



**Council Committee on Austin Energy
Wednesday, September 24, 2014**

MEETING MINUTES

THE **COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON AUSTIN ENERGY** CONVENED ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2014 AT 2:03 P.M. IN THE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS ROOM, CITY HALL, 301 W. SECOND STREET.

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. by Mayor Leffingwell.

Agenda Item #1: Approval of minutes for the committee meeting held Thursday, August 14, 2014.

The minutes of the August 14, 2014 meeting of the Council Committee on Austin Energy were approved on the motion from Council Member Spelman, seconded by Council Member Riley, with a 6-0 vote. Council Member Martinez was off the dais.

Agenda Item #2: Briefing and discussion regarding energy generation planning, Resolution No. 20140828-157, and the Austin Generation Resource Planning Task Force recommendations.

Larry Weis, General Manager; Cheryl Mele, Chief Operating Officer; Khalil Shalabi, Vice President of Resource Planning and Energy Market Operations; and Elaina Ball, Vice President of Power Production presented and answered questions regarding the financial analysis of the Generation Task Force Report and Resolution 20140828-157. The briefing included a review of the 2010 Generation Plan goals and progress made, the methodology used by Austin Energy to analyze scenarios, an alternative recommendation titled 500+ from the utility, and an affordability comparison of Resolution 20140828-157 and the 500+ scenario.

Council Member Spelman asked when staff could return with a resource plan, and Larry Weis said that it could be ready within a month. Council Member Spelman requested that a written report be distributed in advance of the next meeting and that the meeting be scheduled as quickly as possible.

Agenda Item #3: Update from the Austin Generation Resource Planning Task Force and discussion of energy generation planning issues.

Michael Osborne, Chair, presented main points of the Report of the Austin Generation Resource Planning Task Force including how solar and wind work together to provide energy through much of the day, the effect of predicted natural gas supplies, and the performance of our current renewable sources. He also showed a video of David Freeman congratulating the Council for showing leadership and setting goals for the amount of renewables included in Austin Energy's portfolio.

Agenda Item #4: Discussion regarding the City's ownership interest in the Fayette Power Project.

This item was not discussed.

Agenda Item #5: Discussion regarding energy efficiency program budgets.

This item was not discussed.

Agenda Item #6: Discussion and possible action to set agenda items for future committee meetings.

This item was not discussed.

Agenda Item #7: Citizens Communications - The first five speakers signed up before the meeting is called to order will each be allowed three minutes to speak.

Tom "Smitty" Smith spoke about the goals of the task force including how they factored in climate change, natural gas demand and prices, and solar prices into the recommendations that are in the group's report.

Mark Kapner stated that the task force and Electric Utility Commission need an independent organization to analyze the data, and more analysis should be done regarding wind and thermal storage cooling.

Joep Meijer stated that generation planning decisions need to take into account the greenhouse gas amounts and that a new gas plant will keep the City from meeting its climate change goals.

Cyrus Reed encouraged the current Council to approve the generation plan. He stated that the task force also has work to do including analyzing the efficiency goals, storage, use of gas, and what is done with the coal plant.

Ben Kessler stated that there are two groups in Austin; one made up of the citizens and Council who want a green Austin and staff who argue with the goals passed by Council. He said Council needs more control over the utility since it is supposed to represent the entire City of Austin.

Adjournment – Mayor Pro Tem Cole adjourned the meeting without objection at 4:14 p.m.