



## STATEMENTS FROM MONDAY NIGHT'S COMCAST DISCUSSIONS

July 26, 2011

On Monday night, four high ranking Comcast officials met with City Council members in separate meetings to discuss the current state of the ongoing negotiations between the city and the cable provider. City Manager, Kevin Boggess, assistant City Manager, Jay Taliaferro, City Attorney, Steve Yost, Roanoke County Director of General Services, Anne Marie Green, and several city staff members also were present along with attorney Bob Allen, who is representing Salem in the negotiations.

After the separate meetings with Comcast, that took place early in the evening, and after a two-hour-and-fifteen minute closed session, that was conducted at the end of the regularly scheduled City Council meeting, council members issued the following statement.

***"We are extremely disappointed that Comcast has chosen not to make the citizens of Salem a priority when it comes to the future of cable services in our city. Even after face-to-face meetings with Comcast officials on Monday night, it appears that our requests have fallen on deaf ears. The city's two most important requirements for a new franchise agreement – an upgrade of the current infrastructure and the assurance that a local office will remain in Salem – still do not appear to be in Comcast's plans.***

***Furthermore, our partner in this process, Roanoke County, has not received any indication that Comcast plans to extend or upgrade cable services to residents in the Glenvar and Catawba areas, as county officials have requested."***

***Salem City Council***

City Manager Kevin Boggess has instructed attorney Bob Allen to have a concluding discussion with Comcast and then report back to him by early next week.

***"These negotiations have been ongoing for the past 10 months and we owe it to our citizens to bring some closure to this issue, one way or another."***

***City Manager Kevin Boggess***

**CONTACT:**

Mike Stevens  
City of Salem  
Communications Director  
(540)375-4112 office  
(540)353-2041 cell  
[mstevens@salemva.gov](mailto:mstevens@salemva.gov)