



Council Committee on Austin Energy
Thursday, October 9, 2014

MEETING MINUTES

THE **COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON AUSTIN ENERGY** CONVENED ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2014 AT 2:05 P.M. IN THE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS ROOM, CITY HALL, 301 W. SECOND STREET.

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Mayor Leffingwell.

Agenda Item #1: Approval of minutes for the committee meeting held Wednesday, September 24, 2014.

The minutes of the September 24, 2014 meeting of the Council Committee on Austin Energy were approved on the motion from Council Member Morrison, seconded by Council Member Spelman, with a 4-0 vote. Mayor Pro Tem Cole, Council Member Tovo and Council Member Martinez were off the dais.

Agenda Item #2: Update from the Austin Generation Resource Planning Task Force and discussion of energy generation planning issues.

Michael Osborne, Chair, completed the presentation begun on September 24, 2014 regarding the Report of the Austin Generation Resource Planning Task Force. He spoke about affordability issues, prices on the real time market and that he would like the utility to move forward on the request for proposal for 600 MW of solar.

Agenda Item #3: Briefing and discussion regarding energy generation resource planning.

Larry Weis, General Manager; Cheryl Mele, Chief Operating Officer; Khalil Shalabi, Vice President of Resource Planning and Energy Market Operations; and Elaina Ball, Vice President of Power Production presented and answered questions regarding the 2014 Generation Resource Plan update. The briefing included a description of the generation resource planning process, an explanation of the scenarios and affordability, characteristics of a high efficiency gas units and plant location options.

Council Member Spelman requested a graph similar to the one on page 20 including the affordability goal.

Agenda Item #4: Discussion and possible action to set agenda items for future committee meetings.

This item was not discussed.

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.

Cyrus Reed encouraged the Council to approve a generation plan that works with Resolution 157 and works with Austin Energy. He stated that the utility should look into renewable purchase power agreements and ownership. He disagreed with the costs of storage and the higher energy efficiency numbers.

Kaiba White stated that she is still unclear if natural gas hedging costs are included in the model and that it should be clarified. She also stated that local solar will help the local economy in addition to adding generation and that the rising costs of solar and wind in Austin Energy's assumptions go against other predictions.

Jere Locke stated that the use of natural gas does equal high emissions and water use if where the gas is produced is taken into account. He stated climate change is a real issue that has consequences according to many different international organizations.

Susan Lippman stated that 2050 is not soon enough to go carbon free. She raised concerns with some of Austin Energy's assumptions and that the 30-year life span of the gas plant goes past the goals of 2030.

Paul Robbins stated he has issues with the task force report including their load growth numbers and storage goals. He stated that he cannot go to his neighbors to advocate for the plan when he cannot document what is in the report.

Adjournment – Mayor Leffingwell adjourned the meeting without objection at 4:08 p.m.