



Meeting Date: 11/08/11

ACTION	TYPE OF ITEM
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved Recommendation	<input type="checkbox"/> Info/Consent
<input type="checkbox"/> Ord. No(s). _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
<input type="checkbox"/> Res. No(s). _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing (Info/consent)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Provide Direction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: City Council Business

Prepared By: Christina Aerenlund, Public Information Officer Agenda Item No. N-2

Reviewed By: City Manager [Signature] City Attorney AH Finance [Signature] Other (Specify) _____

DATE: October 31, 2011

TO: City Council

FROM: Edmund F. Sotelo, City Manager

SUBJECT: Simultaneous Broadcast in Spanish of City Council Meetings

RECOMMENDATION

That City Council review and approve the broadcasting of City Council meetings with simultaneous voice over Spanish interpretation, as the most practical and cost effective option.

DISCUSSION

The issue of providing access to City Council meetings for the Oxnard Spanish-speaking Community has been raised at City Council meetings by some residents.

On July 12, 2011, City Council received information regarding the possible costs associated with providing the broadcast of City Council meeting with simultaneous interpretation into Spanish by broadcasting an interpreters' translation transmitted by a sound system which would then be broadcast over a Second Audio Program (SAP) system.

City Council requested that staff explore other options and return with a recommendation.

The two primary mechanisms available for the simultaneous broadcast of the translation of City Council meetings in another language on the City cable television channel are though the use of a voice-over mechanism or a subtitling mechanism. Either option could be accomplished through the use of the SAP system.

Most television's provide a second audio program (SAP) channel for increased stereo reception. A viewer would be able to use the SAP function on the TV to hear or read the Spanish version of the proceedings while viewing the live video broadcast on Time Warner Channel 10 or FiOS Channel 35.

VOICE OVER AUDIO

The voice over audio option requires the services of two professional interpreters to interpret (translate) simultaneously all the English dialogue into Spanish. The interpreters' translation would be picked up by a sound system and broadcast through SAP.

SUBTITLING

Communication Access Real-time Translation (CART) is the instant "translation" of the spoken word into text using a stenotype machine, computer and real-time software. One or two lines of text would appear near the bottom of the television screen.

Real-time Captioning is when only a couple of lines of text are placed below the image of the speaker. Captionists are required to "translate" 100% of what is said with a minimum of 96% accuracy. In this instant, the "translation" from the spoken word to text is executed within the same language. There are English-writing stenographers, and Spanish-writing stenographers. It is questionable whether one writer, even if bilingual, would be able to simultaneously interpret from English into Spanish and at the same time "translate" into text to provide the Spanish captions, all at extremely high rates of speech. Therefore it is expected that the services of an interpreter would be needed to provide the "spoken Spanish" to a captionist (stenographer).

FINANCIAL IMPACT

If implemented, it is estimated that the ongoing costs for interpretation services for the voice over option are \$28,800 to \$36,000 per year, with an initial set-up cost of approximately \$3,000.

Ongoing costs for the Real Time Captioning system are between \$12,600 to \$27,200 per year for the Captionist, and \$28,800 to \$36,000 per year for the interpretation into Spanish, with an initial set-up cost of approximately \$17,000.

Funding has not been identified at this time.