



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MINUTES – JANUARY 20, 2015

The Resource Management Commission convened in a regular meeting on January 20, 2015 at Town Lake Center, 721 Barton Springs Road, in Austin, Texas. The meeting was called to order by Chair Leo Dielmann at 6:35 p.m.

Commissioners in Attendance: Chair Leo Dielmann, Vice Chair Sean Kelly and Commissioners Richard Amato and Carol Biedrzycki. Luke Metzger was not present at the call to order, but arrived after Citizen Communications. Grace Hsieh and Hari Krishna were absent.

Staff in Attendance: Debbie Kimberly, Sathibabu “Babu” Chakka and Toye Goodson-Collins of Austin Energy; Teresa Lutes and Mark Jordan of the Austin Water Utility.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve revised minutes of the November 18, 2014 regular meeting and minutes of the December 16, 2014 regular meeting – **Motion to approve revised minutes of the November 18, 2014 meeting Ms. Biedrzycki, seconded by Mr. Kelly, passed on a vote of 4-0.** The minutes were revised and presented by the staff liaison to include the Commission’s votes supporting staff’s recommendations on the utilities’ hearing process which was omitted in the original minutes. **Motion to approve minutes of the December 16, 2014 meeting as corrected, by Ms. Biedrzycki, seconded by Mr. Kelly, passed on a vote of 4-0.** The correction was to add language to the Citizen Communications section as shown: “Paul Robbins said that energy efficiency upgrades for appliances in the free weatherization program were a bad strategy because it is not cost effective.”

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

Paul Robbins said that appliance replacements in Austin Energy’s free weatherization program should not be reinstated, as discussed by the Low Income Consumer Advisory Task Force, because it was not cost effective. He distributed a memo dated January 9, 2015 from Liz Jambor to the Task Force showing analysis on the impact of HVAC and refrigerator installations in the weatherization program.

Commissioner Luke Metzger arrived.

After Commissioners reviewed the memo, Mr. Dielmann made a motion recommending the Task Force consider the data provided by Ms. Jambor before making a recommendation on appliance replacements. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. Ms. Biedrzycki asked whether action could be taken during Citizen Communications. The staff liaison said that because they were not posted for action on the subject, they could not vote. Mr. Dielmann requested that an action item be added to the February agenda. Ms. Biedrzycki offered to provide an update to the Commission in February.

STAFF REPORTS AND BRIEFINGS

2. Austin Energy: Generation, Resource and Climate Protection Plan to 2025 Update – by Mr. Sathibabu “Babu” Chakka, Manager, Energy Market Analysis.
3. Austin Water Utility: Current regional water planning activities – by Ms. Teresa Lutes, Systems Planning Division Manager, Austin Water Utility.

NEW BUSINESS

4. Discussion of Annual Internal Review and Report, required per Section 2-1-46 of the City Code, due to the City Clerk on March 31, 2014 – This item was withdrawn. The staff liaison reported that the report would be due later than usual—possibly in the fall—according to the Boards and Commissions coordinator.

OLD BUSINESS

5. Discussion and approval of the 2015 meeting schedule – After reviewing four possible options, Mr. Metzger made a motion to continue meeting on the third Tuesday of the month at the same location, Town Lake Center. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kelly. Several Commissioners pointed out that March 17, a scheduled meeting date, was during spring break. Ms. Biedrzycki offered a substitute motion, to continue meeting on the third Tuesday of the month except for the month of March, when the meeting would be held on March 10, the second Tuesday of the month, instead of March 17. The motion was seconded by Mr. Metzger. Motion passed on a vote of 5-0.
6. Discussion regarding a schedule of agenda briefings and topics – Commissioners discussed and amended the proposed schedule of presentations and topics. The staff liaison will provide the amended schedule at next month's meeting for review.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

7. Requests for future agenda items and updates from Commissioners on activities of interest – For next month's meeting, Commissioners requested a discussion of the monthly reports from Austin Energy and the Austin Water Utility and that the water utility provide data on water loss due to infrastructure leaks and breaks. Commissioners also requested a discussion item on appliance replacements in the free weatherization program.
Ms. Biedrzycki provided an update on the Low Income Consumer Advisory Task Force. She reported they had met twice in January and at each meeting a panel of subject matter experts discussed their programs and how they interacted with Austin Energy's programs. Their meeting on February 6 would include discussion of appliance replacements in the weatherization program. The Task Force meets on the first and third Friday at 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. in Room 100 at Town Lake Center.
Ms. Biedrzycki thanked Austin Energy staff for revising the energy burden table as requested at last month's meeting. She pointed out the large difference between 0-50% of poverty and 51-100% of poverty. In the 0-50% category, utility costs accounted for 73.9% of household income and in the 51-100% category, utility costs accounted for 21.3%.

ADJOURN – Mr. Dielmann adjourned the meeting without objection at 8:20 p.m.