



**Council Committee on Austin Energy
Tuesday, February 4, 2014**

MEETING MINUTES

THE **COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON AUSTIN ENERGY** CONVENED ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2014 AT 2:03 P.M. IN THE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS ROOM, CITY HALL, 301 W. SECOND STREET

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. by Mayor Leffingwell.

Agenda Item #6: Citizen communications.

Jim Michael introduced himself to the Committee as a part of Department of Energy program called the Home Energy Score which trains Wounded Warriors and veterans to perform energy audits on homes. He introduced the first group of veterans.

Ben Kessler asked that natural gas and coal not be included in Austin Energy's generation plan. He stated that a new group called Austin Climate Action will oppose a new natural gas plant and that the solar goal should be doubled.

Dale Bulla stated that citizens of Austin are concerned about the effects of the coal plant on not only Austin citizens, but those who live around the plant. He urged them to continue efforts to take the coal plant offline and that new EPA rules will probably make the plant uneconomical.

Michael Ferrell asked the Committee for the real cost of the coal plant and to make those amounts public. He stated that the goal is clear to get less carbon and that with the right economics and policy anything is possible.

David Cortez stated that he wants to see more notice and time for meetings so that citizens can participate. He shared his concerns about the process for the generation plan meetings that will not allow much citizen participation. He asked that the City act on behalf of residents to retire the Fayette plant responsibly by taking ownership of one unit.

Agenda Item #1: 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.

Agenda Item #2: Approval of minutes for the committee meetings held Tuesday, September 3, 2013 and Thursday, January 9, 2014.

The minutes of the September 3, 2013 and January 9, 2014 meetings of the Council Committee on Austin Energy were approved on a motion from Mayor Pro Tem Cole, seconded by Council Member Spelman, with a 6-0 vote. Council Member Martinez was off the dais.

Agenda Item #3: Briefing and discussion of scenarios that eliminate or reduce the use of coal in Austin Energy's power generation portfolio.

Khalil Shalabi, Vice President of Resource Planning and Energy Market Operations, provided some of the scenarios that were run to retire the Fayette Power Project (FPP) as well as analyses of the impacts and costs of each of those scenarios. The scenarios included retiring FPP, selling FPP to LCRA or another party, and reducing FPP's output to the minimum allowed per agreement.

Council Member Spelman asked if we could move up the scheduled ramp down from 2020 to 2017, and staff stated that scenario can be run to determine if affordability goals are met with an earlier ramp down. Council Member Morrison stated that this is a part of the generation plan and due to some of the concerns raised by speakers, she would like a greater understanding of the generation plan process and an opportunity to provide feedback.

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

This item was postponed to the next meeting.

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

This item was postponed to the next meeting.

Adjournment – Mayor Leffingwell adjourned the meeting without objections at 4:10 p.m.