



**AUSTIN ENERGY UTILITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 19, 2017**

The Austin Energy Utility Oversight Committee convened in a regular meeting on Monday, June 19, 2017 at 301 W. 2nd Street in Austin, Texas.

Chair Leslie Pool called the committee meeting to order at 9:41 a.m.

Committee Members in attendance:

Council Member Leslie Pool, Chair
Mayor Steve Adler, Vice Chair
Council Member Alison Alter
Council Member Jimmy Flannigan
Council Member Delia Garza
Council Member Ora Houston
Council Member Sabino "Pio" Renteria

Committee Members absent:

Mayor Pro Tem Kathie Tovo
Council Member Gregorio Casar
Council Member Ann Kitchen
Council Member Ellen Troxclair

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 1. Approve the minutes of the Austin Energy Utility Oversight Committee meeting of June 19, 2017.**

The minutes of the June 19, 2017 meeting were approved on Council Member Alter's motion, and Mayor Adler's second, on a 6-0 vote. Mayor Pro Tem Tovo and Council Members Casar, 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 on items not on the agenda.**

There were five speakers:

- Todd Davey stated he was part of the resource plan working group and described the group's process. He stated his disappointment in the campaign to put forward more aggressive goals outside of the working group recommendations.
- Carol Biedrzycki said her comments were in response to the medically vulnerable registry memo sent in May. She explained how disconnections work for other utilities, and said Austin Energy should report these occurrences to another entity such as the City Manager or City Council.

- Paul Robbins stated Austin Energy has known there are issues with the Customer Assistance Program since 2014, and data for January 2017 show issues still exist. He said Council needs to pass the tariff changes to income qualify customers with high real estate values.
- Steven Mann said he is concerned with water use and recent droughts, and renewable energy doesn't use water. He shared his hope that Austin can get to 75% renewable by 2027 and 100% by 2030.
- Dale Bulla said numerous governors and mayors have signed on to the Paris Agreement on climate and asked if Austin will continue to lead on the environment.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

3. General Manager's report:

- **Kingsbery Community Solar Project;**
- **downtown infrastructure needs;**
- **progress on items in the rate settlement;**
- **chilled water plant at Austin Community College Highland Campus;**
- **Fayette Power Project options and preferred path;**
- **wildlife management;**
- **Science Festival results;**
- **upcoming energy efficiency rebates.**

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

Elaina Ball, Deputy General Manager and Chief Operating Officer, provided the report. A request was made for more information on the Set Your Due Date pilot program.

4. Austin Energy Resource, Generation, and Climate Protection Plan update.

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

Elaina Ball; Kahlil Shalabi, Vice President of Strategy, Technology, and Markets; and Karen Hadden, Chair of the Electric Utility Commission, provided the presentation. Discussion included reasons for the expected power supply adjustment increase, potential budget impacts, working group process, effect on rates, working group recommendation impact versus the current plan, and the public hearing scheduled for August 10.

There were 22 speakers:

- Kaiba White said more time and public input is needed before the plan is voted on. She also said a commitment for 100% renewable by 2030 is needed, local solar goals should be increased, and there should be a focus on energy efficiency.
- Al Braden stated there is a need to increase goals and go carbon free by 2030.
- Susan Lippman said it is time for Austin to set its energy goals higher by going up to 75% renewable by 2027.
- Carol Biedrzycki stated the recommendations should focus on low income customers and how they will be impacted.
- Robert Matlock stated we should go to 75% renewables and uncertainty in cost dwarves the difference in going from 65% to 75%.
- Paul Robbins said comparing dispatchable power to renewable is not possible.
- Cyrus Reed stated his support for the working group recommendations and having a public hearing in August. He recommended studying to see if 75% renewables is possible by 2027.
- Betty Dunkerley said she supports the working group's report because it reaffirms the Council's 2014 goals and extended some goals. She said overall the working group followed a very good process.

- Leo Dielmann stated he was on the working group, supportive of the recommendations, and the goals need to be equitable and environmentally sound.
- Janee Briesemeister said she was on the working group, the recommendations support Council goals, and there are some differences on timing and affordability.
- Janis Bookout stated Austin signed on to Deadline 2020 to have negligible emissions by 2035, and she supports 75% renewables by 2027.
- Evan Bookout said climate change is real, we are already seeing its effects, and Austin needs to go renewable as fast as possible.
- Richard Halpin stated there was consensus among the working group to study what it would mean to move to 75% renewables and requested a risk management audit of the South Texas Project.
- Daniel Llanes said the goal should be raised from 65 to 75% renewables, Decker should not be replaced with a gas plant, there was not enough public input, and a town hall should be held in east Austin.
- Cary Ferchill stated his support for the plan due to the amount of work that went into it as a part of a really good process.
- David King said Council should commit to be carbon-free by 2030, retire Decker in 2020, and support low income customers and renters.
- Rachel Renier stated Austin needs to lead the state in smart energy policies, and she supports a plan with low income and multifamily components.
- Robert Murray said Austin Energy needs to look to the Northwest in order to capitalize on energy efficiency.
- Michael Conti stated the plan should have ambitious goals of what the city wants to move toward.
- Cathy Redson said the goals should remain robust to promote solar growth.
- Shane Johnson stated there was a lack of diversity on the working group, all units at Decker need to be retired, and solar and energy efficiency goals need to be improved.
- Faye Maxwell stated there should be a new solar rebate for affordable housing, a billing solution for individuals in multifamily properties should be a priority, and a program similar to CPS' SolarHost should be created.

5. Annual update to the Value-Of-Solar Rider in the City's electric rates.

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

Debbie Kimberly, Vice President, Customer Energy Solutions, and Erika Bierschbach, Interim Director, Energy & Market Operations, provided the update. Discussion included risks for homeowners and Austin Energy due to utilizing a rolling average to determine the Value-Of-Solar, opportunities for renters, and coordination with CodeNext.

6. Purchase power agreement for wind energy.

(Notes: SPONSOR: Council Member Leslie Pool, CO 1: Mayor Steve Adler, CO 2: Mayor Pro Tem Kathie Tovo)

Erika Bierschbach provided the presentation.

FUTURE ITEMS

7. Discussion of future agenda items.

This item was not addressed.

ADJOURN

Chair Pool adjourned the meeting at 11:58 a.m. without objection.

The minutes were approved on this the 16th day of October 2017 on Council Member Casar's motion, Council Member Garza's second on a 6-0-1 vote. Mayor Pro Tem Tovo abstained and Council Members Alter, Kitchen, Renteria, and Troxclair were off the dais.