



Roll Call Number

Agenda Item Number

55

Date August 29, 2011

Communication from Al Semple, 3201 Amherst, to speak regarding access to Century Link Fiber optic cable.

Moved by _____ to

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE				
COLEMAN				
GRIESS				
HENSLEY				
MAHAFFEY				
MEYER				
MOORE				
TOTAL				
MOTION CARRIED			APPROVED	
_____ Mayor				

CERTIFICATE

I, DIANE RAUH, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

_____ City Clerk

To: The Honorable Mayor
and
Members of the City Council
City of Des Moines, Iowa
c/o City Clerk

FILED

2011 AUG 24 PM 3:19

CITY CLERK
DES MOINES, IA

I/We AL SEMPLE 3201 AmHERST
(Please Print)

hereby request permission to speak at the Des Moines City Council
meeting of Aug 29, 2011, regarding

CENTURY-LINK FIBER OPTIC CABLE
ACCESS IN DES MOINES

Name: Alfred R. Semple
(Signature)
Address: 3201 AmHERST ST
Daytime Phone: 2826817

PROCEDURAL RULES OF DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL:

Part III. Agenda

Rule 16. Citizen Agenda Requests. Any citizen may request the right to have an item placed on the Agenda (including a request to speak) by filing such request in writing with the City Clerk prior to noon on the Wednesday preceding the Council meeting.

Part V. Citizen Participation

Rule 27. Citizen's Right to Address Council. Persons other than Council Members shall be permitted to address the Council only upon specific Agenda Items.

As a loyal customer of CenturyLink for the past 31 years, I can even remember that a human being would answer when "OPER" was dialed or ~~now~~ pressed. Citizens of Des Moines no longer need to listen for your neighbor using the shared party line or asking a human being to place a long distance call. As telephonic technology advanced all citizens of Des Moines were offered the phone of the future. The phone went from a corded speaker and microphone that was durable enough to pound nails to the throw away cell phones available today. The phone company went from some mysterious lady saying "one ringey dingey two ringey dingey" to the cloned human voice that offers a myriad of options for assistance by speaking only the answers the computer can understand, to options of languages and numerical options that imply assistance is close at hand merely by pushing the correct number. However, actually speaking to a human employee of Century Link is nearly as impossible as calling the Des Moines City Manager. "It just ain't gonna happen." I have actually spoken to a Century Link employee with a first and last name. Try calling our city manager he or she has a phone number listed but never answers and good luck trying to find a city manager's name on DMGOV.ORG.

I come to you today holding the belief that the citizens of our great city are about to be divided into the "haves" and "have nots" of the 21st century and beyond. As some 19th Century leaders of Des Moines lobbied to keep railroads from Des Moines and as we rapidly approach the 50th anniversary of the MacVicar freeway we only need visit the State Historical Museum to see the damage caused the vibrant "free market" businesses that once occupied the Center St and Keosauqua Way intersection. MacVicar has proven to assist in the destruction of small business as I fear Century Link's decision not to provide fiber optic telephonic and data access to the entirety of Des Moines will in the future.

For the past two years I have been subjected to CenturyLink's promotion of "high speed internet access" most recently a guaranteed five year monthly cost. However, each time I have contacted CenturyLink the answer is always the same. It is not available in your area but in the plans for the future. It appears the future is here and CenturyLink's answer is a resounding No! Not now not in the foreseeable future. I guess I now understand how thousands of small communities felt at being rejected from having access to the Eisenhower emergency runway system of the 1950's. I have asked CenturyLink where in Des Moines fiber optic cable will be made available and have been told such decisions and maps would be proprietary and release would jeopardize CenturyLink's business. To me this smacks of what my wife and I were told when seeking a loan for a home in the now Sherman Hills area of Des Moines. It seems the "red lining" of Des Moines has returned under the guise of fiber optic cable. How soon will fiber optic access become a selling point for realtors in Des Moines?

The reason I have approached my city leaders with this problem is that I believe you may well have a solution. The City of Des Moines regulates the placement of fiber optic cable in our community. It is for this reason I seek your help allowing all citizens of our city to have access to the future.