

CHAPTER 8

CABLE TV

ARTICLE I – GENERAL REGULATIONS

DIVISION I – DEFINITION OF TERMS

8-1-1 **TERMS.** For the purpose of this Chapter, the following terms, phrases, words and their derivations shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, as amended from time to time (the "Cable Act"), unless otherwise defined herein. When not inconsistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future, words in the plural number include the singular number, and words in the singular number, include the plural number. The word "shall" is mandatory and "may" is permissive. Words not defined shall be given their common and ordinary meaning.

(A) **"Cable System", "Cable Service", "Cable Operator" and "Basic Cable Service"** shall be defined as set forth in Section 602 of the Cable Act [47 U.S.C. Section 522].

(B) **"Cable Act"** shall mean Title VI of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended [47 U.S.C. Section 521, et seq.].

(C) **"Council"** shall mean the City Council, the governing body of the City of Carlinville, Illinois.

(D) **"FCC"** shall mean the Federal Communications Commission and any successor governmental entity thereto.

(E) **"Franchise"** shall mean the non-exclusive rights granted pursuant to this franchise to construct and operate a Cable System along the public ways within all or a specified area in the Service Area.

(F) **"Grantor"** shall mean the City of Carlinville, Illinois.

(G) **"Grantee"** shall mean Charter Communications Entertainment I, LLC, d/b/a Charter Communications (Charter) or its lawful successor, transferee or assignee.

(H) **"Gross Revenue"** means any revenue, as determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principals received by the Grantee from the operation of the Cable System to provide Cable Services in the Service Area, provided, however, that such phrase shall not include: (1) any taxes, fee or assessment of general applicability collected by the Grantee from Subscribers for pass-through to a government agency, including the FCC User Fee and franchise fee; and (2) unrecovered bad debt.

(I) **"Person"** shall mean an individual, partnership, association, organization, corporation, trust or government entity.

(J) **"School"** shall mean any school at any educational level operated within the Service Area by any public, private or parochial school system, but limited to, elementary, junior high school, and high school (K-12).

(K) **"Service Area"** shall mean the geographic boundaries of the Franchise Authority, and shall include any additions thereto by annexation or other legal means, subject to the exception in **Section 8-1-20** hereto.

(L) **"State"** shall mean the State of Illinois.

(M) **"Street"** shall include each of the following located within the Service Area: public streets, roadways, highways, bridges, land paths, boulevards, avenues, lanes, alleys, sidewalks, circles, drives, easements, rights-of-way and similar public ways and extensions and additions thereto, including but not limited to public utility easements, dedicated utility strips, or rights-of-way dedicated for compatible uses now or hereafter held by the Grantor in the Service Area, which shall entitle the Grantee to the use thereof for the purpose of installing, operating, repairing and maintaining the Cable System.

(N) **"Subscriber"** shall mean any person lawfully receiving Cable Service from the Grantee.

8-1-2 **RESERVED.**

DIVISION II – GRANT OF FRANCHISE

8-1-3 GRANT. The Grantor franchise hereby grants to the Grantee a nonexclusive Franchise which authorizes the Grantee to erect, construct, operate and maintain in, upon, along, across, above, over and under the Streets, now in existence and as may be created or established during its terms; any poles, wires, cable, underground conduits, manholes, and other conductors and fixtures necessary for the maintenance and operation of a Cable System. Nothing in this Franchise shall be construed to prohibit the Grantee from offering any service over its Cable System that is not prohibited by federal, State or local law.

8-1-4 TERM. The Franchise and the rights, privileges and authority hereby granted shall be for an initial term of **fifteen (15) years**, commencing on the effective date of this Franchise as set forth herein.

8-1-5 **POLICE POWERS AND CONFLICTS WITH FRANCHISE.** The Grantee agrees to comply with the terms of any lawfully adopted generally applicable local ordinance, to the extent that the provisions of the ordinance do not have the effect of limiting the benefits or expanding the obligations of the Grantee that are granted by this Franchise. This Franchise is a contract and except as to those changes, which are the result of the Grantor's exercise of its lawful general police power, the Grantor may not take any unilateral action, which materially changes the explicit mutual promises in this contract. Any changes to this Franchise must be made in writing signed by the Grantee and the Grantor. In the event of any conflict between this Franchise and any Grantor ordinance or regulation, this Franchise will prevail.

8-1-6 **CABLE SYSTEM FRANCHISE REQUIRED.** No Cable System shall be allowed to occupy or use the streets or public rights-of-way of the Service Area or be allowed to operate without a Cable System Franchise.

8-1-7 **RESERVED.**

DIVISION III – FRANCHISE RENEWAL

8-1-8 **PROCEDURES FOR RENEWAL.** The Grantor and the Grantee agree that any proceedings undertaken by the Grantor that relate to the renewal of the Grantee's Franchise shall be governed by and comply with the provisions of Section 626 of the Cable Act [47 U.S.C. Section 546], or any such successor statute.

8-1-9 **RESERVED.**

DIVISION IV – INDEMNIFICATION AND INSURANCE

8-1-10 **INDEMNIFICATION.** The Grantee shall, by acceptance of the Franchise granted herein, defend the Grantor, its officers, boards, commissions, agents, and employees for all claims for injury to any person or property caused by the negligence of Grantee in the construction or operation of the Cable System and in the event of a determination of liability shall indemnify and hold Grantor, its officers,

boards, commissions, agents, and employees harmless from any and all liabilities, claims, demands, or judgments growing out of any injury to any person or property as a result of the negligence of Grantee arising out of the construction, repair, extension, maintenance, operation or removal of its wires, poles or other equipment of any kind or character used in connection with the operation of the Cable System, provided that the Grantor shall give the Grantee written notice of its obligation to indemnify the Grantor within **ten (10) days** of receipt of a claim or action pursuant to this Section. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Grantee shall not be obligated to indemnify the Grantor for any damages, liability or claims resulting from the willful misconduct or negligence of the Grantor or for the Grantor's use of the Cable System.

8-1-11 INSURANCE.

(A) The Grantee shall maintain throughout the term of the Franchise insurance in amounts at least as follows:

Workers' Compensation	Statutory Limits
Commercial General Liability	[\$1,000,000] per occurrence, Combined Single Liability (C.S.L.) [\$2,000,000] General Aggregate
Auto Liability including coverage on all owned, non-owned hired autos	[\$1,000,000] per occurrence C.S.L.
Umbrella Liability	[\$1,000,000] per occurrence C.S.L.

(B) The Grantor shall be added as an additional insured to the above General Liability, Auto Liability and Umbrella Liability insurance coverage.

(C) The Grantee shall furnish the Grantor with current certificates of insurance evidencing such coverage.

8-1-12 RESERVED.

DIVISION V – SERVICE OBLIGATIONS

8-1-13 **NO DISCRIMINATION.** Grantee shall not deny service, deny access, or otherwise discriminate against Subscribers, channel users, or general citizens on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age or sex.

8-1-14 **PRIVACY.** The Grantee shall fully comply with the privacy rights of Subscribers as contained in Section 631 of the Cable Act (47 U.S.C. Section 551).

8-1-15 **RESERVED.**

DIVISION VI – SERVICE AVAILABILITY

8-1-16 **SERVICE AREA.** The Grantee shall make Cable Service distributed over the Cable System available to every residence within the Service Area where there is a minimum density of at least **forty (40) residences** per linear strand mile of cable as measured from Grantee’s closest trunk line or distribution cable that is actively delivering Cable Service as of the date of such request for service. If the resident is located within **one hundred twenty-five (125) feet** of Grantee’s feeder cable, the Cable Service will be provided at Grantee’s published rate for standard installation. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Grantee shall have the right, but not the obligation, to extend the Cable System into any portion of the Service Area where: another operator is providing Cable Service; into an annexed area which is not contiguous to the present Service Area of the Grantee; or, into any area which is financially or technically infeasible due to extraordinary circumstances, such as a runway or freeway crossing.

8-1-17 **SUBSCRIBER CHARGES FOR EXTENSION OF THE CABLE SYSTEM.** No Subscriber shall be refused service arbitrarily, however, if an area does not meet the density requirements of **Section 8-1-16** above, the Grantee shall only be required to extend the Cable System to Subscribers in that area if the Subscribers are willing to share the capital costs of extending the Cable System. The Grantee may require that payment of the capital contribution in aid of construction borne by such potential Subscribers be paid in advance. Subscribers shall also be responsible for any standard/non-standard installation charges to extend the Cable System from the tap to the residence.

8-1-18 **NEW DEVELOPMENT UNDERGROUND.** In cases of new construction or property development where utilities are to be placed underground, the Grantor agrees to require as a condition of issuing a permit for open trenching to any developer or property owner that such developer or property owner give Grantee at least **thirty (30) days** prior notice of such construction or development, and of the particular dates on which open trenching will be available for Grantee's installation of conduit, pedestals and/or vaults, and laterals to be provided at Grantee's expense. Grantee shall also provide specifications as needed for trenching. Costs of trenching and easements required to bring service to the development shall be borne by the developer or property owner; except that if Grantee fails to install its conduit, pedestals and/or vaults, and laterals within **five (5) working days** of the date the trenches are available, as designated in the notice given by the developer or property owner, then should the trenches be closed after the **five (5) day** period, the cost of new trenching is to be borne by Grantee.

8-1-19 **RESERVED.**

DIVISION VII – CONSTRUCTION AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS

8-1-20 **COMPLIANCE WITH CODES.** All construction practices and installation of equipment shall be done in accordance with all applicable sections of the National Electric Safety Code.

8-1-21 **CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS.** All of the Grantee's plant and equipment, including but not limited to the antenna site, head-end and distribution system, towers, house connections, structures, poles, wire, cable, coaxial cable, fixtures and appurtenances shall be installed, located, erected, constructed, reconstructed, replaced, removed, repaired, maintained and operated in accordance with good engineering practices and performed by experienced maintenance and construction personnel.

8-1-22 **SAFETY.** The Grantee shall at all times employ ordinary care and shall use commonly accepted methods and devices preventing failures and accidents which are likely to cause damage.

8-1-23 **NETWORK TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS.** The Cable System shall be operated so that it is capable of continuous **twenty-four (24) hour** daily operation, capable of meeting or exceeding all applicable federal technical standards, as they may be amended from time to time, and operated in such a manner as to comply with all applicable FCC regulations.

8-1-24 **PERFORMANCE MONITORING.** Grantee shall test the Cable System consistent with the FCC regulations.

8-1-25 **RESERVED.**

DIVISION VIII – CONDITIONS ON STREET OCCUPANCY

8-1-26 **GENERAL CONDITIONS.** Grantee shall have the right to utilize existing poles, conduits and other facilities whenever possible, and shall not construct or install any new, different, or additional poles, conduits, or other facilities on public property without obtaining all legally required permits of the Grantor.

8-1-27 **UNDERGROUND CONSTRUCTION.** The facilities of the Grantee shall be installed underground in those Service Areas where existing telephone and electric services are both underground at the time of system construction. In areas where either telephone or electric utility facilities are installed aerially at the time of system construction, the Grantee may install its facilities aerially with the understanding that at such time as the existing aerial facilities are required to be placed underground by the Grantor, the Grantee shall likewise place its facilities underground. In the event that any telephone or electric utilities are reimbursed by the Grantor or any agency thereof for the placement of cable underground or the movement of cable, Grantee shall be reimbursed upon the same terms and conditions as any telephone, electric or other utilities.

8-1-28 **CONSTRUCTION CODES AND PERMITS.** The Grantee shall obtain all legally required permits before commencing any work requiring a permit, including the opening or disturbance of any Street within the Service Area. The Grantee shall cooperate with the Grantor in granting any permits required, providing such grant and subsequent construction by the Grantee shall not unduly interfere with the use of such Streets. The Grantee shall adhere to all building and zoning codes

currently or hereafter applicable to construction, operation or maintenance of the Cable System in the Service Area, provided that such codes are of general applicability and such codes are uniformly and consistently applied by the Grantor as to other public utility companies and other entities operating in the Service Area.

8-1-29 SYSTEM CONSTRUCTION. All transmission lines, equipment and structures shall be so installed and located as to cause minimum interference with the rights and reasonable convenience of property owners and at all times shall be kept and maintained in a safe, adequate and substantial condition, and in good order and repair. The Grantee shall, at all times, employ ordinary care and use commonly accepted methods and devices for preventing failures and accidents which are likely to cause damage, injuries, or nuisances to the public. Suitable barricades, flags, lights, flares or other devices shall be used at such times and places as are reasonably required for the safety of all members of the public. Any poles or other fixtures placed in any public way by the Grantee shall be placed in such a manner as not to interfere with the usual travel on such public way.

8-1-30 RESTORATION OF PUBLIC WAYS. Grantee shall, at its own expense, restore any damage or disturbance caused to the public way as a result of its operation, construction, or maintenance of the Cable System to a condition reasonably comparable to the condition of the Streets immediately prior to such damage or disturbance.

8-1-31 REMOVAL IN EMERGENCY. Whenever, in case of fire or other disaster, it becomes necessary in the judgment of the Grantor to remove any of the Grantee's facilities, no charge shall be made by the Grantee against the Grantor for restoration and repair, unless such acts amount to gross negligence by the Grantor.

8-1-32 TREE TRIMMING. Grantor or its designee shall have the authority to trim trees on public property at its own expense as may be necessary to protect its wires and facilities.

8-1-33 RELOCATION FOR THE GRANTOR. The Grantee shall, upon receipt of reasonable advance written notice, to be not less than **ten (10) business days**, protect, support, temporarily disconnect, relocate, or remove any property of Grantee when lawfully required by the Grantor pursuant to its police powers. Grantee shall be responsible for any costs associated with these obligations to the same extent all other users of the Grantor rights-of-way are responsible for the costs related to their facilities.

8-1-34 **RELOCATION FOR A THIRD PARTY.** The Grantee shall, on the request of any person holding a lawful permit issued by the Grantor, protect, support, raise, lower, temporarily disconnect, relocate in or remove from the Street as necessary any property of the Grantee, provided that the expense of such is paid by any such person benefiting from the relocation and the Grantee is given reasonable advance written notice to prepare for such changes. The Grantee may require such payment in advance. For purposes of this Section, "reasonable advance written notice" shall be no less than **ten (10) business days** in the event of a temporary relocation and no less than **one hundred twenty (120) days** for a permanent relocation.

8-1-35 **REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS.** If funds are available to any person using the Streets for the purpose of defraying the cost of any of the foregoing, the Grantor shall reimburse the Grantee in the same manner in which other persons affected by the requirement are reimbursed. If the funds are controlled by another governmental entity, the Grantor shall make application for such funds on behalf of the Grantee.

8-1-36 **EMERGENCY USE.** If the Grantee provides an Emergency Alert System ("EAS"), then the Grantor shall permit only appropriately trained and authorized Persons to operate the EAS equipment and shall take reasonable precautions to prevent any use of the Grantee's Cable System in any manner that results in inappropriate use thereof, or any loss or damage to the Cable System. The Grantor shall hold the Grantee, its employees, officers and assigns harmless from any claims or costs arising out of use of the EAS.

8-1-37 **RESERVED.**

DIVISION IX – SERVICE AND RATES

8-1-38 **PHONE SERVICE.** The Grantee shall maintain a toll-free telephone service operated such that complaints and requests for repairs or adjustments may be received at any time.

8-1-39 **NOTIFICATION OF SERVICE PROCEDURES.** The Grantee shall furnish each Subscriber at the time service is installed, written instructions that clearly set forth information concerning the procedures for making inquiries or complaints,

including the Grantee's name, address and local telephone number. Grantee shall give the Grantor **thirty (30) days** prior notice of any rate increases, channel lineup or other substantive service changes.

8-1-40 **RATE REGULATION.** Grantor shall have the right to exercise rate regulation to the extent authorized by law, or to refrain from exercising such regulation for any period of time, at the sole discretion of the Grantor. If and when exercising rate regulation, the Grantor shall abide by the terms and conditions set forth by the FCC.

8-1-41 **CONTINUITY OF SERVICE.** It shall be the right of all Subscribers to continue receiving Cable Service insofar as their financial and other obligations to the Grantee are honored.

8-1-42 **RESERVED.**

DIVISION X – FRANCHISE FEE

8-1-43 **AMOUNT OF FEE.** Grantee shall pay to the Grantor an annual franchise fee in an amount equal to **five percent (5%)** of the annual Gross Revenue. Such payment shall be in addition to taxes of general applicability owed to the Grantor by the Grantee that are not included as franchise fee under federal law.

8-1-44 **PAYMENT OF FEE.** Payment of the fee due the Grantor shall be made on an annual basis, and within **forty-five (45) days** of the close of each calendar year. The payment period shall commence as of the Effective Date of the Franchise. In the event of a dispute, the Grantor, if it so requests, shall be furnished a statement of said payment, reflecting the Gross Revenues and the applicable charges, deductions and computations for the period covered by the payment.

8-1-45 **ACCORD AND SATISFACTION.** No acceptance of any payment by the Grantor shall be construed as a release or as an accord and satisfaction of any claim the Grantor may have for additional sums payable as a franchise fee under this Franchise.

8-1-46 LIMITATION ON RECOVERY. In the event that any Franchise payment or recomputed payment is not made on or before the dates specified herein, Grantee shall pay an interest charge, computed from such due date, at the annual rate of **one percent (1%)** over the prime interest rate. The period of limitation for recovery of any franchise fee payable hereunder shall be **three (3) years** from the date on which payment by the Grantee was due.

8-1-47 RESERVED.

DIVISION XI – TRANSFER OF FRANCHISE

8-1-48 FRANCHISE TRANSFER. The Franchise granted hereunder shall not be assigned, other than to an entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control with the Grantee, without the prior consent of the Grantor, which such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. No such consent shall be required, however, for a transfer in trust, by mortgage, by other hypothecation, or by assignment of any rights, title or interest of the Grantee in the Franchise or Cable System to secure indebtedness. Within **thirty (30) days** of receiving the request for transfer, the Grantor shall notify the Grantee in writing of any additional information it reasonably requires to determine the legal, financial and technical qualifications of the transferee. If the Grantor has not taken any action on the Grantee's request for transfer within **one hundred twenty (120) days** after receiving the request, consent by the Grantor shall be deemed given.

8-1-49 RESERVED.

DIVISION XII – RECORDS, REPORTS AND MAPS

8-1-50 REPORTS REQUIRED. The Grantee's schedule of charges, contract or application forms for regular Subscriber service, policy regarding the processing of Subscriber complaints, delinquent Subscriber disconnect and reconnect procedures and any other terms and conditions adopted as the Grantee's policy in connection with its Subscribers shall be filed with the Grantor upon written request.

8-1-51 RECORDS REQUIRED. The Grantee shall at all times maintain:

(A) A record of all complaints received regarding interruptions or degradation of Cable Service shall be maintained for **one (1) year**.

(B) A full and complete set of plans, records and strand maps showing the location of the Cable System.

8-1-52 INSPECTION OF RECORDS. Grantee shall permit any duly authorized representative of the Grantor, upon receipt of advance written notice to examine during normal business hours and on a nondisruptive basis any and all records as is reasonably necessary to ensure Grantee's compliance with the Franchise. Such notice shall specifically reference the subsection of the Franchise that is under review so that the Grantee may organize the necessary books and records for easy access by the Grantor. The Grantee shall not be required to maintain any books and records for Franchise compliance purposes longer than **three (3) years**, except for service complaints, which shall be kept for **one (1) year** as specified above. The Grantee shall not be required to provide Subscriber information in violation of Section 631 of the Cable Act. The Grantor agrees to treat as confidential any books; records or maps that constitute proprietary or confidential information to the extent Grantee make the Grantor aware of such confidentiality. If the Grantor believes it must release any such confidential books or records in the course of enforcing this Franchise, or for any other reason, it shall advise Grantee in advance so that Grantee may take appropriate steps to protect its interests. Until otherwise ordered by a court or agency of competent jurisdiction, the Grantor agrees that, to the extent permitted by state and federal law, it shall deny access to any of Grantee's books and records marked confidential, as set forth above, to any Person.

8-1-53 RESERVED.

DIVISION XIII – COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

8-1-54 SERVICE TO SCHOOLS AND BUILDINGS. The Grantee shall maintain, without charge, **one (1)** outlet to each School, located in the Service Area served by the Cable System and will provide free Basic and Expanded Basic Service, for so long as the Cable System remains in operation in the Service Area. Any such School may install, at its expense, such additional outlets for classroom purposes as it desires, provided that such installation shall not interfere with the operation of Grantee's Cable System, and that the quality and manner of installation of such additional connections shall have been approved by the Grantee and shall comply with all local, State and

federal laws and regulations. In addition, the Grantee shall furnish to the Grantor, without installation or monthly charges, **one (1) outlet** to each Police and Fire Station, each public library and City Hall.

8-1-55 **LIMITATIONS ON USE.** The Cable Service provided pursuant to this Section shall not be used for commercial purposes and such outlets shall not be located in areas open to the public. The Grantor shall take reasonable precautions to prevent any use of the Grantee's Cable System that results in the inappropriate use thereof or any loss or damage to the Cable System. The Grantor shall hold the Grantee harmless from any and all liability or claims arising out of the provision and use of Cable Service required by **Section 8-1-54** above. The Grantee shall not be required to provide an outlet to any such building where a standard drop of more than **two hundred (200) feet** is required, unless the Grantor or building owner/occupant agrees to pay the incremental cost of any necessary extension or installation.

8-1-56 **RESERVED.**

DIVISION XIV – ENFORCEMENT OR REVOCATION

8-1-57 **NOTICE OF VIOLATION.** If the Grantor believes that the Grantee has not complied with the terms of the Franchise, the Grantor shall first informally discuss the matter with Grantee. If these discussions do not lead to resolution of the problem, the Grantor shall notify the Grantee in writing of the exact nature of the alleged noncompliance (the "Violation Notice").

8-1-58 **GRANTEE'S RIGHT TO CURE OR RESPOND.** The Grantee shall have **thirty (30) days** from receipt of the Violation Notice to: (1) respond to the Grantor, contesting the assertion of noncompliance, or (2) to cure such default, or (3) if, by the nature of default, such default cannot be cured within the **thirty (30) day** period, initiate reasonable steps to remedy such default and notify the Grantor of the steps being taken and the projected date that they will be completed.

8-1-59 **PUBLIC HEARING.** If the Grantee fails to respond to the Violation Notice received from the Grantor, or if the default is not remedied within the cure period set forth above, the Council shall schedule a public hearing if it intends to continue its investigation into the default. The Grantor shall provide the Grantee at

least **twenty (20) days** prior written notice of such hearing, which specifies the time, place and purpose of such hearing, notice of which shall be published by the Clerk of the Grantor in a newspaper of general circulation within the Grantor in accordance with **Section 8-1-67** hereof. The Grantee shall have the right to present evidence and to question the witnesses. The Grantor shall determine if the Grantee has committed a violation and shall make written findings of fact relative to its determination. If a violation is found, the Grantee may petition for reconsideration before any competent tribunal having jurisdiction over such matters.

8-1-60 ENFORCEMENT. Subject to applicable federal and state law, in the event the Grantor, after the hearing set forth in **Section 8-1-59** above, determines that the Grantee is in default of any provision of the Franchise, the Grantor may:

- (A) Seek specific performance of any provision, which reasonably lends itself to such remedy, as an alternative to damages; or
- (B) Commence an action at law for monetary damages or seek other equitable relief; or
- (C) In the case of a substantial default of a material provision of the Franchise, seek to revoke the Franchise itself in accordance with **Section 8-1-61** below.

8-1-61 REVOCAION.

(A) Prior to revocation or termination of the Franchise, the Grantor shall give written notice to the Grantee of its intent to revoke the Franchise on the basis of a pattern of noncompliance by the Grantee, including one or more instances of substantial noncompliance with a material provision of the Franchise. The notice shall set forth the exact nature of the noncompliance. The Grantee shall have **sixty (60) days** from such notice to either object in writing and to state its reasons for such objection and provide any explanation or to cure the alleged noncompliance. If the Grantor has not received a satisfactory response from Grantee, it may then seek to revoke the Franchise at a public hearing. The Grantee shall be given at least **thirty (30) days** prior written notice of such public hearing, specifying the time and place of such hearing and stating its intent to revoke the Franchise.

(B) At the hearing, the Council shall give the Grantee an opportunity to state its position on the matter, present evidence and question witnesses, after which it shall determine whether or not the Franchise shall be revoked. The public hearing shall be on the record and a written transcript shall be made available to the Grantee within **twenty (20) business days**. The decision of the Council shall be made in writing and shall be delivered to the Grantee. The Grantee may appeal such determination to an appropriate court, which shall have the power to review the decision of the Council *de novo*.

8-1-62 RESERVED.

DIVISION XV – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

8-1-63 **FORCE MAJEURE.** The Grantee shall not be held in default under, on in noncompliance with the provisions of the Franchise, nor suffer any enforcement or penalty relating to noncompliance or default, where such noncompliance or alleged defaults occurred or were caused by circumstances reasonably beyond the ability of the Grantee to anticipate and control. This provision includes work delays caused by waiting for utility providers to service or monitor their utility poles to which Grantee's Cable System is attached, as well as unavailability of materials and/or qualified labor to perform the work necessary.

8-1-64 **MINOR VIOLATIONS.** Furthermore, the parties hereby agree that it is not the Grantor's intention to subject the Grantee to penalties, fine, forfeitures or revocation of the Franchise for violations of the Franchise where the violation was a good faith error that resulted in no or minimal negative impact on the Subscribers within the Franchise territory, or where strict performance would result in practical difficulties and hardship to the Grantee which outweighs the benefit to be derived by the Grantor and/or Subscribers.

8-1-65 **ACTION OF PARTIES.** In any action by the Grantor or the Grantee that is mandated or permitted under the terms hereof, such party shall act in a reasonable, expeditious and timely manner. Furthermore, in any instance where approval or consent is required under the terms hereof, such approval or consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.

8-1-66 **EQUAL PROTECTION.** In the event that the Grantor grants **one (1)** or more franchise(s) or similar authorizations, for the construction, operation and maintenance of any communication facility, which shall offer services substantially equivalent to services offered by a Cable System, it shall not make the grant on more favorable or less burdensome terms. If said other franchise(s) contain provision imposing lesser obligations on the company(s) thereof than are imposed by the provisions of this Franchise, the Grantee may petition the Grantor for a modification of this Franchise. The Grantee shall be entitled, with respect to said lesser obligations, to such modification(s) of this Franchise as to insure fair and equal treatment to this Franchise and said other agreements and to provide all parties equal protection under the law.

8-1-67 NOTICES.

(A) All notices, reports or demands required to be given under this Franchise shall be in writing and shall be deemed to be given upon delivery if delivered personally to the person designated below, or on the **fifth (5th) day** following mailing if sent in accordance with the notice requirement of this Section and deposited in the United States mail in a sealed envelope, with registered or certified mail postage prepaid thereon, or on the next business day if sent by express mail or overnight air courier addressed to the party to which notice is being given, as follows:

If to the Grantor: City of Carlinville
 Attn: City Mayor
 550 North Broad Street
 Carlinville, Illinois 62626

If to the Grantee: Charter Communications
 Attn: Vice President of Operations
 12405 Powerscourt Drive, 4th Floor – Outer MO
 St. Louis, Missouri 63131

With Copy to: Charter Communications
 Attn: Corporate Government Affairs
 12405 Powerscourt Drive, 4th Floor
 St. Louis, Missouri 63131

(B) The Grantor and Grantee may designate alternative addresses by giving notice to the other in the manner provided for in this Section.

8-1-68 PUBLIC NOTICE. Minimum public notice of any public meeting relating to this Franchise shall be by publication at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the area at least **twenty (20) days** prior to the meeting and a posting at the administrative buildings of the Grantor.

8-1-69 SEVERABILITY. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Franchise is, for any reason, held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Franchise.

8-1-70 ENTIRE AGREEMENT. This Franchise sets forth the entire agreement between the parties respecting the subject matter hereof. All agreements, covenants, representations and warranties, express and implied, oral and written, of the

parties with regard to the subject matter hereof are contained herein. No other agreements, covenants, representations or warranties, express or implied, oral or written, have been made by any party to another with respect to the matter of this Franchise. All prior and contemporaneous conversations, negotiations, possible and alleged agreements, representations, covenants and warranties with respect to the subject matter hereof are waived, merged herein and therein and superseded hereby and thereby.

(Ord. No. 1503; 11-15-04)