



Council Committee on Austin Energy
Thursday, November 13, 2014

MEETING MINUTES

THE **COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON AUSTIN ENERGY** CONVENED ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2014 AT 2:05 P.M. IN THE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS ROOM, CITY HALL, 301 W. SECOND STREET.

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Mayor Leffingwell.

Agenda Item #1: Approval of minutes for the committee meeting held Thursday, October 9, 2014.

The minutes of the October 9, 2014 meeting of the Council Committee on Austin Energy were approved on the motion from Council Member Spelman, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cole, with a 5-0 vote. Council Member Martinez and Council Member Morrison were off the dais.

Agenda Item #2: Briefing and discussion regarding unpaid and overdue customer debts, deferred payment arrangements, and the administrative hearings process.

Larry Weis, General Manager; Kerry Overton, Deputy General Manager; and JJ Gutierrez, Vice President of Customer Care presented an overview of unpaid customer debt, recommendations from the Low Income Consumer Working Group regarding payment arrangements and arrearage management, and staff's response.

Council Member Tovo requested an update on how the amount of uncollected debt has changed, the highest amount of debt for a customer on the Customer Assistance Program and the average amount per customer.

Mayor Leffingwell requested payment arrangement comparison information for privately-owned utilities.

Council Member Martinez requested a map of Arrearage Customer Debt by ZIP Code broken out by home owners, renters and the number of customers.

Council Member Spelman asked for an update from utilities that have arrearage management programs on the success of their programs.

Carol Biedrzycki spoke to the Committee regarding her concerns with staff's recommendation for an arrearage management program including that it does not provide CAP customers an incentive to pay off the debt and there is no program for non-CAP customers.

Lanetta Cooper spoke to the Committee about Austin Energy's level of debt versus the amount of utility revenues. She stated Austin Energy should be looking toward energy saving programs to assist low and moderate income customers and reduce the carbon footprint.

Agenda Item #3: Briefing and discussion regarding the Energy Conservation Audit and Disclosure ordinance, City Code chapter 6-7.

Debbie Kimberly, Vice President of Customer Energy Solutions and Denise Kuehn, Director of Energy Efficiency Services presented an update on the Energy Conservation Audit and Disclosure (ECAD) Ordinance including efforts with commercial customers, multifamily successes and proposed improvements to the program.

Richard Halpin spoke about Austin Interfaith's recommendation for the generation plan including retiring the coal plant, no new gas energy production, and more energy efficiency.

Beki Halpin spoke to the Committee about need to move as quickly as possible to clean, affordable, sustainable energy and the effectiveness of demand response programs.

Susan Lippman spoke to the Committee about a report assessing Austin Energy's energy efficiency and demand response, including recommendation for these areas.

Agenda Item #4: Discussion and possible action to set agenda items for future committee meetings.

Council Member Riley requested items discussing the future of the Council Committee on Austin Energy, the generation plan and the value of solar rate. Council Member Tovo requested an item to discuss a consumer advocate for the next rate review process.

Agenda Item #5: Citizens Communications - The first five speakers signed up before the meeting is called to order will each be allowed three minutes to speak.

Citizens spoke at the time the item they signed up for was discussed.

Adjournment – Council Member Spelman adjourned the meeting without objection at 4:07 p.m.