



**AUSTIN ENERGY UTILITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 23, 2019**

The Austin Energy Utility Oversight Committee convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, October 23, 2019 at 301 W. 2nd Street in Austin, Texas.

Vice Chair Leslie Pool called the committee meeting to order at 1:37 p.m.

Committee Members in attendance:

Council Member Kathie Tovo, Chair
Council Member Leslie Pool, Vice Chair
Mayor Steve Adler
Council Member Alison Alter
Council Member Gregorio Casar
Council Member Jimmy Flannigan
Council Member Ann Kitchen
Council Member Sabino "Pio" Renteria
Cary Ferchill, Electric Utility Commission Chair

Committee Members absent:

Mayor Pro Tem Delia Garza
Council Member Paige Ellis
Council Member Natasha Harper-Madison

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

There were two speakers:

- Al D'Andrea stated that Austin Energy's energy efficiency program does valuable work in the community. He said he supports the approval of rebate funds for the entire year since it can be a struggle to move projects forward if property owners hear projects may take an extra two months.
- Paul Robbins stated the price of natural gas is volatile, and generation will remain dependent on natural gas. He said Austin needs to invest in dispatchable renewable energy and join with other utilities to look into building a concentrated solar facility.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 1. Approve the minutes of the September 25, 2019 Austin Energy Utility Oversight Committee meeting.**

The minutes of the September 25, 2019 meeting were approved on Council Member Casar's motion, and Council Member Kitchen's second, on a 7-0 vote. Chair Tovo, Mayor Pro Tem Garza, and Council Members Ellis and Harper-Madison were off the dais.

BRIEFINGS

2. General Manager's report:

- Upcoming recommendations for Council action: software licenses, maintenance, support, and subscription services; energy efficiency rebate authority.
- Recent awards.

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

Jackie Sargent, General Manager, provided the report, and Debbie Kimberly, Vice President of Customer Energy Solutions and Corporate Communications, responded to questions. Discussion included the proposed rebate process and the vetting of rebate projects.

3. Community solar project at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport.

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

Erika Bierschbach, Vice President of Energy Market Operations & Resource Planning, and Kane Carpenter, Aviation Environmental Manager, provided the briefing. Discussion included comparison to existing community solar programs and communication with other commercial properties about similar opportunities.

4. Decker Creek Power Station workforce planning.

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

Pat Sweeney, Vice President of Power Production, provided the update.

5. Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) market update.

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

Erika Bierschbach provided the update. Discussion included the Texas Public Utility Commission's concern about retail electric provider (REP) consolidation and communication regarding conservation requests.

FUTURE ITEMS

6. Identify items to discuss at future meetings.

A request was made to discuss next year's committee meeting schedule.

ADJOURN

Chair Tovo adjourned the meeting at 2:18 p.m. without objection.

The minutes were approved on this the 20th day of November 2019 on Mayor Adler's motion, and Council Member Harper-Madison's second, on a 7-0 vote. Council Members Alter, Casar, Flannigan, and Kitchen were off the dais.