



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2019

The Resource Management Commission convened a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at Town Lake Center, 721 Barton Springs Road, in Austin, Texas.

Commissioners in Attendance: Leo Dielmann, Chair (District 7); 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: Scott Kohan (District 3). The commission has three vacancies: Mayor, District 4, and District 8.

Staff in Attendance: Beth Culver of the Development Services Department; Debbie Kimberly, Erika Bierschbach, Danielle Murray, Denise Kuehn, Kurt Stogdill, William Kelly and Toye Goodson of Austin Energy.

CALL TO ORDER – Chair Dielmann called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Moore McDonough reported that Austin Energy had denied a multi-family property from participating in its low income multifamily rebate program because the property was not listed in the Austin Tenants Council Directory. As requested by Commission members, Denise Kuehn, Manager, Energy Efficiency Services, provided additional information including program criteria and Austin Energy efforts to assist the property owner with meeting the criteria.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – The motion to approve the minutes of the meeting on November 13, 2018 was approved on Commissioner Smith’s motion, Commissioner Babyak’s second on a 7-0 vote.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Authorize negotiation and execution of four multi-term contracts with ecobee, EnergyHub, Inc., Virtual Peaker, Inc. and Whisker Labs, Inc., to provide demand response management portals and application programming interfaces for smart thermostats and other distributed energy resources, each for up to five years for total contract amounts not to exceed \$6,250,000 divided among the contractors. **The motion to approve the minutes of the meeting on November 13, 2018 was approved on Vice Chair Reed’s motion, Commissioner White’s second on a 6-0-1 vote with Commissioner Babyak abstaining.**

OLD BUSINESS

4. Discussion and possible action on a recommendation to initiate the process to amend the 2015 Energy Code Sections R403.5.5 Water Heating With Adjacent Gas Service and R403.9 Space Heating (Sponsors: Commissioners White and Smith)
Beth Culver, Development Services Department, and Kurt Stogdill, Austin Energy, provided information on the process by which the City reviews the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) for possible local amendments, including a stakeholder process. They said there were no plans to initiate a stakeholder process for amendments to the 2015 or 2018 IECC, but expect the 2021 IECC to provide that opportunity. Commissioners White and Smith expressed interest in pursuing amendments to specific sections in the 2015 code.

The motion to form a stakeholder group to explore specific code amendments with participation from Commission members and Development Services staff was introduced by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner White.

Discussion continued regarding the groups who should be invited to participate in a stakeholder process and a timeline for the process.

The motion was withdrawn by Commissioner Smith.

The motion to create a working group to evaluate removal of Energy Code Sections R403.5.5 Water Heating with Adjacent Gas Service and R403.9 Space Heating and report back with a recommendation next month was introduced by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner Babyak, and passed on a 7-0 vote.

Commissioners White, Smith, and Babyak volunteered to serve on the working group.

STAFF REPORTS AND BRIEFINGS

5. End of life management of solar panels by Danielle Murray, Manager, Solar Programs and Erika Bierschbach, Director, Energy Market Operations.

6. Solar Program Update including shared solar pilot projects and commercial solar leasing program design by Danielle Murray, Manager, Solar Programs and Debbie Kimberly, VP, Customer Energy Solutions.

Two persons requested to speak on Item 6, Rachel Stone and Leslie Libby. Ms. Stone, of Solar Austin and the Guadalupe Neighborhood Development Corporation, said that Austin Energy's solar rebate program for multifamily projects excluded any commercial, such a child care facility, within the project. Ms. Libby voiced concern that Austin Energy did not spend \$2 million in its FY18 budget that could have been spent on solar programming.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The staff liaison listed upcoming agenda topics for February including: quarterly updates from Austin Water and Texas Gas Service. Chair Dielmann and Commissioners Babyak, Brenneman, and Kohan had expressed interest in meeting with Austin Water staff, 30 minutes prior to the start of the February meeting, to provide feedback on the content and format of Austin Water's monthly reports.

8. **ADJOURN** – Chair Dielmann adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.