



**AUSTIN ENERGY UTILITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 28, 2018**

The Austin Energy Utility Oversight Committee convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, February 28, 2018 at 301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Austin, Texas.

**Chair Leslie Pool called the committee meeting to order at 1:36 p.m.**

**Committee Members in attendance:**

Council Member Leslie Pool, Chair  
Mayor Steve Adler, Vice Chair  
Council Member Alison Alter  
Council Member Gregorio Casar  
Council Member Jimmy Flannigan  
Council Member Delia Garza  
Council Member Ora Houston  
Council Member Ann Kitchen  
Council Member Sabino “Pio” Renteria  
Mayor Pro Tem Kathie Tovo  
Cary Ferchill, Electric Utility Commission Chair

**Committee Members absent:**

Council Member Ellen Troxclair

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- 1. Approve the minutes of the Austin Energy Utility Oversight Committee meeting of January 24, 2018.**

The minutes of the January 24, 2018 meeting were approved on Council Member Casar’s motion, and Council Member Kitchen’s second, on a 7-0 vote. Council Members Alter, Garza, Houston and Troxclair 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 four speakers:

- Paul Robbins stated the Customer Assistance Program (CAP) has a surplus of money, he expects there to still be some by the end of 2020, and half of the surplus should be used for direct installation programs. He also stated Texas Gas Service efficiency measures should pass a cost/benefit analysis.

- Barbara Szalay stated a true study should be done comparing the entire water bill to those of other cities. She also said there has been a turnaround to fix the erosion of trust in Austin Energy and Austin Water.
- Keyneisha Wells said she moved here from New York, and Austin is becoming very expensive, including utility bills. She would like someone to help the homeless and build more affordable, efficient apartments.
- Gus Peña stated Austin has gotten very expensive, including electric bills, and something needs to be done to make Austin affordable.

## **BRIEFINGS**

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

- **Update regarding investigation of unusual water usage patterns of residential customers.**
- **Upcoming items to be brought to Council: heavy hauling services, Domain District Cooling Plant chiller project.**
- **Moonlight tower maintenance.**
- **Recognition of Austin Energy employees.**

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

Elaina Ball, Deputy General Manager and Chief Operating Officer, provided the report, and Kerry Overton, Deputy General Manager and Chief Customer and Compliance Officer, provided an update on the water usage issue. Discussion included appreciation for the diligence investigating the water issue and ongoing efforts to identify the cause, moonlight tower maintenance, and importance of the Science Festival.

### **4. Operations report including safety, system reliability, power production, market conditions, and on-site energy resources.**

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

Deputy General Manager Ball provided the briefing. Discussion included the percentage of Austin's renewable load offset that comes from biomass generation, amount saved by zero-based budgeting, scenarios for energy providers that don't own generation when energy prices spike in the ERCOT market, injury causes, and working with other departments on programs to reduce injuries.

### **5. Customer Energy Solutions fiscal year 2017 program results.**

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

Debbie Kimberly, Vice President of Customer Energy Solutions, gave the presentation. Discussion included the amount of wind in our portfolio, availability and marketing of programs to small businesses, working with the Austin Independent School District on the projects included in their recently passed bond.

### **6. Update on incentives and programs to increase solar energy adoption and access for underserved markets.**

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

Danielle Murray, Manager, Solar Energy Services, provided the update. Discussion included the amount of the CAP community solar rate, other possible ideas for community solar, and CAP community solar enrollment.

## **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

### **7. Austin Energy Utility Oversight Committee 2018 meeting schedule.**

Council Member Flannigan proposed moving the dates of the Committee's April, May, and June meetings. Chair Pool described the process of setting up the current schedule. No action was taken.

## **FUTURE ITEMS**

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

This item was not addressed.

Council Member Garza stated she is looking for an appointee to the Electric Utility Commission, preferably from District 2.

## **ADJOURN**

Chair Pool adjourned the meeting at 3:28 p.m. without objection.