

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: NEIL JENSEN, City Administrator

SUBJECT: Cable Coordinator Position

MEETING DATE: September 1, 2020

BACKGROUND:

Mike Gesme has announced his resignation from the Cable Coordinator position after many loyal years of service. We will really miss his contribution to the city!

Luke Newinski has worked the cable department for 4 years and has accepted the position of Cable Coordinator. The Cable Commission met on August 13th to discuss the transition and approved Luke Newinski for the Cable Coordinator position. His pay grade would be at Grade 3 Step 1 with normal step increases. This is a part-time position and no benefits would be included.

The Cable Commission also discussed the hiring of an Assistant Cable Coordinator. At this time, we are searching for this position but have a couple names that may be interested. This position would be pay Grade 1 Step 1 with the normal step increases and also a part-time position with no benefits. This position would fill in when Luke is not available or do games if needed.

Mike has graciously stated that he would help out on special projects if he was needed. This would be when the pandemic is over and things are up and running on a more normal environment.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Please approve the placement of Luke Newinski to the Cable Coordinator position at the Grade 3 Step 1 pay scale and approve the hiring of an Assistant Cable Coordinator at a Grade 1 Step 1 pay scale.

REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION

Please make a motion to approve the placement of Luke Newinski to the Cable Coordinator position at the Grade 3 Step 1 pay scale and the hiring of an Assistant Cable Coordinator (Grade 1 Step 1) to be presented at a later date.

Mayor and Council,

I have decided it is time for me to move on from my position with the city and give more focus to my family and other endeavors. It will be hard to say goodbye, but I take comfort in knowing the cable department will be in good hands with Luke Newinski, who has worked alongside me for about 4 years. Along with talent and experience, Luke will bring fresh ideas and energy.

I would like to thank all current and former council members and city staff who provided me so many opportunities and support over my 20+ years in various roles. Thanks also to the school district, Historical Society, Senior Center, TRIAD, Chamber, Rotary, and other organizations who make so much possible.

I am tremendously grateful for Dick Mensing, who volunteers his time, and for all the high school students who have helped keep things running over the years. I am proud of what we have accomplished, the program we advanced, and the partnerships we forged in the community.

While technology has continued to evolve over the 40 or so years that cable has been in our city, I believe the role of local media is as vital as ever. Cannon Falls has unique assets, including video production capabilities and state-of-the-art broadband infrastructure. I hope to see these continue to be leveraged to inform and connect our community, and promote our town.

Best wishes to everyone as you continue your work on behalf of the people of Cannon Falls. I have a hunch we will see each other around. Oh, and Luke has my phone number.

Sincerely,

Mike Gesme

PEG Access Coordinator