



FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 17, 2024 | 3:00 - 5:00 PM

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

Members in Attendance:

Harry Oakley, Brett Feldman, Peter Gill Case, Sue AnderBois, Bob Izzo, Chris Kearns

Others in Attendance:

Steven Chybowski, Carrie Gill, Mark Kravatz, Jody Lesleo, Craig Johnson, Adrian Caesar, Georgia Cheney, Katie Critelli, Toby Ast, Michael O'Brien Crayne, Alison Donovan, Spencer Lawrence, Seth Handy, Kevin O'Neill, Rachel Sholly, Emily Koo, Brendan Dagher, Ann Clarke (virtual), Dave Westman (virtual)

1. Call to Order

Chair Oakley call the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

2. Chair Report

Chair Oakley provided an overview of the meeting agenda and explained that there were supplemental materials available on the website. He announced that the annual Combined Heat and Power (CHP) program has been scheduled for June 6th at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom. The registration link will be sent out soon.

3. Executive Director Report

Acting Commissioner Kearns from the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER) provided updates from OER. The next RGGI allocation plan will be presented at a public hearing on Friday, May 17th at 2:00 p.m. The HEAR rebates application was submitted to the Department of Energy. He also shared that the EPA granted Rhode Island over \$49m for the Solar for All program. He announced that the Lead by Example awards will be held on May 29th at the CIC building in Providence. Lastly, he shared that the Clean Heat RI dashboard on the website will soon be updated with data from the latest month.

4. Meeting Minutes

a. *April 18, 2024*

b. *LEAD Session – April 29, 2024*

Voting will be held until the next meeting due to a lack of a quorum.

5. Public Comment

Council Member Feldman shared that the Connected Solutions with Rhode Island Energy is slated to start June 1st for existing customers and that the hearings for the docket will be held in mid-June.

6. Special Topics



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- a. *Office of Energy Resources Presentation on Federal Home Energy Rebates Programming*
Mr. Chybowski presented an overview of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 and the IRA Home Energy Rebate Programs. The Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates (HEAR) and the Home Efficiency Rebates (HER) are two programs that will be implemented by OER. His presentation included key definitions and program requirements. He discussed the eligibility and funding caps, as well as supplemental funding from other OER sources. He provided a timeline for the development of the programs.

Vice Chair Gill Case asked about multi-family opportunities and Dr. Gill asked about the concern about adding new appliances without upgrading the electrical panel. She also asked if knob and tube wiring is eligible. Vice Chair Gill Case suggested having a coordinator to assist the public with navigating the process. Mr. Chybowski explained that the CAPs will assist residents with the program. OER plans to create a direct application process on the website for customers as well. Council Member Feldman commented that Rhode Island Energy is coordinating with OER.

7. Program Oversight

- a. *Presentation of 2024 Q1 Energy Efficiency Programming*

Mr. Caesar and Mr. Johnson from the C-Team presented on portfolio performance for both residential and commercial and industrial (C&I) sectors. They illustrated the difference in electric and gas performance. Mr. Dagher from Rhode Island Energy presented slides on sector highlights. He explained that there has been a drastic increase in new construction, post-COVID. He also outlined the EnergyWise single and multi-family program highlights as well as EnergyStar HVAC. He stated that there has been a decrease in energy audits and RIE is responding with a robust marketing campaign.

Vice Chair Gill Case inquired about staffing issues at the CAPs and Mr. Johnson explained that high turnover is an ongoing problem.

- b. *Rhode Island Energy Updates on the 2025 Energy Efficiency Plan*

Mr. Ast provided a presentation outlining updates of the 2025 Energy Efficiency Plan. The topics included utility system benefits/bill impacts, resources for multi-family properties, gas incentives, workforce development, small business services and equity. He explained that residential budgets are up but savings are down. In the C&I sector, budgets and savings are drastically reduced.



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8. Council Business

a. Council Discussion of 2025 Budget Proposal

Mr. Johnson and Ms. Sholly presented slides that showed the budget planning timeline. The Education Committee meeting was recapped, with the Committee's recommendations on budget changes regarding outreach and education. Vice Chair Gill Case suggested that the budget be reviewed during upcoming individual meetings with council members and the C-Team.

b. Review and Vote on the Draft of the EEC Annual Report

The vote was held for the next meeting due to a lack of a quorum.

9. Adjournment

Vice Chair Gill Case adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.