them by e-mail.

We are just now beginning to offer mobile applications of our products to extend the accessibility of our video, voice and data products by making them available 'Any Time Any Where'. These applications include an iPhone/iPad application, HighSpeed 2Go wireless data service and Xfinity tv. The iPhone/iPad application provides a free mobile application for iPhones and iPads where you can bring your SmartZone, e-mail, voice mail, tv listings and movie trailers along with you on the phone to access it. In the near future, you will be able to remotely program your DVR using your iPhone or iPad.

Comcast High-Speed 2Go is a 3G wireless high-speed data service that provides wireless internet via wireless data cards that you can use on laptops. This allows you to access something on line regardless of where you are with a 3G card. At some point in the future, we will offer a 4G service.

Xfinity TV or Xfinity.com provides top video content on line for free that has never been available online includes Comcast On Demand and access to 32 networks if you are a Comcast tv subscriber. If you have Comcast 2Go card, you are able to access your tv through Xfinitytv.com.

Comcast is no longer just a residential service provider. They now have a robust Comcast business service product. It primarily focuses on small business of 25 or less employees. They will provide telephone, internet and video. In the not too distance future, they are planning to expand to larger businesses. This has been one of our biggest growth areas because we are very competitive price wise in this field.

In addition to these products and investments, Comcast has also improved plant reliability. They have developed systems where we can see an outage in a graphic form that shows the streets and the houses that are impacted. We automatically know what technicians are in those areas and can dispatch them to the outage.

We also have technicians assigned to individual nodes where they monitor the Node Health. Their job performance is dependent on how well they are doing that work with those nodes. We are specifically focusing on plant reliability to improve our services.

Generally, the future is more and more of what has been discussed. By next summer, if all goes as planned, we should be migrated to 100% digital channel lineup. The first 50-75 channels in a lineup are in an analog format. They will be moved to digital and when that is done, it dramatically increases the plant capacity, as well as improves the audio and picture quality. When the plant capacity is increased, we will be able to access over 100 HD channels, will provide an interactive on-screen programming guide with search and parental-control functions. We will have more digital cable channels, more ethnic channels and programming and faster internet speed of up to 100 megabytes download speeds, which is primarily a business product.

We will continue to invest in our communities through our Leaders and Achievers Scholarship Program where we provide \$1,000 college scholarships and Comcast Cares Day, a couple of which have been at the Milford Food Bank where Comcast employees donate a Saturday of their time to do a service project. Here in Milford, they packed food at the food bank. The Comcast Community Foundation has also given grants in this area to the Dover Boys and Girls Club and La Esperanza in Georgetown.

Last year in 2009, Comcast in Delaware more than 1,700 employees which makes us one of the largest private companies in Delaware, had 60 separate facilities and paid almost \$7 million in state and local taxes and fees, some of which Milford received through franchise fees.

When asked for questions, Mr. Pikus asked if city hall had the ability for teleconferencing through Comcast by telephone. Mr. Worley said he is unsure of a specific product, though he believes it is available through the internet. He will need to follow up and offered to provide that information to the city manager.

Mr. Pikus asked if we have lines in city hall; Mr. Baird confirmed there is access to this site. Mr. Pikus asked if there are lines coming into city hall; Mr. Baird said if we do, they are not utilized. However, our internet service is through Comcast.

Mr. Pikus asked if we can get a line hooked up in city hall; Mr. Brooks said we always had a line in here. Mr. Baird said there is one next door adding there is no television here, though we have the internet service. Mr. Pikus asked why we not have a television line in city hall. Mr. Worley said it can be done and if someone would call him, he will make those arrangements.

Mr. Worley said video conferencing is an entirely different issue. He said he has the fiber optic and the lines but is unsure exactly how that works and whether there is a way they can sell that product. Mr. Pikus asked Mr. Worley to contact the city manager with an answer on these matters. He feels it would save a lot of time and a lot of travel if we had were able to conference other city managers or other people.

Ms. Wilson said she did not have an opportunity to notify some of her constituents who had a lot of questions, many of whom are senior citizens. Many of their concerns involved billing issues and in particular, many have the same services, but their billing costs are different. She explained they have gone so far as to select a spokesperson who called Comcast for each of the residents. Unfortunately, they did not receive any concrete answers which is the reason she wanted them to be here this evening.

Ms. Wilson asked if it is possible for Mr. Worley or a Comcast representative to set up a time to meet with these residents and provide them with some answers. Mr. Worley said he would be very happy to meet with them and asked if Ms. Wilson to coordinate that through the city manager.

Mr. Baird noted there were some concerns expressed by some residents during the conversion period to digital when some fees were added for the conversion box and new channel lineups. City hall was receiving a number of calls as the franchise holder during that period.

When asked if there is a difference in Kent and Sussex counties, Mr. Worley said there is some minimal differences though he does not have the specifics. Mr. Worley explained there are regulated rates that slightly vary because they are off different head-ions. There are also slight differences in the lineup. For example, Sussex County gets the Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia channels. Kent County only receives Philadelphia channels.

Mayor Rogers confirmed that Mr. Worley would set up a meeting with the Fourth Ward residents through the city manager.

Mr. Johnson asked if the Comcast website has pricing information and the fee differences in the three counties. Mr. Worley answered the general products are basically the same. However, when you get into the limited basic lineup, that is a regulated rate based on the way the federal government assesses that off each individual transmission station. When you plug in all the formulas they are slightly different. There are also differences in the regulated installation charges in different areas though the major key rates are basically the same.

Mr. Baird asked if there are any hurdles in the Comcast system today that may be offered in other areas in this region from the standpoint of speed of service or caliber of service that on the business side, may appear as an hindrance in this area compared to the more metropolitan areas.

Mr. Worley answered no, Comcast offers the fastest internet speeds available to businesses. Once Comcast goes to all digital transition, there will have 100 megabytes speed capability. They have found there are not a lot of people taking the 50 megabytes product mainly because it is more attractive to those with specialized applications who need the higher speeds.

Mr. Pikus recalled that when people switched from Verizon to Comcast for telephone service, many residents, including himself and his neighbors, experienced a number of problems. He said that every once in awhile, they will experience a little difficulty though it clears itself very fast. Mr. Worley is unable to speak specifically but offered to look up Mr. Pikus' home address to determine those problems.

It was noted there are choice of carriers with telephone service but not with television service. Mr. Baird said the only other television option is through satellite.

Joe Palermo of 5 Misty Vale Court, Meadows at Shawnee, said he is a Comcast subscriber with internet and cable tv. He said on many occasions, his picture freezes up which is becoming more and more frequent of a problem. He feels the internet service is not bad, but the television service has a lot to be desired.

Mayor Rogers suggested Mr. Worley get Mr. Palermo's address and check that out for Mr. Palermo. Mr. Worley said he would be glad to.

Chuck Rini of 119 Ginger Lane, Knotts Landing, said that because there are a lot of transplants from the New York/New Jersey area, is it possible to get Comcast to bring in channels like Sports Net New York that are covered by Direct TV and FiOS TV which are supposed to be in this area within a couple of years. He also stated that when they convert completely from analog to digital, he is aware of some senior citizens and low income people that rely on basic service without a converter box. He asked what they will need after the conversion.

Mr. Worley said he is unfamiliar with the Sports Net though he knows that is a regional channel. He explained that one of those issues he has with those force networks is that the professional leagues are required to get special permission for them to play in another area. What is unique to Sussex County is there are two regional sports channels from Comcast which includes both Baltimore and Philadelphia. Kent County only receives Philadelphia. There are certain areas that teams can be shown and certain areas they cannot be.

He then stated that when it converts to complete digital, a box will be needed to convert the signal to the television set. That is also required by Direct TV and Verizon and the way digital products are delivered. The first box a customer receives is free. The digital adapters are very small boxes and are needed to convert the signal for the other tv sets though there is a small charge of \$1 to \$2 a piece.

Adjourn

Mayor Rogers acknowledged President Marvin Sharp of Carlisle Fire Company who thanked the mayor and council for their support of the Safety Ring Program.

The mayor then thanked Lieutenant Rust for filling in for Chief Hudson who was in Florida at a police conference.

With no further business, the Workshop Session concluded at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Terri K. Hudson, CMC
City Clerk/Transcriber