



**Council Committee on Austin Energy
Tuesday, September 3, 2013**

MEETING MINUTES

THE COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON AUSTIN ENERGY CONVENED ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2013 AT 9:35 A.M. IN THE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, ROOM 1101, CITY HALL, 301 W. SECOND STREET

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. by Mayor Leffingwell.

Agenda Item #1: Approval of minutes for the committee meeting held Tuesday, August 13, 2013.

The minutes of the August 13, 2013 meeting of the Council Committee on Austin Energy were approved on the motion from Council Member Spelman, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cole, with a 5-0 vote. Council Members Martinez and Tovo were off the dais.

Agenda Item #2: Briefing and discussion of Austin Energy's risk management program, including hedging policies and fuel management.

Cheryl Mele, Chief Operating Officer and Pat Sweeney, Director of Energy Market Operations presented information regarding the energy risk management program.

Agenda Item #3: Briefing and discussion of the collections process, utility service disconnections, and reconnection fees and policies.

Kerry Overton, Deputy General Manager and JJ Gutierrez, Vice President of Customer Care presented an overview on the collections process, including the disconnection and reconnection processes. Requests from the Committee included the back-up data for the cost study.

Agenda Item #4: Discuss legal issues related to Austin Energy fees, rates, and program offerings proposed for the FY 2013-14 budget.

The Council Committee on Austin Energy went into executive session as permitted under Chapter 551.086 of the Texas Government Code in order to discuss Austin Energy's risk management program, including hedging policies and fuel management; and under Chapter 551.071 of the Texas Government Code in order to discuss legal issues related to Austin Energy fees, rates, and program offerings proposed for the FY 2013-14 budget.

The Council Committee requested an item be posted for the budget discussion for legal issues related to the budget.

Agenda Item #5: Discussion of Austin Energy Quarterly Briefing, distributed after the August 13, 2013, committee meeting, regarding the generation plan, operational highlights, consumer service highlights, and a financial update.

Committee members dismissed discussion of the Austin Energy Quarterly Report.

Agenda Item #6: Discussion and possible action to set agenda items and dates for future committee meetings.

Committee members accepted by acclamation the next meeting date as October 8, 2013.

Agenda Item #7: Citizen communications.

Carol Biedrzycki spoke to the Committee regarding the disconnection and reconnection fees, policies and the cost of service study. She also stated concerns she has with partial payments and how they are applied.

Lanetta Cooper spoke to the Committee about her concerns with the data for the cost study for disconnections and reconnects, and that there should be a required time turnaround. She stated that the waiver allowing a payment plan even if disconnected should become permanent and she is concerned with partial payments on bills.

Charlie Hemmeline recommended that renewable energy be disaggregated into the various sources when presented.

Adjournment – Mayor Pro Tem Cole adjourned the meeting without objections at 11:45 a.m.

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Council Committee on Austin Energy
Thursday, January 9, 2014

MEETING MINUTES

THE **COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON AUSTIN ENERGY** CONVENED ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2014 AT 9:33 A.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, 301 W. SECOND STREET

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m. by Mayor Leffingwell.

Agenda Item #6: Discussion of competitive matters related to the Fayette Power Project, under Texas Government Code § 551.086.

The Council Committee on Austin Energy went into executive session as permitted under Chapter 551.086 of the Texas Government Code in order to discuss competitive matters related to the Fayette Power Project.

The Council Committee stated an item will be posted for a public briefing and discussion of this topic at their next meeting.

Agenda Item #7: Citizen communications.

Carol Biedrzycki spoke to the Committee regarding recommendations in the generation plan regarding energy efficiency programs for low income citizens. She stated that updates should be requested regarding the progress that has been made in these areas since adoption of the generation plan.

David Cortez stated that the Fayette Project decision process take place in public. He also requested additional information about the upcoming generation plan process.

Kaiba White spoke to the Committee regarding the value of solar rate being reduced without public discussion. She stated these changes were made without transparency, public input or Council approval. She recommended that the solar rider come to Council for approval after a public process and that changes go into effect this year.

Karen Hadden stated that the generation planning process needs to be inclusive and allow enough time for real participation. She also stated her concerns that the solar methodology changed without deliberation.

Richard Stewart spoke to the Committee regarding the amount of investment he has made installing solar at his residence. He shared his concerns that his credit balance has been cleared, and stated that he wants some of his balance to be added back.

Agenda Item #3: Briefing and discussion regarding Austin Energy employee salaries, salaries at comparable electric utilities, and planning for market adjustments to Austin Energy employee pay.

Larry Weis, General Manager, provided an update on Austin Energy's efforts with the Human Resources Department to hire a consultant to look at comparative wages for positions specific to the electric utility. Recommendations will be brought forward this spring. This analysis may include some management positions.

Council Members asked for a follow-up explanation from the Human Resources Department as to why the policy of surveying the workforce every three years was not followed for the utility and future plans in this area, the extent to which management positions were included in the study and findings of a study in 2007 showing a disproportionate number of supervisory staff.

Agenda Item #1: Approval of minutes for the committee meeting held Tuesday, September 3, 2013.

This item was not discussed.

Agenda Item #2: Briefing and discussion regarding the value of solar, the solar credit provided to customers under the residential solar tariff.

This item will be presented at the next meeting of the Emerging Technology and Telecommunications Committee.

Agenda Item #4: Discussion of the role of advisory boards and commissions reviewing matters pertaining to Austin Energy.

This item was not discussed.

Agenda Item #5: Discussion and possible action to set agenda items and dates for future committee meetings.

This item was not discussed.

Adjournment – Mayor Pro Tem Cole adjourned the meeting without objections at 11:57 a.m.

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