



FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 31, 2025 | 2:30 - 4:30 PM

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

Members in Attendance:

Brett Feldman, Joe Garlick, Harry Oakley, Peter Gill Case, Chris Kearns, Priscilla de la Cruz, Carrie Gill, Kurt Teichert (2:45 p.m.)

Others in Attendance:

Steven Chybowski, Katie Critelli, Georgia Cheney, Jordan Galluzzo, Toby Ast, Craig Johnson, Seth Handy, Grant Dulgarian, Adrian Caesar (virtual), Alison Donovan (virtual), Andrew Johnson (virtual), Jeremy Newberger (virtual), Spencer Lawrence (virtual), Emily Koo (virtual), Atticus Makuch (virtual)

1. Call to Order

Chair Oakley called the meeting to order at 2:36 p.m.

2. Chair Report

Chair Oakley shared the meeting logistics and outlined the meeting's agenda which includes reviewing the energy efficiency programs, discussing the Council's priorities for the 2026 program year, beginning discussion on the annual report, and lastly, discussions of contracted services in a possible executive session. He stated that next month the meeting will focus more on program oversight. He then shared details of April's Equity Working Group meeting and asked members to hold the date and time for the upcoming LEAD session.

3. Executive Director Report

Acting Commissioner Kearns updated the Council on the HEAR program. He shared details on the RGGI Allocation Plan for Council awareness. He also reminded the Council about the Home Show and an upcoming NEEP event in Providence. Starting next month, the Executive Director reports will include legislative updates for Council awareness.

4. Meeting Minutes

a. January 16, 2025

Chair Oakley motioned to approve the January 16, 2025 meeting minutes. Council Member De La Cruz seconded. All in favor, none opposed, and the meeting minutes were approved.

b. February 20, 2025

Chair Oakley motioned to approve the February 20, 2025 meeting minutes. Council Member Garlick seconded. Council Members De La Cruz and Teichert voted in favor. Vice Chair Gill Case abstained. None opposed, and the meeting minutes were approved.

5. Public Comment

Grant Dulgarian



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Mr. Dulgarian commented on the State's plans to rebuild the Washington Bridge and discussed environmental impact statements and opportunities for rail service.

6. Program Oversight

a. Presentation and Overview of Evaluation, Measurement and Verification Activities and Recent Studies

Andrew Johnson of the Consultant Team presented on the evaluation, measurement, and verification (EMV) efforts, including an overview of the team, oversight, process, and recent and upcoming studies. Mr. Caesar spoke about the different types of studies which include process evaluations and savings verifications. Mr. Newberger spoke about the cost of supply comparison. Council Member De La Cruz would appreciate having the results shared in real time so as not to have to remember to go back and check the website to look for newly published studies. Chair Oakley felt the presentation should be more detailed to help see some metrics from recent studies. He would like to have specific studies that show what worked and what didn't.

b. Discussion and Potential Vote on Council Priorities for the 2026 Program Year

Craig Johnson presented a revised draft of the Council's priorities based on feedback from the previous meeting. The four main priorities are to support the mandates of the Act on Climate, to set ambitious Annual Plan savings goals, to increase participation in underserved communities and to conduct targeted workforce development. Acting Commissioner Kearns commented about the priority of setting ambitious annual plan savings goals as this may be a place to address recent RI Energy ratepayers' concerns over bill costs. Council Member Gill Case suggested wordsmithing to address this concern. Council Member Teichert suggesting updating the language to set ambitious goals for customers' savings and specified ambitious being in terms of participation.

7. Council Business

a. Discussion of the Council's 2025 Annual Report and Policy Recommendations

Craig Johnson presented on the 2025 annual report and welcomed feedback from the Council on its development. Council Member Gill was pleased with this pamphlet and suggested adding affordability as a priority given the current climate. Council Member Gill Case suggested taking the numbers off the priorities in the pamphlet, as it suggests a ranking.

Chair Oakley motioned to move to Executive session (also referred to as a closed meeting) pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-4(a) to discuss vendor contracts as described in Agenda Items #7 b-d. The business to be discussed and the statutory



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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.” to review and potentially vote on legal services, the lecture series, and the public awareness campaign. Council Member De La Cruz seconded and the meeting moved into Executive Session.

8. Adjournment

Chair Oakley adjourned the meeting at 4:34 p.m.