



FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 20, 2025 | 3:00 - 5:00 PM

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

Members in Attendance:

Joe Garlick, Sue AnderBois, Carrie Gill, Priscilla De La Cruz, Kurt Teichert

Others in Attendance:

Steven Chybowski, Georgia Cheney, Katie Critelli, Craig Johnson, Adrian Caesar, Toby Ast, Todd Bianco, Seth Handy, Brendan Dagher, Alison Donovan, Karen Bradbury, Emil Heagy, Liam Vanvleet, Luke Meunier, Mark Thomson (virtual), Alan Nault (virtual), Mark Kravatz (virtual), Abigail Anthony (virtual), Jack Green (virtual), Jeremy Newberger (virtual), Cindy Wilson-Frias (virtual), Spencer Lawrence (virtual), Jordan Galluzzo (virtual), William Owen (virtual), Tina Munter (virtual)

1. Call to Order

Council Member AnderBois called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

2. Chair Report

Council Member AnderBois shared the meeting logistics including how to make public comment. She stated that Todd Bianco, Chief Economist and Policy Analyst from the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) would join the meeting to speak with the Council. Rhode Island Energy will also present on the development of the 2026 Energy Efficiency Plan and Council Business will include discussion on the Council's current contracted services. Council Member AnderBois shared dates for the upcoming Equity Working Group meeting (2/24) and the Energy Efficiency Technical Working Group (2/27). Lastly, Mr. Johnson introduced the Consultant Team's 2025 Energy Fellow, Luke Meunier.

3. Executive Director Report

Mr. Chybowski shared updates from the Office of Energy Resources (OER). The Lead by Example team recently published its initial compliance report for Executive Order 23-06, which is available online. He also shared updates from the Clean Heat Rhode Island program, including the amounts awarded to date. He spoke of the federal funding freeze and listed the OER programs that are currently on pause due to that freeze.

4. Meeting Minutes – January 16, 2025

There was no quorum. Voting on the minutes will be held until the March meeting.

5. Public Comment

None.

6. Program Oversight

a. *Public Utilities Commission Staff Discussion*



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Mr. Bianco introduced himself and shared details about his role with the PUC. He provided a summary about the most recent energy efficiency docket. Council Member Teichert asked about key opportunities regarding equity in the efficiency programs. Mr. Bianco spoke about the impact of public comment. Council Member De La Cruz asked about delivered fuels in relation to the Future of Gas docket. Mr. Chybowski asked for thoughts on moving to a three-year binding program plan. Mr. Handy spoke about load growth and asked about scaled thinking/planning in response to load growth.

b. Rhode Island Energy Presentation on 2026 Energy Efficiency Planning Timeline

Mr. Ast presented on the 2026 planning timeline. Mr. Handy reiterated the EEC's interest in a three-year plan and wanted to continue dialogue to achieve that. Council Member Teichert raised the topic of having a potential study to inform the targets for the next three-year plan.

c. Discussion and Potential Vote on Council Priorities for the 2026 program Year

Mr. Johnson presented on the 2026 energy efficiency priorities and discussed changes to titles of goals. Council Member AnderBois suggested changing "goals" to "mandates" regarding the Act on Climate and Mr. Handy suggested thinking about the specific requirements of the Act on Climate. Council Member Teichert asked about having E3 included in a future council meeting. Mr. Johnson discussed System Reliability Procurement in relation to the discontinuation of the Gas Demand Response Pilot. Dr. Gill suggested to split the priorities into baseline expectations and more specific priorities. Mr. Handy spoke about strategies and how specific strategies help reach goals.

7. Council Business

a. Review and Potential Vote on Legal Services

Due to lack of quorum, this item was held until the March meeting.

b. Review and Potential Vote on Public Forum and Lecture Series Services

Mr. Chybowski explained that there's a discrepancy on the contract dates between URI and the Council's interpretation of the agreement. Mr. Chybowski and Mr. Johnson will go back to URI to figure out the next steps. Action on this item was held until the March meeting due to lack of quorum.

c. Review and Potential Vote on Energy Efficiency Public Awareness Campaign Services

Due to lack of quorum, this item was held until the March meeting.



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8. Adjournment

Council Member AnderBois adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.