



## FULL COUNCIL DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 15, 2024 | 3:00 - 5:00 PM

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

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### Members in Attendance:

Peter Gill Case, Brett Feldman, Tom Magliocchetti, Jordan Day, Dr. Carrie Gill, Priscilla De La Cruz (3:30 p.m.), Sue AnderBois (3:45 p.m.)

### Others in Attendance:

Steven Chybowsky, Georgia Cheney, Katie Critelli, Toby Ast, David Westman, Craig Johnson, Adrian Caesar, Rachel Sholly, Mark Kravatz, Spencer Lawrence, Kate Felder, Sam Brusco, Emily Koo, Atticus Makuch, Brendan Dagher, Liam Varveet, Kaeley Skakalski, Chris Kearns (virtual), Seth Handy (virtual), Dr. Lee Gresham (virtual), William Owen (virtual), Alliston Archambault (virtual), Jordan Galluzzo (virtual), Carinel Josephine LeGrand (virtual), Theo Smith (virtual), Conor MacDonald (virtual), Ann Clarke (virtual), John Harrington (virtual), Samantha Caputo (virtual)

#### 1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Gill Case called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

#### 2. Chair Report

Vice Chair Gill Case provided instructions on how to make public comment. He reviewed the agenda which included the 2025 budget proposal, as well as RI Energy's gas demand response program and the energy efficiency plan for 2025. He invited Mr. Feldman to provide an update on Rhode Island Energy's updated data system and website.

#### 3. Executive Director Report

Acting Commissioner Kearns provided updates on the HEAR program. OER's application was approved by the Department of Energy and the Office is working toward a mid-September program launch. The HER application was also recently submitted. There has been a strong uptick in the Clean Heat RI program which launched about a year ago and he announced that there is a survey at [planning.ri.gov](https://planning.ri.gov) to assist with statewide transportation planning.

#### 4. Meeting Minutes – July 18, 2024

A quorum was not reached so the meeting minutes will be held until the next meeting.

#### 5. Public Comment

*Sam Brusco*

Mr. Brusco asked about time-of-use charges and commented about adding additional solar panels for young/new homeowners. He also commented on the need to reduce air conditioning use and suggested using reflective window coverings to help with this matter. Lastly, he commented that he thinks that the Renewable Energy Growth program is great for farms and businesses, but that it shouldn't be offered to homeowners.



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### 6. Council Business

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

Mr. Johnson and Ms. Sholly presented on the budget. Ms. Sholly discussed the Education Committee's work and activities and revisions made to URI's budget proposal to reduce costs. Mr. Chybowski commented that a network has been building around URI's work on promoting energy efficiency and that there is a lot of interest in the topic from community workers. Mr. Johnson also discussed the possibility of adding a budget allocation to begin work on a new market potential study. The Council expressed interest in discussing that idea further at a future meeting. No votes were taken on the budget as the Council did not have a quorum. A vote on the budget will be planned for the next meeting.

### 7. Program Oversight

#### *a. Rhode Island Energy Presentation on Gas Demand Response Program*

Dr. Gresham presented on the Company's gas demand response pilot program, explaining the motivation and objectives for this program. Mr. Chybowski asked about the filing date for the proposal, which will be September 20<sup>th</sup>. Vice Chair Gill Case asked about support from the municipalities on Aquidneck Island. Mr. Johnson said the Council has the option to choose whether or not to endorse this plan, but would need draft plan materials soon to make that determination.

#### *b. Rhode Island Energy and C-Team Presentation on 2024 Program Implementation*

Mr. Caesar presented on the electric and gas program performance focusing on savings vs. spending. Mr. Dagher reviewed the C&I performance year-to-date lifetime savings. He noted that the Main Street campaigns in Providence and Pawtucket resulted in over one hundred small business audits scheduled. Mr. Dagher also reviewed the electric and gas income eligible performance.

#### *c. Rhode Island Energy Presentation on the 2025 Plan Revisions*

Mr. Ast provided updates on the 2025 Plan, including the timeline. The 2025 electric budget will be around \$77M which is a 14% decrease from the 2024 compliance filing. The 2025 gas budget is \$32.5M, which is a 2.5% increase from the 2024 filing.

#### *d. Consultant Team Perspectives on the Revised 2025 Plan Draft*

Mr. Johnson discussed the review process and the results of the review. Mr. Caesar discussed the Technical Reference Manual (TRM) Database. Mr. Lawrence asked questions about calculations on incentives.



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### 8. Adjournment

Vice Chair Gill Case adjourned the meeting at 4:43 p.m.

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