



FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 26, 2024 | 3:00 - 5:00 PM
Department of Administration Conference Room 2A, Providence, RI 02908

Members in Attendance:

Harry Oakley, Brett Feldman, Chris Kearns, Tom Magliocchetti, Sue AnderBois, Carrie Gill, Kurt Teichert, Priscilla De La Cruz, Bob Izzo (arrived at 3:25 p.m.), Joe Garlick (arrived at 3:25 p.m.), Peter Gill Case (arrived at 4:10 p.m.)

Others in Attendance:

Steven Chybowski, Katie Critelli, Danielle Jameson, Sam Ross, Toby Ast, Tina Munter, Sean Bleything, Kaeley Skakalski, Jordan Galluzzo, Craig Johnson, Seth Handy, Conor MacDonald, Adrian Caesar, Jack Green, Rachel Sholly, Brendan Dagher, Spencer Lawrence, Nathan Cleveland, Seth Gordon (virtual), Fern Friedberg (virtual), Theo Smith (virtual), Jennifer Kallay (virtual), Jeremy Newberger (virtual), Laurice M. Hajjar (virtual), Seth Gordon (virtual), Rebecca Foster (virtual), Carinel LeGrand (virtual)

1. Call to Order

Chair Oakley called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

2. Chair Report

Chair Oakley announced the meeting logistics and how the public can submit comments. He previewed the agenda noting that PivotPath will present public awareness campaign slides for the Council's consideration and that this meeting will focus on a final review of the 2025 energy efficiency plan and a council vote. He also shared that the Passive House Institute of the U.S. (PHIUS) will host their inaugural Pro Forum in Providence on October 21-23rd for those interested in attending. Lastly, he reminded the Council of the upcoming lectures at URI as well as the Council's LEAD meeting at Rhode Island College.

3. Executive Director Report

Acting Commissioner Kearns discussed Energy Secretary Granholm's recent visit. The Secretary visited Rhode Island to celebrate the launch of Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates (HEAR) program.

4. Public Comment

Chair Oakley announced that a gentleman from Minnesota wrote letters to three of the Council Members. The contents of the letter don't necessarily apply to this Committee as they were discussing national politics, but Chair Oakley wanted to acknowledge that the letters had been received.

5. Council Business

- a. *Discussion and Potential Vote to Launch Energy Efficiency and Climate Public Awareness Campaign*



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Mr. Gordon from PivotPath presented the campaign, highlighting objectives, the target audience, and the project approach and tasks. He discussed the campaign concept “You Have the Power” and shared digital ads. Ms. Friedberg provided an overview of the media plan. Council Member Teichert asked for clarification on how impressions are defined. Ms. Friedberg discussed KPIs and said the benchmark from display ads is to drive 2,000 visits to the landing page, where residents could find more program information. Council Members asked about getting demographic information about who clicked through if possible. Council Member Izzo asked how many energy audits RI Energy does per year and Mr. Lawrence answered with about 12k-15k annually. Council Member Teichert motioned to approve the Energy Efficiency and Climate Public Awareness Campaign as presented by PivotPath and to authorize PivotPath to launch the campaign under the guidance of the Project Management Team. Council Member AnderBois seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

6. Program Oversight

- a. *Rhode Island Energy Presentation of the Final Draft of the 2025 Energy Efficiency Plan*
Mr. Ast provided an overview of the energy efficiency plan timeline. The 2025 Plan is due to the PUC on October 1, 2024. He provided final updates on the electric budgets including residential, income eligible, and C&I based on minor adjustments made since the previous meeting. He also showed the adjustments on electric savings. There were no changes to the gas savings since the previous meeting.
- b. *Consultant Team Presentation of the Final Draft of the 2025 Energy Efficiency Program Plan*
Mr. Caesar reviewed the proposed 2025 electric and gas portfolio numbers. He also presented on the plan’s cost effectiveness. He provided insight into how the plan aligns with the Council’s energy efficiency priorities. Mr. Johnson discussed additional areas for further discussion and exploration. This included considering economic impacts in the RI Test and establishing an equity-based performance incentive for consideration. Mr. Johnson presented on the regulatory process to assist the Council in deciding whether or not to endorse the plan and summarized the Council’s vote options.
- c. *Council Discussion and Vote on the 2025 Annual Energy Efficiency Plan*
Mr. Garlick discussed the 85% reduction of the funds for emergency heating system replacements and expressed concern about it. Mr. Lawrence explained that it was cut because the fund was using ratepayer funds for delivered fuels systems. Acting Commissioner Kearns commented that this will be an area to monitor and review data from recent years for planning accordingly. The Council reviewed the three areas where



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The Consultant Team considered the plan to be “partially responsive to Council priority.” Council Member Teichert motioned to endorse the 2025 plan with the understanding that the Council will voice any concerns through appropriate channels in the coming weeks. Council Member Gill Case seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

d. Consultant Team Presentation on the Cost-Effectiveness Report for the 2025 Annual Energy Efficiency Plan

Mr. Johnson presented next steps for the Council’s cost-effectiveness report. This will be discussed and reviewed more thoroughly at the Council’s next meeting in October.

7. Meeting Minutes – September 12, 2024

Council Member Teichert made a motion to reorder the agenda to move approval of the meeting minutes to agenda item 7. Council Member AnderBois seconded. All in favor, none opposed and the agenda was reordered to vote on the minutes.

Council Member Teichert made a motion to approve the September 26, 2024 meeting minutes. Council Member de la Cruz seconded. All in favor, none opposed, and the minutes were approved.

8. Adjournment

Chair Oakley adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.