

ORDINANCE NO. 09-2022

**BOROUGH OF ROSELAND
COUNTY OF ESSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**AN ORDINANCE GRANTING RENEWAL OF MUNICIPAL
CONSENT TO COMCAST TO CONSTRUCT, CONNECT,
OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A CABLE TELEVISION AND
COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM IN THE BOROUGH OF
ROSELAND, NEW JERSEY.**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF ROSELAND, AS
FOLLOWS:**

SECTION 1. PURPOSE OF THE ORDINANCE

The Borough hereby grants to Comcast renewal of its non-exclusive Municipal Consent to place in, upon, across, above, over and under highways, streets, alleys, sidewalks, easements, public ways and public places in the municipality, poles, wires, cables, underground conduits, manholes and other television conductors, fixtures, apparatus and equipment as may be necessary for the construction, operation and maintenance in the Borough of a cable television and communications system. This consent is subject to the terms and conditions of this Ordinance and upon the condition that the Company accepts the provisions of this Ordinance, and confirms that it shall comply with the commitments contained herein.

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Ordinance, the following terms, phrases, words and their derivations shall have the meaning given herein. Such meaning or definition of terms is supplemental to those definitions of the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") rules and regulations, 47 C.F.R. Subsection 76.1 et seq., and the Cable Communications Policy Act, 47 U.S.C. Section 521 et seq., as amended, and the Cable Television Act, N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq., and shall in no way be construed to broaden, alter or conflict with the federal and state definitions:

- a. "Borough" or "Municipality" is the Borough of Roseland County of Essex, State of New Jersey.
- b. "Company" is the grantee of rights under this Ordinance and is known as Comcast of New Jersey II, LLC.
- c. "Act" or "Cable Television Act" is Chapter 186 of the General Laws of New Jersey, and subsequent amendments thereto, N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1, et seq.
- d. "FCC" is the Federal Communications Commission.
- e. "Board" or "BPU" is the Board of Public Utilities, State of New Jersey.

- f. "Office" or "OCTV" is the Office of Cable Television of the Board.
- g. "Basic Cable Service" means any service tier, which includes the retransmission of local television broadcast signals as defined by the FCC.
- h. "Application" is the Company's Application for Renewal of Municipal Consent.

SECTION 3. STATEMENT OF FINDINGS

A public hearing concerning the consent herein granted to the Company was held after proper public notice pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Act. Said hearing having been held and fully open to the public, and the municipality having received all comments regarding the qualifications of the Company to receive this consent, and the representations of the Company that the Company possesses the necessary legal, technical, character, financial and other qualifications and that the Company's operating and construction arrangements are adequate and feasible.

SECTION 4. DURATION OF FRANCHISE

The non-exclusive Municipal Consent granted herein shall expire ten10 years from the date of expiration of the previous Certificate of Approval issued by the Board.

In the event that the Municipality shall find that the Company has not substantially complied with the material terms and conditions of this Ordinance, the Municipality shall have the right to petition the OCTV, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-47, for appropriate action, including modification and/or termination of the Certificate of Approval; provided however, that the Municipality shall first have given the Company written notice of all alleged instances of non-compliance and an opportunity to cure same within ninety (90) days of that notification.

SECTION 5. FRANCHISE FEE

Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Act, N.J.S.A. 48:5A-30, the Company shall, during each year of operation under the consent granted herein, pay to the Municipality two percent (2%) of the gross revenues from all recurring charges in the nature of subscription fees paid by subscribers for cable television reception service in the Municipality or any higher amount permitted by the Act or otherwise allowable by law.

SECTION 6. FRANCHISE TERRITORY

The consent granted under this Ordinance for the renewal of the franchise shall apply to the entirety of the Municipality and any property subsequently annexed hereto.

SECTION 7. EXTENSION OF SERVICE

The Company shall be required to proffer service along any public right-of-way to any person's residence or business located in all areas of the franchise territory as described herein, at tariffed rates for standard and non-standard installations.

SECTION 8. CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS

- a. Restoration: In the event that the Company or its agents shall disturb any pavement, street surfaces, sidewalks, driveways, or other surface in the natural topography, the Company shall, at its sole expense, restore and replace such places or things so disturbed in as reasonably good a condition as existed prior to the commencement of said work.
- b. Relocation: If at any time during the period of this consent, the City shall alter or change the grade of any street, alley or other way or place the Company, upon reasonable notice by the City, shall remove, re-lay or relocate its equipment, at the expense of the Company.
- c. Removal or Trimming of Trees: During the exercise of its rights and privileges under this franchise, the Company shall have the authority to trim trees upon and overhanging streets, alleys, sidewalks or other public places of the City so as to prevent the branches of such trees from coming in contact with the wires and cable of the Company. Such trimming shall be only to the extent necessary to maintain proper clearance of the Company's wire and cables.

SECTION 9. CUSTOMER SERVICE

In providing services to its customers, the Company shall comply with N.J.A.C. 14:18-1, et seq. and all applicable state and federal statutes and regulations. The Company shall strive to meet or exceed all voluntary company and industry standards in the delivery of customer service.

- a. The Company shall continue to comply fully with all applicable state and federal statutes and regulations regarding credit for outages, the reporting of same to regulatory agencies and notification of same to customers.
- b. The Company shall continue to fully comply with all applicable state and federal statutes and regulations regarding the availability of devices for the hearing impaired and the notification of same to customers.
- c. The Company shall use every reasonable effort to meet or exceed applicable FCC customer service regulations.
- d. Nothing herein shall impair the right of any subscriber or the Township to express any comment with respect to telephone accessibility to the Complaint Officer, or impair the right of the Complaint Officer to take any action that is permitted under applicable law.

SECTION 10. MUNICIPAL COMPLAINT OFFICER

The Office of Cable Television is hereby designated as the Complaint Officer for the Township pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-26(b). All complaints shall be received and processed in accordance with N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.5. The Township shall have the right to request copies of records and reports pertaining to complaints by Township customers from the OCTV.

SECTION 11. LOCAL OFFICE

During the term of this franchise, and any renewal thereof, the Company shall maintain a business office or agent in accordance with N.J.A.C. 14:18-5.1 for the purpose of receiving, investigating and resolving local complaints regarding the quality of service, equipment malfunctions, and similar matters.

SECTION 12. PERFORMANCE BONDS

During the life of the franchise the Company shall give to the municipality a bond in the amount of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00). Such bond shall be to insure the faithful performance of all undertakings of the Company as represented in its application for municipal consent incorporated herein.

SECTION 13. SUBSCRIBER RATES

The rates of the Company shall be subject to regulation as permitted by federal and state law.

SECTION 14. COMMITMENTS BY THE COMPANY

- a. The Company shall provide courtesy cable television service on one (1) outlet at no cost to each qualified existing and future school in the borough, public and private, elementary, intermediate and secondary, provided the school is within 200 feet of active cable distribution plant. Each additional outlet installed, if any, shall be paid for on a materials plus labor basis by the school requesting service.
- b. The Company shall continue to provide courtesy cable television service at no cost on one (1) outlet to each qualified existing police, fire, first aid, emergency management facility, public works, community center that may be constructed in the future, public library and any other municipally owned building in the borough provided the facility is located within 200 feet of active cable distribution plant. Each additional outlet installed, if any, shall be paid for on a materials plus labor basis by the borough. Comcast shall provide the above referenced services to any future municipal facility upon written request.
- c. The Company shall continue to provide free basic residential Internet access service, via high-speed cable modem, to one (1) non-networked personal computer in each qualified existing and future public school and public library in the borough, elementary, intermediate and secondary, at no charge provided the facility is located within 200 feet of active cable distribution plant. The Internet access service shall be

installed on a personal computer that is accessible to the students and not for administrative use only. Comcast shall provide the above referenced services to any future such facility upon written request.

- d. Within six months of the issuance of a renewal Certificate of Approval by the Board, the Company shall provide to the municipality a one-time PEG capital grant in the amount of \$35,000 for PEG access capital support.
- e. Within one year of written request the Company shall provide an additional channel return line for the access channel at a location of the Township's choosing provided that location is within 200 feet of active cable plant.
- f. The Company shall convert the borough's current Standard Definition (SD) access channel to a High Definition (HD) channel within one year of written request from the borough. Once an HD access channel is activated that channel will no longer be available in SD.
- g. The Communications Act of 1934, as amended (47 U.S.C. §543(b)(4)), allows the Company to itemize and/or identify the amount on the monthly bill assessed to satisfy any requirements imposed on the Company by the cable franchise to support public, educational, and governmental channels, or the use of such channels or any other services required under the franchise. The Company reserves its external cost, pass-through rights to the extent permitted by law including the services set forth in this section.

SECTION 15. EDUCATIONAL AND GOVERNMENTAL ACCESS

- a. The Company shall continue to provide residents with a system-wide public access channel maintained by the Company. Qualified individuals and organizations may utilize public access for the purpose of cablecasting non-commercial access programming in conformance with the Company's published public access rules.
- b. The Company shall continue to provide a system-wide leased access channel maintained by the Company for the purpose of cablecasting commercial access programming in conformance with the Company's guideline and applicable state and federal statutes and regulations.
- c. The Company shall continue to provide a dedicated local access channel maintained by the Company for the purpose of cablecasting non-commercial access programming in conformance with the Company's guideline and applicable state and federal statutes and regulations. The Company will continue to maintain the access channel return line located at the municipal building.
- d. The Company shall not exercise editorial control over any educational or governmental use of channel capacity, except Company may refuse to transmit any educational or governmental access program or portion of an educational or governmental access program that contains obscenity, indecency, or nudity.

- e. Educational Access. "Educational Access" shall mean noncommercial use by educational institutions such as public or private schools, but not "home schools," community colleges, and universities.
- f. Government Access. "Government Access" shall mean noncommercial use by the Township for the purpose of showing the local government at work.
- g. Company Use of Fallow Time. Because blank or underutilized EG channels are not in the public interest, in the event the Municipalities or other EG access users elect not to fully program their EG access channel, Company may program unused time on those channels subject to reclamation by the Municipality upon no less than 60 days written notice.
- h. Indemnification. The borough shall indemnify Company for any liability, loss, or damage it may suffer due to violation of the intellectual property rights of third parties on the EG channel and from claims arising out of the Municipalities' rules for or administration of EG access channel and its programming.

SECTION 16. EMERGENCY USES

- a. The Company will comply with the Emergency Alert System ("EAS") rules in accordance with applicable state and federal statutes and regulations.
- b. The Company shall in no way be held liable for any injury suffered by the municipality or any other person, during an emergency, if for any reason the Municipality is unable to make full use of the cable television system as contemplated herein.

SECTION 17. LIABILITY INSURANCE

The Company shall at all times maintain a comprehensive general liability insurance policy with a single limit amount of \$1,000,000 covering liability for any death, personal injury, property damages or other liability arising out of its construction and operation of the cable television system, and an excess liability (or "umbrella") policy in the amount of \$5,000,000.

SECTION 18. INCORPORATION OF THE APPLICATION

All of the statements and commitments contained in the Application or annexed thereto and incorporated therein, and any amendment thereto, except as modified herein, are binding upon the Company as terms and conditions of this consent. The Application and other relevant writings submitted by the Company shall be annexed hereto and made a part hereof by reference provided same do not conflict with applicable State or Federal law.

SECTION 19. COMPETITIVE EQUITY

Should the Municipality grant a franchise or other authorization to construct, operate and maintain a cable television system to any other person, corporation or entity on terms materially less burdensome or more favorable than the terms contained herein, the Company may substitute such language that is more favorable or less burdensome for the comparable provision of this Ordinance subject to the provisions of N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.7.

SECTION 20. SEPARABILITY

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or other portion of this Ordinance is, for any reason, declared invalid, in whole or in part, by any court, agency, commission, legislative body, or other authority of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent portion. Such declaration shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof, which other portions shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 21. PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

The Company shall not be required to disclose information which it reasonably deems to be proprietary or confidential in nature. The Borough agrees to treat any information disclosed by the Company as confidential and only to disclose it to those employees, representatives, and agents of the Township that have a need to know in order to enforce this Ordinance Agreement and who agree to maintain the confidentiality of all such information.

The Company shall not be required to provide Customer information in violation of Section 631 of the Cable Act or any other applicable federal or state privacy law. For purposes of this Section, the terms “proprietary or confidential” include, but are not limited to, information relating to the Cable System design, customer lists, marketing plans, financial information unrelated to the calculation of franchise fees or rates pursuant to FCC rules, or other information that is reasonably determined by the Company to be competitively sensitive. The Company may make proprietary or confidential information available for inspection but not copying or removal by the Municipality’s representative. In the event that the Municipality has in its possession and receives a request under a state “sunshine,” public records, or similar law for the disclosure of information the Company has designated as confidential, trade secret or proprietary, the borough shall notify the Company of such request and cooperate with Company in opposing such request.

SECTION 22. THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARIES

Nothing in this Franchise or in any prior agreement is or was intended to confer third-party beneficiary status on any member of the public to enforce the terms of such agreements or Franchise.

SECTION 23. NEW DEVELOPMENTS

The Municipality, for its part, shall endeavor to exercise reasonable efforts to require developers and utility companies to provide the Company with at least fifteen (15) days advance notice of an available open trench for the placement of necessary cable.

SECTION 24. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon issuance of a Renewal Certificate of Approval from the BPU.

DATE OF INTRODUCTION: May 3, 2022

Motion to Introduce by: Councilwoman Perrotti

Motion Seconded by: Councilman Trillo

Introduction Approved: 6-0 Voice Vote

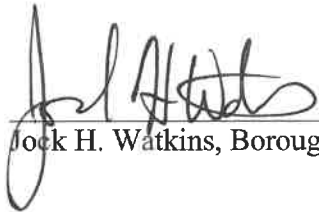
DATE OF ADOPTION: June 21, 2022

COUNCIL	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	RECUSE	ABSENT
Councilman Bardi	X		X				
Councilwoman Fishman			X				
Councilman Freda			X				
Council President Perrotti			X				
Councilwoman Tolli		X	X				
Councilman Trillo			X				
Mayor Spango (In case of tie)							
VOTE:			6	0			

I hereby certify that the above Ordinance was duly adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Roseland at a meeting of Borough Council held on the 21st day of June, 2022.



James R. Spango, Mayor



Jock H. Watkins, Borough Clerk

Date of Publication: June 30, 2022, The Progress