



**AUSTIN ENERGY UTILITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 24, 2018**

The Austin Energy Utility Oversight Committee convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, January 24, 2018 at 301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Austin, Texas.

Chair Leslie Pool called the committee meeting to order at 1:42 p.m.

**Committee Members in attendance:**

Council Member Leslie Pool, Chair  
Council Member Alison Alter  
Council Member Jimmy Flannigan  
Council Member Ora Houston  
Council Member Sabino “Pio” Renteria  
Mayor Pro Tem Kathie Tovo  
Council Member Ellen Troxclair

**Committee Members absent:**

Mayor Steve Adler, Vice Chair  
Council Member Gregorio Casar  
Council Member Delia Garza  
Council Member Ann Kitchen

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Approve the minutes of the Austin Energy Utility Oversight Committee meeting of November 13, 2017.

The minutes of the November 13, 2017 meeting were approved on Council Member Flannigan’s motion, and Council Member Houston’s second, on a 6-0 vote. Mayor Adler, Mayor Pro Tem Tovo, and Council Members Casar, Garza and Kitchen were off the dais.

**CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

2. The first five speakers signed up before the meeting is called to order will each be allowed three minutes to speak on items not on the agenda.

There were three speakers:

- Paul Robbins stated ERCOT hit a new peak usage the morning of January 17 and renewables were not a high percentage of generation at that time. He requested Council add an item regarding dispatchable renewable energy and how to make it cost effective.
- Stuart Hersh stated the Council’s adopted housing affordability and preservation goals can be partially achieved through weatherization investment, and there is a linkage between the work of the Oversight Committee and housing affordability.

- Barbara Szalay spoke about high water bills and unusual water usage. She said the Electric Utility Commission (EUC) is asking the tough questions to get to the bottom of the issue, and changes need to be made at Austin Energy and Austin Water due to the erosion of trust.

## **BRIEFINGS**

### **3. General Manager's report:**

- **Residential solar incentives.**
- **Regulatory update.**
- **Upcoming items to be brought to Council: subscriptions and memberships, school-based energy conservation programs, regulatory consulting services, staff augmentation for electric distribution engineering, eminent domain for Bluff Springs Substation (Figer tract), and utility regulation changes regarding customer deposits.**
- **Recognition of Austin Energy employees.**  
(Notes: SPONSOR: Council Member Leslie Pool, CO 1: Mayor Steve Adler, CO 2: Council Member Ann Kitchen)

Jackie Sargent, General Manager, provided the report and an update on the water bill issue. Discussion included recognizing employees who traveled to Puerto Rico to assist in the restoration, capacity for Customer Assistance Program participants to subscribe to the La Loma community solar project, and anticipated deposit guideline changes.

### **4. First quarter Fiscal Year 2018 Financial Report.**

(Notes: SPONSOR: Council Member Leslie Pool, CO 1: Mayor Steve Adler, CO 2: Council Member Ann Kitchen)

Mark Dombroski, Deputy General Manager and Chief Financial and Risk Officer, provided the briefing. Discussion included comparing the balance sheet to previous years, requesting input from EUC members on financial reports, comparing average monthly bills, higher than forecast power production and customer care costs, power supply charges, reserve balances, and compliance with affordability goal metrics.

### **5. Austin Energy's 2017 – 2021 Strategic Plan, including the utility's overall initiatives and goals.** (Notes: SPONSOR: Council Member Leslie Pool, CO 1: Mayor Steve Adler, CO 2: Council Member Ann Kitchen)

Kahlil Shalabi, Vice President of Strategy, Technology, and Markets, gave the presentation. Discussion included the last solar purchase as a good example of meeting strategic initiatives and the importance of incorporating safety as part of the mission.

### **6. Upcoming major electric transmission and substation projects.**

(Notes: SPONSOR: Council Member Leslie Pool, CO 1: Mayor Steve Adler, CO 2: Council Member Ann Kitchen)

Dan Smith, Vice President of Electric Service Delivery, provided the presentation.

## **FUTURE ITEMS**

### **7. Identify items to discuss at future meetings.**

Council Member Flannigan requested an item to discuss the 2018 committee meeting schedule.

Council Member Alter requested an item regarding dispatchable renewable energy prior to the next Resource Plan update.

**ADJOURN**

Council Member Alter adjourned the meeting at 3:32 p.m. without objection.

DRAFT