



FULL COUNCIL DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 12, 2024 | 3:00 - 5:00 PM
Department of Administration Conference Room 2A, Providence, RI 02908

Members in Attendance:

Harry Oakley, Brett Feldman, Dr. Carrie Gill, Chris Kearns, Peter Gill Case, Joe Garlick, Tom Magliocchetti, Kurt Teichert, Priscilla De La Cruz, Bob Izzo

Others in Attendance:

Steven Chybowsky, Katie Critelli, Jack Green, Toby Ast, Craig Johnson, Rachel Sholly, Nathan Cleveland, Teresa Terrien, Matthew Corona, Georgia Cheney, Alison Donovan, Puja Vohra, Emily Koo, Spencer Lawrence, Brendan Dagher, Grant Dulgarian, Conor MacDonald (virtual), Matt Sullivan (virtual), Adrian Caesar (virtual), Kaeley Skakalski (virtual), Jeremy Newberger (virtual), Daniel Tukey (virtual), Jordan Galluzzo (virtual), Kate Felder (virtual)

1. Call to Order

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

2. Chair Report

Chair Oakley announced that there will be guest presentations today from the Rhode Island Builders Association and the Office of Energy Resources. He also reminded the Council that there will be a second meeting this month on September 26th. He shared the dates of URI's upcoming energy lectures, which are sponsored by the Energy Efficiency Council.

3. Executive Director Report

Acting Commissioner Kearns provided updates on the HEAR program and noted that the Clean Heat Rhode Island program continues to see a strong pipeline of projects. He shared that OER launched PowerUpRI in August, which is a rebate program for electric vehicle charging equipment. Lastly, he shared that Rhode Island and Massachusetts recently announced the largest offshore wind procurement in New England history.

4. Meeting Minutes

a. July 18, 2024

Chair Oakley motioned to approve the July 18, 2024 Meeting Minutes. Council Member Gill Case seconded. Council Members Gill Case, Magliocchetti, Teichert, De La Cruz and Izzo voted in favor. Council Member Garlick abstained, and none were opposed. The minutes were approved.

b. August 15, 2024

Chair Oakley motioned to approve the August 15, 2024 Meeting Minutes. Council Member Gill Case seconded. Council Members Gill Case, Magliocchetti, De La Cruz and



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Izzo voted in favor. Council Members Garlick and Teichert abstained, and none opposed. The minutes were approved.

5. Public Comment

None.

6. Special Topics

a. Rhode Island Builders Association Home Show Presentation

Ms. Terrien and Mr. Corona presented on the history and development of the Home Show and Energy Expo. Ms. Terrien also shared data on the demographics of attendees based on visitor surveys. Council Member Feldman reported that Rhode Island Energy got over 200 leads for home energy assessments at the Home Show. Mr. Corona presented a recap on the marketing efforts for the event.

Ms. Terrien also distributed and explained a handout outlining the costs and values of the Energy Expo. Council Member Gill Case asked about the 25% allocation split between the different showcases within the event. Ms. Sholly asked how the “value associated” was determined and how it differs from the “cost to offer” category. Council Member Garlick suggested collecting racial demographic information of attendees as well as minority business enterprise data from participating vendors. Chair Oakley noted the need to add the Council’s new logo for future years and presentations and suggested the idea having the event be “zero waste” in the future.

b. Office of Energy Resources Presentation on Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Programming

Mr. Cleveland provided an overview of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program and the current status of the funds awarded. This program is designed to support energy efficiency investments in municipal government facilities. Mr. Cleveland explained these funds can be used as either seed money toward a larger project or fully fund a smaller project. He noted that most communities have been responsive to the opportunity and that this federal funding has often helped spur investments in larger efficiency projects from the municipalities.

7. Council Business

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

Mr. Johnson presented on the 2025 Draft EEC Budget Proposal. Vice Chair Gill Case motioned to approve the 2025 EEC budget proposal as presented by the Council’s Consultant Team on September 12th, 2024, and to direct the Consultant Team to submit this budget to the utility to file with the Public Utilities Commission as a part of the 2025



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energy efficiency plan. Council Member Magliocchetti seconded. All in favor, none opposed, and the budget was approved.

8. Program Oversight

a. Presentation, Discussion and Potential Vote on Rhode Island Energy's 2025 Gas Demand Response Pilot Program

Mr. Johnson and Mr. Feldman presented an overview of Rhode Island Energy's 2025 gas demand response pilot program. The proposal is a continuation of the pilot program that the Council endorsed in 2023. Chair Oakley made a motion to endorse the gas demand response pilot system reliability procurement proposal as presented on September 12th, 2024. Council Member Garlick seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

b. Rhode Island Energy Presentation and Discussion of the Updated Draft of the 2025 Energy Efficiency Plan

Mr. Ast presented on the updated draft of the 2025 Energy Efficiency Plan. He commented that the 2024 building code is affecting the claimable savings for the C&I sectors. Vice Chair Gill Case flagged that a 25-acre greenhouse project in Exeter has started to move forward again and that it should be on everyone's radar for energy purposes.

c. Consultant Team Presentation and Discussion of the Updated Draft of the 2025 Energy Efficiency Program Plan

Mr. Johnson presented the updated draft of the 2025 Energy Efficiency Program plan. Chair Oakley commented on his concern for the reduction in weatherization funds assisting delivered fuels customers. Vice Chair Gill Case thanked Rhode Island Energy for their responsiveness to comments and suggested edits on the draft plan. Council member AnderBois reminded Rhode Island Energy to take the Act on Climate into consideration as the draft energy efficiency program plan develops.

9. Adjournment

Chair Oakley adjourned the meeting at 5:06 p.m.