



## FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, December 19, 2024 | 3:00 - 5:00 PM

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

With virtual participation available via Zoom.

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### Members in Attendance:

Brett Feldman, Harry Oakley, Tom Magliocchetti, Chris Kearns, Peter Gill Case, Priscilla De La Cruz, Sue AnderBois, Kurt Teichert (3:40 p.m.)

### Others in Attendance:

Steven Chybowski, Katie Critelli, Georgia Cheney, Craig Johnson, Adrian Caesar, Karen Bradbury, Kayley Skakalski, Jordan Galluzzo, Seth Handy, Brendan Dagher, Mark Kravatz, Rachel Sholly, Toby Ast (virtual), Mark Thomson (virtual), Fern Friedberg (virtual), Alison Donovan (virtual), Jeremy Newberger (virtual), Theo Smith (virtual), Ann Clarke (virtual), Elizabeth Oke (virtual), Tina Munter (virtual), Spencer Lawrence (virtual)

#### 1. Call to Order

Chair Oakley called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

#### 2. Chair Report

Chair Oakley shared the meeting logistics and how to submit public comment. He also provided an overview of the meeting agenda, a mix of both program oversight and council business.

#### 3. Executive Director Report

Acting Commissioner Kearns shared details about the Resilient Microgrids for Critical Services program which launched phase 1 on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. He also reported changes to the State's EV charging policies.

#### 4. Public Comment

None.

#### 6. Special Topics

##### a. *Presentation from the 2024 Energy Fellow*

2024 Energy Fellow Ms. Skakalski presented on her work with Optimal Energy throughout the year. She outlined the work of the Energy Efficiency Committee, including its programs and public outreach, as well as barriers to outreach. She also shared some highlights of her internship work.

Chair Oakley praised the presentation. Council Member Gill Case commented on the barriers in public outreach slide. Council Member Magliocchetti commented on his history with URI and asked about how many students are in Ms. Skakalski's program. Council Member De La Cruz explained how her two fellows assisted her work in the City



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of Providence. Council Member AnderBois recommended Ms. Skakalski reach out to any of the Council for any assistance in networking/career guidance.

### 7. Meeting Minutes

*a. October 17, 2024*

Chair Oakley motioned to approve the October 17, 2024 meeting minutes. Council Member AnderBois seconded. All in favor, none opposed, and the minutes were approved.

*b. October 28, 2024 LEAD Session*

Chair Oakley motioned to approve the October 28, 2024 LEAD session meeting minutes. Council Member AnderBois seconded. All in favor, none opposed, and the minutes were approved.

*c. November 21, 2024*

Chair Oakley motioned to approve the November 21, 2024 meeting minutes. Council Member AnderBois seconded. All in favor, none opposed, and the minutes were approved.

### 8. Program Oversight

*a. Energy Efficiency Docket 24-39-EE Regulatory Updates*

Mr. Johnson reviewed the regulatory schedule and shared that the 2025 EEC Budget was approved as filed. He explained the difference between open meetings and hearings hosted by the PUC for Council member awareness. The Consultant Team will provide a more detailed summary document of the 2025 EE plan rulings in the coming weeks.

Mr. Handy shared that the PUC would like to have more dialogue with the Council.

Chair Oakley noted that he would like future summaries to focus on where EE programming fell short of expectations and where to improve. Council Member Teichert suggested getting ahead of what to include in the Council's testimony in future years, possibly create a working group dedicated to that work. He thought the process felt rushed and he was uncomfortable speaking on behalf of the full Council during the hearings. Mr. Handy relayed his impressions of the testimony. Council Member Gill Case suggested planning ahead for next year, having the priorities ahead of time so that any member of the Council could testify. Mr. Feldman spoke to the equity metrics and the importance of presenting a united message. Acting Commissioner Kearns encouraged the Council to pursue opportunities to engage with PUC staff over the next year.

### 9. Council Business



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- a. *PivotPath Presentation on Energy Efficiency and Climate Public Awareness Campaign*  
Ms. Friedberg from PivotPath shared key takeaways and insights from the public awareness campaign to date. Ms. Oke from PivotPath then discussed recommendations for 2025. After PivotPath met with Rhode Island Energy, Ms. Oke's impression is that, despite the successful numbers, there are duplicating efforts. She feels that the campaign needs to pivot and suggested changing the landing page to conduct more market research to figure out what users understand and want related to energy efficiency. Vice Chair Gill Case thanked Ms. Oke for her suggestion to pivot and commented that he sees this as an evolution of the initial effort.
  
- b. *Discussion and Potential Vote on the Council Meeting Calendar for 2025 and Preview of Possible Discussion Topics*  
Mr. Chybowski presented on meeting logistics for 2025. He suggested that the Council may be able to use the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank conference room as a trial for January 2025. Council Members expressed interest in pursuing that option if available which OER staff will coordinate ahead of the January meeting. Mr. Caesar of the Consultant Team then shared potential topics for upcoming Council meetings in 2025.
  
- c. *Review and Potential Vote on Consultant Services Contract Extension*  
Council Member AnderBois motioned to enter an Executive Session pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-4(a). The business to be discussed and the statutory purpose of entering into an Executive Session, is R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(7): "A matter related to the question of the investment of public funds where the premature disclosure would adversely affect the public interest." Chair Oakley seconded. All in favor, none opposed and the meeting was moved into executive session.  
The session included Chair Oakley, Vice Chair Gill Case, Council Member AnderBois, Council Member Teichert, Council Member De La Cruz, Council Member Magliocchetti, Acting Commissioner Kearns, legal counsel Mr. Handy, and Office of Energy Resources staff Ms. Cheney, Mr. Chybowski, Ms. Bradbury and Ms. Critelli.

The Council returned from Executive Session and announced that they had voted to execute the second 24-month extension of the of the existing EEC Consultant Team contract and to direct the Office of Energy Resources to work with EEC legal counsel to execute the contract extension documents.

### 10. Adjournment

Chair Oakley adjourned the meeting at 5:01 p.m.