



## RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2018

The Resource Management Commission convened a regular meeting on Tuesday, November 13, 2018 at Town Lake Center, 721 Barton Springs Road, in Austin, Texas.

Commissioners in Attendance: Cyrus Reed, Vice Chair (District 9); James Babyak (District 6), Rebecca Brenneman (District 10), Derrick Lesnau (District 1), Tom “Smitty” Smith (District 5), and Kaiba White (District 2). Absent: Leo Dielmann, Chair (District 7) and Scott Kohan (District 3). The commission has three vacancies: Mayor, District 4, and District 8.

Staff in Attendance: Debbie Kimberly, Denise Kuehn, Karl Popham, Tim Harvey, Debbie Swank, Artis Hailey, and Toye Goodson of Austin Energy.

**CALL TO ORDER** – Vice Chair Reed called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. and directed attention to the addendum containing Item #9 to be considered immediately following consideration of Item #4.

### 1. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

Paul Robbins expressed disappointment in the Commission’s vote last month in support of the Texas Gas Service tariff and budget. He said the change from a volumetric to a flat rate would negatively impact low income customers. He also suggested the person hired to conduct a cost-benefit analysis of the utility’s conservation program savings was not an independent third party because the person had worked for the utility in another part of the state.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – The motion to approve the minutes of the meeting on October 16, 2018 was approved on Commissioner Babyak’s motion, Commissioner Lesnau’s second on a 6-0 vote.

### NEW BUSINESS

3. Approve issuance of a rebate to Charles Schwab and Co. Inc., for performing energy efficiency improvements at its new office facilities located at 2309 Gracy Farms Lane, in an amount not to exceed \$69,699.80. (District 7) **The motion to recommend issuance of the rebate to Charles Schwab and Co. Inc. was approved on Vice Chair Reed’s motion, Commissioner Babyak’s second on a 6-0 vote.**

4. Authorize negotiation and execution of a multi-term contract with DirectApps Inc. D/B/A Direct Technology, to provide energy efficiency data management and reporting services, for up to five years for a total contract amount not to exceed \$1,000,000. **The motion to recommend negotiation and execution of a contract with DirectApps Inc. was approved on Commissioner White’s motion, Commissioner Smith’s second on a 6-0 vote.**

### ADDENDUM

9. Discussion and possible action regarding expanding access to solar for low-income residents, renters, and those in multifamily housing. (Sponsors: Commissioners White and Smith and Vice Chair Reed)

Commissioner White distributed copies of Council Resolution 20171005-033 which directed staff to budget \$500,000 for incentives and programs in FY18 that would expand access to solar energy for underserved markets, and to provide updates on the implementation of a shared solar pilot program. She also distributed a handout explaining the Pay As You Save method of financing solar and an article

about rural electric cooperatives providing solar energy to customers.

Debbie Kimberly, Vice President, Customer Energy Solutions, and Tim Harvey, Acting Manager, Solar Program, provided information about Austin Energy's residential shared solar pilot projects.

No action was taken.

## **STAFF REPORTS AND BRIEFINGS**

5. Transportation electrification update from Capital Metro and Austin Energy.  
Karl Popham, Manager, Electric Vehicles & Emerging Technology at Austin Energy, provided the briefing. A representative from Capital Metro was unable to attend.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

6. Approve a meeting schedule for 2019. **The motion to approve the 2019 meeting schedule as presented was approved on Vice Chair Reed's motion, Commissioner Babyak's second on a 6-0 vote.** Commissioners will continue to meet at 6:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month at Town Lake Center.

## **7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The staff liaison listed upcoming agenda topics including: end of life management for solar panels requested by Commissioner Brenneman (December); Austin Water quarterly report (January); Texas Gas Service quarterly report plus a representative from their parent company, ONE Gas, returning to discuss a stakeholder process on ways the gas industry could reduce emissions (January); and residential and commercial shared solar projects (February).

Commissioner White requested an update from the Development Services Department on whether the City will fully or partially update the Energy Code (December); and a discussion with Austin Energy about programs and financing options that would expand access to solar for low income customers and renters (January).

Commissioners Babyak and Brenneman offered to meet with Mark Jordan of Austin Water prior to an upcoming commission meeting to provide feedback on the utility's monthly reports. Commissioners suggested including Chair Dielmann and Commissioner Kohan in the meeting.

8. **ADJOURN** – Vice Chair Reed adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m. without objection.