



Council Audit and Finance Committee Meeting
Tuesday, December 6, 2011
MINUTES

APPROVED AT JANUARY 25, 2011 MEETING

THE AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE CONVENED ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2011 AT 2:00 P.M. IN THE CITY HALL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, ROOM 1101, CITY HALL, 301 W. 2nd STREET.

The meeting was called to order at 2:09 p.m. by Chair Sheryl Cole. In attendance were Council Member Bill Spelman, Council Member Laura Morrison, and Council Member Kathie Tovo.

Agenda Item #1: Citizen Communication

Carol Biedrzycki, executive director of Texas Ratepayers' Organization to Save Energy, stated that she supports the audits of Austin Energy, and requested that council ensure that Reserve Funds and Off-System Sales be looked at.

Barbara Day, member of the City's Electric Utility Commission, requested that audits of Austin Energy look at the 6 Reserve Funds, Chiller Districts, and Debt Service ratios used by AE.

Lynnetta Cooper, from the Texas Legal Service Center stated that there is a difference between regulatory accounting and general accounting. She used Cash Working Capital as an example. Also, she echoed concerns about AE's Billing and Collection and Advanced Metering and how those items should lower the need for raising rates, as well as the Reserve Funds.

Agenda Item #2: Approval of the October 25, 2011 minutes

The October 25, 2011 minutes were approved on Council Member Spelman's motion, seconded by Council Member Tovo, with a 4-0 vote.

Agenda Item #3: Discussion and possible action related to ex-officio members on the Planning Commission (City Attorney)

Brent Lloyd, Assistant City Attorney, briefed the Committee on the general status of "ex-officio"; Charter, code, and bylaw provisions regarding ex-officios; and options for addressing ex officio members of the Planning Commission and other boards and commissions. Dave Sullivan, chairman of the City Planning Commission also presented the results of a search for historical references regarding ex-officio members of the City's Planning Commission.

The committee, on Council Member Spelman's motion and Mayor Pro Tem Cole's second and offering of a friendly amendment, along with Council Member Tovo's adding of a second friendly amendment and a 4-0 vote, directed staff to prepare and bring back for action, possible code changes consistent with certain ex officio members of boards and commissions (including any Council Members that sit on boards and/or commissions as ex officios) have full authority to speak at other boards and commissions but not have authority to vote, and also that their presence or absence would not affect votes or quorums. They also directed staff to bring back an option to make the City Manager and the Director of Public Works non-voting ex-officio members of the Planning Commission.

Agenda Item #4: Discussion and possible action on requested bylaw amendments for Boards and Commissions (City Clerk's Office)

Shirley Gentry, City Clerk, presented information on the Public Safety Commission's request to amend their bylaws to allow for two vice-chairs. The request was accepted on Council Member Spelman's motion; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cole, with a 4-0 vote.

Agenda Item #5: Presentation and acceptance of the Austin Water Utility Capital Improvement Project Funding Audit (City Auditor's Office)

Niki Raggi, Assistant City Auditor, presented the Austin Water Utility Capital Improvement Project Funding Audit. The report was accepted by Council Member Morrison's motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cole, with a 4-0 vote.

Agenda Item #6: Presentation and acceptance of the Ron Rakich & Associates' evaluation of the City of Austin Rolling Owner Controlled Insurance Program (City Auditor's Office)

Rachel Snell, Assistant City Auditor, presented the evaluation of the City of Austin Rolling Owner Controlled Insurance Program. The report was accepted by Council Member Tovo's motion; seconded by Council Member Morrison with a 4-0 vote.

Agenda Item #7: Discussion and possible action on the Board and Commission cost study (City Clerk's Office and Financial and Administrative Services Department)

Shirley Gentry, City Clerk, with assistance from Jeff Knodel, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, presented the results of the Board and Commission cost study. Staff was directed to come back with an analysis of which possible cost reductions would apply to which boards and/or commissions. The study was accepted on a motion by Council Member Morrison, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cole, with a 4-0 vote.

Agenda Item #8: Discussion and possible action relating to the proposed extension of service hours for Capital Metro MetroRail in 2012 and related financial considerations,

Robert Goode, Assistant City Manager, presented an update on discussions with Capital Metro on how to work together to improve the operation of Capital Metro's Red Line. No action necessary, however Mayor Pro Tem Cole asked for an update presentation at the January Committee meeting and include information on the impact on regional transportation.

Agenda Item #9: Presentation and acceptance of the City Auditor's 2011 Accomplishments Report (City Auditor's Office)

This item was postponed to the January meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m. on Council Member Spelman's motion, seconded by Council Member Morrison, with a 4-0 vote.