



FULL COUNCIL MEETING DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, November 21, 2024 | 3:00 - 5:00 PM
Department of Administration Conference Room 2A, Providence, RI 02908

Members in Attendance:

Harry Oakley, Brett Feldman, Chris Kearns, Peter Gill Case, Sue AnderBois, Joe Garlick, Kurt Teichert (arrived at 3:10 p.m.)

Others in Attendance:

Steven Chybowsky, Katie Critelli, Craig Johnson, Rachel Sholly, Georgia Cheney, Toby Ast, Brendan Dagher, Seth Handy, Spencer Lawrence, Kaeley Skakalski, Jordan Galluzzo, Puja Vohra, Theo Smith, Atticus Makuch, Kate Felder (virtual), Tina Munter (virtual), Carinel LeGrand (virtual), Adrian Caesar (virtual), Margie Lynch (virtual), Ann Clarke (virtual), William Owen (virtual), John Harrington (virtual), Priscilla De La Cruz (virtual), Kate Venturini Hardesty (virtual)

1. Call to Order

Chair Oakley called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

2. Chair Report

Chair Oakley announced the meeting logistics and how to make public comment. He outlined the meeting's agenda and shared that the supplemental meeting materials are available on eec.ri.gov.

3. Executive Director Report

Acting Commissioner Kearns shared that the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants program has awarded over \$3 million to municipalities. The Office of Energy Resources (OER) continues to work on getting the HEAR program out to Rhode Island residents. Phase 2 of the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure program launched last week, making Rhode Island the first state in the country to move to Phase 2. The electric leaf blower rebate program from OER also launched today.

4. Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes will be held until the next meeting as a quorum was not met.

5. Public Comment

None.

6. Program Oversight

- a. *Rhode Island Energy and C-Team Presentation on 2024 Program Implementation*
Mr. Johnson and Mr. Dagher presented on the 2024 program implementation which included portfolio performance, commercial and industrial sector highlights, and residential and income eligible sector highlights. The presentation noted that Rhode



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Island Energy (RIE) is transitioning to a new data tracking and reporting platform, so the savings are currently estimates.

During the discussion, it was stated that most new building developers use electric ranges. Council Member Teichert spoke about structuring incentives to help facilitate any systems to transition to electric in the future. Chair Oakley asked about the timing of spending and why so much remains for the last quarter. Commissioner Kearns said historically it's always been this way with the "hockey stick" effect in programming and reporting. Council Member Feldman asked for suggestions on how to avoid this, and Council Member Teichert spoke of using the alternative market potential study to address these matters. Council Member Gill Case asked to see absolute numbers rather than percentages in the future.

b. Rhode Island Energy Update on Equity Metrics and Tracking

Mr. Makuch with Rhode Island Energy presented on the seven equity metrics and described the process of developing the metrics. Chair Oakley asked if these graphs show if we are on track and how they compare to previous years. Mr. Dagher explained that this presentation provides a baseline to build on in future iterations, so comparisons to previous years are limited. Chair Oakley would like the data presented to show places where the Council can improve and better collaborate with RI Energy. The presentation showed that knob and tube wiring is the most frequent pre-weatherization barrier in the state and Council Member Garlick suggested sorting the barriers by census tract for additional granularity.

c. Energy Efficiency Docket 23-39-EE Regulatory Updates

Mr. Johnson shared that there was a PUC meeting this morning and noted that the PUC did reject the gas demand response pilot program at this time. Mr. Johnson also reviewed the completed items and upcoming items for the energy efficiency docket proceedings, such as Council Member Teichert's testimony.

7. Council Business

a. Discussion on Council-Sponsored 2024 Public Forum and Lecture Series

Ms. Venturini Hardesty, of the University of Rhode Island's Cooperative Extension, spoke about the development of the energy efficiency public forum and lecture series. The public forum has evolved from direct engagement with the state's Health Equity Zones and meeting community members where they are to establishing a Community of Practice to engage on healthy and efficient homes. The URI team received sixty responses on the Community of Practice interest form as of mid-November. The next



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step is a planned March 3, 2025 Community of Practice event with interested stakeholders. Ms. Venturini Hardesty also summarized the two recent lectures held at URI.

- b. Review and Potential Vote on Consultant Services Contract Extension*
This item was held for the next meeting as a quorum was not met.

8. Adjournment

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

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