



FULL COUNCIL DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 18, 2024 | 3:00 - 5:00 PM

Department of Administration Conference Room 2A, Providence, RI 02908

Members in Attendance:

Harry Oakley, Sue AnderBois, Peter Gill Case, Tom Magliocchetti, Bob Izzo, Kurt Teichert

Others in Attendance:

Will Owen, Georgia Cheney, Katie Critelli, Seth Handy, Conor MacDonald, Rachel Sholly, Craig Johnson, Brett Feldman, Stephanie Scymcyk, Sara Canabarro, Puja Vohra, Spencer Lawrence, Kate Felder, Adrian Caesar (virtual), John Harrington (virtual), Daniel Tukey (virtual), Todd Bianco (virtual), Elizabeth Petersen (virtual), Jordan Galluzzo (virtual), Rebecca Foster (virtual), Emily Koo (virtual), Ann Clark (virtual), Priscilla De La Cruz (virtual), Jordan Day (virtual)

1. Call to Order

Chair Oakley called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

2. Chair Report

Chair Oakley provided an overview of the agenda. He announced that the new website, www.eec.ri.gov is live. He also shared that the upcoming August EEC meeting may need to be rescheduled to allow sufficient review time for the materials related to the 2025 EE Plan.

3. Executive Director Report

Mr. Owen shared announcements from the Office of Energy Resources (OER), including federal funding updates. He reported on the updated CHRI numbers and that OER, in conjunction with other agencies, will begin creating a Green Buildings Act Instruction Manual. He also announced that Greg Ohadoma, Energy Justice Manager, will be leaving OER in August.

4. Meeting Minutes - June 20, 2024

Chair Oakley motioned to approve the June 20, 2024 meeting minutes. Council Member Teichert seconded. All in favor, none opposed, and the minutes were approved.

5. Public Comment

Mr. Feldman introduced Kate Felder who has joined the Rhode Island Energy team. He shared that RI Energy is making system changes and ratepayers are being notified through advertisements.

6. Special Topics

a. *Office of Energy Resources Presentation on Transportation Programs*

Ms. Canabarro and Ms. Scymcyk presented from the Office of Energy Resources on State transportation initiatives. Council Member Izzo asked about the vendor and the charging data. Council Member Teichert asked about the survey. Chair Oakley raised the



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issue of charging fees for EV charging as it could de-incentivize the public from using EVs. Council Member AnderBois asked about other corridors to focus on going forward in Phase 2.

Mr. Feldman said RI Energy is continuing to develop programs and intends to work with OER on wi-fi enabled charging and they will provide educational materials to OER. A presentation to the PUC is being developed.

7. Council Business

a. *Council Discussion with Handy Law on Council's Legal Representation*

Chair Oakley formally introduced Seth Handy and Connor McDonald from Handy Law and discussed future plans. They would like the Council to develop a "wish list" related to anything relating to law. Atty. Handy spoke about working with the Council and fulfilling the Council's mission. Chair Oakley suggested as one idea switching the Company's efficiency planning to a three-year cycle instead of one year as it currently is. He also discussed setting up a taskforce or subcommittee on policy, law, etc. Chair Oakley encouraged Council Members to reach out to Handy Law, but to also loop him in, especially for purposes of monitoring the Council's budget. He suggested focusing on a few specific goals.

b. *Council Discussion and Vote on the 2025 EEC Draft Budget Proposal*

Ms. Sholly reviewed the budget planning timeline planning and explained the Executive Committee's recommendation to hold off on a vote. Ms. Sholly shared the comparison chart of 2025 vs. 2024 budgets. URI's proposal, including tasks and costs, was discussed. Chair Oakley also suggested adding a small allocation for K-12 education.

8. Program Oversight

a. *Rhode Island Energy Updates on 2024-2026 ConnectedSolutions Docket Proceedings*

Mr. Feldman discussed that the planned budget was approved. System Reliability Procurement (SRP) will be added into the energy efficiency line item on ratepayers' bills. Chair Oakley asked about the value of demand response programs to ratepayers.

b. *Rhode Island Energy Presentation on the 2025 Plan Draft*

Mr. Ast presented on energy efficiency plan draft. The Council weighed in on suggestions for enhancing and revising the presentation.

c. *Consultant Team Perspectives on the 2025 Plan Draft*



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Mr. Caesar of the Consultant Team presented on the electric and gas portfolios highlighting lifetime savings, budgets, and costs-to-achieve. Mr. Lawrence provided feedback on the residential gas equipment slide.

9. Adjournment

Chair Oakley adjourned the meeting at 5:11 p.m.

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