



Council Committee on Austin Energy
Thursday, May 29, 2014

MEETING MINUTES

THE **COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON AUSTIN ENERGY** CONVENED ON THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2014 AT 9:37 A.M. IN THE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS ROOM, CITY HALL, 301 W. SECOND STREET

The meeting was called to order at 9:37 a.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Cole.

Agenda Item #1: Approval of minutes for the committee meeting held Thursday, April 3, 2014.

The minutes of the April 3, 2014 meeting of the Council Committee on Austin Energy were approved on the motion from Council Member Martinez, seconded by Council Member Morrison, with a 5-0 vote. Mayor Leffingwell was absent and Council Member Riley was off the dais.

The meeting was recessed at 9:39 a.m. due to a fire alarm, and reconvened at 9:43 a.m.

Agenda Item #2: Briefing and discussion regarding Austin Energy line extension policy and fees.

Tommy Nylec, Electric Service Delivery Area Engineering Manager, provided an overview of the proposed changes for the line extension policy, including a comparison of the proposed policy, outreach efforts, feedback, and implementation schedule.

Council Member Tovo stated that the Resolution regarding this item would be coming forward at the June 12 Council meeting. Council Member Martinez asked about the affordability standards that would be used, and David Wood, Senior Vice President of Electric Service Delivery, responded they would mirror those used by the Austin Water Utility. Council Member Tovo asked that the standards be clarified through the formal question and answer process.

Agenda Item #3: Briefing and discussion regarding the City's process for disconnection and reconnection of utility services.

Elaine Kelly-Diaz, Vice President of Customer Account Management, provided an update on the same day reconnection policy including an overview of the number of disconnect/reconnect field activities, process changes, the number of escalations and proposed communication changes.

Council Member Martinez asked how the number of disconnections and reconnection activities compares with other utilities. Council Member Morrison asked if we have data regarding how long utilities are disconnected before the utility is contacted.

Carol Biedrzycki stated that she had concerns for the number of individuals disconnected who are not reconnected. She also asked if there was more specificity regarding when individuals call and stated that there would be recommendations coming from the arrearage management working group. Elaine Kelly-Diaz responded that additional details should be available in a forthcoming report.

Agenda Item #4: Update from the Austin Generation Resource Planning Task Force and discussion of related issues.

Michael Osborne, Task Force Chair, and Barry Dreyling, Vice Chair, gave an update on the efforts of the Austin Generation Resource Planning Task Force regarding their meetings, presentations and their deadline of presenting a preliminary report by the end of June. Michael Osborne stated that the Task Force continued to seek information from the utility regarding per generating unit pricing information deemed competitive, and that they passed a Resolution asking the City Council direct Austin Energy to provide that information.

Karen Kennard, City Attorney, stated that she and Andy Perny, Division Chief, will look at an Attorney General opinion regarding the release of competitive matters information, without it becoming discoverable through the Public Information Act.

Mike Sloan, Task Force member, made comments regarding how they are looking for some of the same information that was received in 2009 and that models are not always accurate since they depend on inputs.

Carol Biedrzycki, Task Force member, stated that she was in support of her fellow members in their effort to receive the information and hoped that Council could find a solution. She also stated that she is interested in energy efficiency and potentially providing for individuals who do not qualify for assistance to be included in the next generation plan.

Kaiba White spoke on behalf of Public Citizen stating that some action is needed so that the Task Force can receive all the information they need to make a recommendation, including information about Fayette.

Council Member Morrison asked in what way the Task Force was considering the nuclear plant in their generation plan deliberations, if there were any Austin Energy staff members supporting the potential re-licensing for the nuclear plant and what was the timeline for that process.

Agenda Item #5: Citizens Communications - The first five speakers signed up before the meeting is called to order will each be allowed three minutes to speak.

Citizens spoke at the time the item they signed up for was discussed.

Adjournment – Mayor Pro Tem Cole adjourned the meeting without objections at 11:31 a.m.