



**AUSTIN ENERGY UTILITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 8, 2016**

The Austin Energy Utility Oversight Committee convened in a regular meeting on Monday, August 8, 2016 at 301 W. 2nd Street in Austin, Texas.

Chair Sheri Gallo called the committee meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

Committee Members in attendance:

Chair Sheri Gallo
Vice Chair Leslie Pool
Mayor Steve Adler
Council Member Gregorio Casar
Council Member Delia Garza
Council Member Ora Houston
Council Member Ann Kitchen
Council Member Sabino “Pio” Renteria
Mayor Pro Tem Kathie Tovo
Council Member Ellen Troxclair
Council Member Don Zimmerman

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 1. Approve the minutes of the Austin Energy Utility Oversight Committee meeting of May 26, 2016.**

The minutes of the May 26, 2016 meeting were approved on Council Member Houston’s motion, and Council Member Garza’s second, on a 6-0 vote. Vice Chair Pool, Mayor Pro Tem Tovo and Council Members Kitchen, Renteria, and Troxclair were off the dais.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

- 2. The first five speakers signed up before the meeting is called to order will each be allowed three minutes to speak.**

There was one speaker:

- Paul Robbins spoke about the effectiveness of efforts addressing automatic enrollment for the Customer Assistance Program.

BRIEFINGS

3. General Manager's report

- **Upcoming procurements: Customer Care Contact Center staffing, Customer Assistance Program automatic enrollment administrator contract, Telecom Make Ready and Utility Pole Replacements contract, 811 Barton Springs Road office space lease agreement.**

(Notes: SPONSOR: Council Member Sheri Gallo, CO 1: Council Member Leslie Pool, CO 2: Mayor Steve Adler)

Mark Dombroski, Austin Energy Interim General Manager; Kerry Overton, Deputy General Manager; Jawana "JJ" Gutierrez, Vice President, Customer Care Services; and Dan Smith, Vice President, Electric Service Delivery, provided updates regarding the listed topics. Paul Robbins was invited by Council members to respond to the staff analysis of the proposed recommendations to the Customer Assistance Program (CAP) automatic enrollment. Council discussion included the total costs of transitioning contractors to City of Austin full-time employees, the cost increase in the base contract for the CAP automatic enrollment administrator, the make-up of people receiving CAP benefits, reporting of power line issues, and status of the wireless communications workgroup.

Requests included staff analysis of adding full-time employees on the City's pension liability, the number of customers in the top two energy usage tiers, and the amount of pole attachment usage fees.

4. Update and discussion of the rate review process and Austin Energy's initial rates proposal, including presentation of the impartial hearing examiner's report and staff response.

(Notes: SPONSOR: Council Member Sheri Gallo, CO 1: Council Member Leslie Pool, CO 2: Mayor Steve Adler)

Mark Dreyfus, Vice President, Regulatory Affairs and Corporate Communications; Alfred Herrera, Impartial Hearing Examiner; and Thomas Brocato, Lloyd Gosselink Attorneys at Law, provided briefings and responded to Council questions. Discussion included how the proposed recommendations would affect the various customer classes in addition to points of agreement and disagreement between staff's rate proposal and the recommendations of the Impartial Hearing Examiner.

Council Members made the following requests: the effects of staff's recommendation on residential customers, including low-income customers; differentiate the effects of tier compression from the effects of seasonality; the percentage that each residential tier pays related to their cost of service; the usage patterns of houses of worship related to other commercial businesses that have heavy weekend usage; and the memo sent in June 2012 related to economic development costs.

FUTURE ITEMS

5. Discussion of future agenda items.

This item was not addressed.

ADJOURN

Chair Gallo adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m. without objection.

The minutes were approved on this the 15th day of August 2016 on Mayor Adler's motion, Council Member Houston's second on a 6-0 vote. Vice Chair Pool and Council Members Casar, Garza, Troxclair, and Zimmerman were off the dais.