



**AUSTIN ENERGY UTILITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2015**

**The Austin Energy Utility Oversight Committee convened in a regular meeting on Thursday, May 28, 2015 at 301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Austin, Texas.**

**Chair Sheri Gallo called the committee meeting to order at 9:12 a.m.**

**Committee Members in Attendance:**

Chair Sheri Gallo  
Vice Chair Leslie Pool  
Mayor Steve Adler  
Council Member Gregorio Casar  
Council Member Ora Houston  
Council Member Ann Kitchen  
Council Member Sabino "Pio" Renteria  
Mayor Pro Tem Kathie Tovo  
Council Member Ellen Troxclair  
Council Member Don Zimmerman

**Committee Members Absent:**

Council Member Delia Garza

**CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

- 1. The first five speakers signed up before the meeting is called to order will each be allowed three minutes to speak.**
  - a. Paul Robbins spoke about changes needed for Austin Energy's Customer Assistance Program.
  - b. Karen Hadden spoke regarding issues with one of the contractors for the demand side management consulting services, the relationship of one of the vendors for maintenance and repair services for gas turbines, and availability of information on utility bills.
  - c. Kaiba White spoke regarding the request for proposal process for the acquisition of utility scale solar and requested that the local solar budget be increased.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- 2. Approve the minutes of the Austin Energy Utility Oversight Committee meeting of April 23, 2015.**

The minutes of the April 23, 2015 meeting were approved on Council Member Houston's motion, Council Member Renteria's second on an 8-0 vote. Council Members Garza, Kitchen and Zimmerman were off the dais.

## ITEMS FROM COUNCIL FOR COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

- 3. Consider and develop recommendations on the award, negotiation, and execution of three 24-month contracts with KEMA, INC., GDS ASSOCIATES, INC. and LEIDOS INC., or one of the other qualified offerors to RFP No. OPJ0112, for demand side management consulting services in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 each and combined with two 12-month extension options in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 each and combined, for a total amount not to exceed \$2,000,000.**

Committee members asked questions and engaged in discussion with Larry Weis, General Manager; Debbie Kimberly, Vice President, Customer Energy Solutions; James Scarboro, Purchasing Officer; Veronica Briseño Lara, Director, Small and Minority Business Resources; Andy Perny, Division Chief, Law Department; and Robin Harris, Staff Attorney.

A motion to forward the item as posted with no recommendation to Council was approved on Mayor Adler's motion and seconded by Council Member Troxclair on an 8-0 vote, with Council Members Casar, Gallo and Garza off the dais.

An additional request was made to the Law Department to provide the City Council with options of how minority- and women-owned business enterprises (MBE/WBE) issues can be included in the contract.

- 4. Consider and develop recommendations on the award and execution of Amendment No. 2 to a service contract with GE PACKAGED POWER INC., TRANSCANADA TURBINES INC., and WOOD GROUP PRATT & WHITNEY, for maintenance and repair services for gas turbines at Decker Creek Power Station and Sand Hill Energy Center, and for the purchase of a standby LM6000 gas turbine for the Sand Hill Energy Center, increasing the contract amount for the current contract period in an amount not to exceed \$14,000,000, for a revised total contract amount not to exceed \$40,000,000.**

Committee members asked questions and engaged in discussion with Larry Weis, General Manager; Elaina Ball, Vice President, Power Production; and James Scarboro, Purchasing Officer.

A motion to recommend the item to Council was approved on Council Member Troxclair's motion and seconded by Council Member Zimmerman on a 9-1 vote, with Council member Houston voting against and Council Member Garza off the dais.

## STAFF BRIEFINGS

- 5. Briefing and discussion regarding Austin Energy's energy efficiency, weatherization and solar programs.**

This item was not addressed.

- 6. Briefing and discussion regarding Austin Energy's facilities plan, including remittance processing, call center relocations, lease extensions, and the Crestview Reclamation Center.**

This item was not addressed.

**7. Briefing and discussion regarding Customer Assistance Program enrollment.**

The presentation was made by Mark Dreyfus, Vice President, Regulatory Affairs and Corporate Communications.

At the request of a committee member, Paul Robbins stated that the utility's plan is moving in the right direction but that additional actions should be taken.

**8. Briefing and discussion regarding payment arrangements, arrearage management and bad debt.**

The presentation was made by Larry Weis, General Manager and Kerry Overton, Deputy General Manager.

Dr. Aubrey McIntosh signed up and spoke regarding his experience with utility billing and issues with the collections process.

**9. Presentation from the Low Income Consumer Working Group regarding payment arrangements, hearing process, arrearage management and bad debt.**

The presentation was made by Bob Batlan regarding the work of the Low Income Consumer Working Group and the group's recommendations. Ruth Casarez also provided comments regarding the hearings process.

**10. Presentation from the Low Income Consumer Advisory Task Force.**

The presentation was made by Carol Biedrzycki and Chris Strand regarding the efforts of the Low Income Consumer Advisory Task Force and draft recommendations.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

**11. Discussion of commercial and residential account classification, specifically for boat docks, homeowner's associations, and community clubhouses and pools.**

This item was not addressed.

**FUTURE ITEMS**

**12. Discussion of future agenda items.**

This item was not addressed.

**ADJOURN**

Vice Chair Pool adjourned the meeting at 5:42 p.m. without objection.

**The minutes were approved on this the 25th day of June 2015 on Mayor Adler's motion, Council Member Zimmerman's second on a 7-0 vote. Council Members Gallo, Garza, Houston and Troxclair were off the dais.**