

SULTAN CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

ITEM NO: Consent C 4

DATE: May 28, 2008

SUBJECT: Cable Television Franchise Agreement with Tele-Vue Systems, Inc. (now Comcast) – Set Hearing

CONTACT PERSON: Deborah Knight, City Administrator

ISSUE:

The issue before the City Council is to set a public hearing on the cable television franchise agreement with Tele-Vue Systems, Inc. (now Comcast) for June 26, 2008 at 6:30 PM.

SUMMARY:

The original franchise agreement expired on August 8, 2004. The Cable TV ordinance is codified in Section 5.28 of Sultan Municipal Code. In December 2006, the City Council approved Ordinance No. 946-06 extending the franchise agreement to March 31, 2007 and again under Ordinance 950-07 until September 30, 2007 and again under Ordinance No. 980-08 until May 31, 2008. The Consortium has finalized its negotiations with Comcast. The draft franchise is with Comcast for approval by Comcast corporate counsel. The franchise should be ready for its required public hearing prior to June 1, 2008.

Cable TV Franchise Negotiations

Since February 2006, the City has been working with its partners in the East County Cable Consortium (Snohomish, Monroe, and Lake Stevens) and a consultant, River Oaks Communications to complete the franchise negotiations with Comcast. Negotiations with Comcast were difficult on several points as a result of new market conditions and a concern about increasing competition from telephone providers. These issues have been resolved.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Set a Public Hearing for June 26, 2008 at 6:30 PM on the Cable Television Franchise Agreement with Tele-Vue Systems, Inc. (now Comcast)