



FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 15, 2026 | 3:00 – 5:00 PM

Department of Administration, Cafeteria Conference Room, Providence, RI 02908

Members in Attendance:

Harry Oakley, Dr. Carrie Gill, Sue AnderBois, Chris Kearns, Priscilla De La Cruz, Tom Magliocchetti, Kurt Teichert, Harry Oakley, Brett Feldman, Peter Gill Case

Others in Attendance:

Steven Chybowski, David Augustyn, Craig Johnson, Atticus Makuch, Brendan Dagher, Luke Meunier, Toby Ast, Adrian Caesar (virtual), Stephanie Morse (virtual), Sophia Gosselin-Smoske (virtual), Spencer Lawrence (virtual), Mark Siegal (virtual), Jeanne Cherry (virtual), Oliwia Krupinska (virtual), Emily Koo (virtual), Ann Clarke (virtual), Jordan Galluzzo (virtual), Tina Munter (virtual), Matthew Socks (virtual)

1. Call to Order

Chair Oakley called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

2. Chair Report

Chair Oakley began by sharing the meeting instructions for making public comment. He shared the news of Bob Izzo's resignation from the Energy Efficiency Council (EEC) and thanked him on behalf of the Council for all his dedication and hard work. Chair Oakley provided an overview of the agenda which includes a special presentation from an Energy Fellow, program oversight, and council business.

3. Executive Director Report

Acting Commissioner Kearns introduced David Augustyn, OER's new legal counsel. Acting Commissioner Kearns then provided updates on federal funding, including the Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates program, and that the Training for Residential Efficiency Contractors grant and heat pump accelerator programs are getting underway. He commended Council Member Gill Case for his testimony at the docket proceedings. Council Member De La Cruz requested legislative updates at future meetings.

4. Meeting Minutes – November 20, 2025

Chair Oakley motioned to approve the November 20, 2025 meeting minutes. Council Member AnderBois seconded. All in favor, none opposed, and the November 20, 2025 minutes were approved.

5. Public Comment

Emily Koo, Acadia Center

Ms. Koo stated that she expects the administration and legislature to consider scaling back energy programs and encouraged the Council to participate in that dialogue and push back against such reductions.



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Brett Feldman, Rhode Island Energy

Mr. Feldman shared that the RI Energy efficiency marketing team is looking for real customers who participated in energy efficiency (EE) programs for photos for an upcoming ad campaign.

6. Special Topics

a. Presentation from the 2025 Mike Guerard Energy Fellow

Mr. Meunier presented on his work as the 2025 Mike Guerard Energy Fellow with NV5. He outlined his education and his mentor team at NV5/Optimal Energy. His contributions included program analysis, stakeholder engagement, and material development. He is currently completing a master's program at the University of Rhode Island.

7. Program Oversight

a. Energy Efficiency Docket 25-37-EE Regulatory Updates

Mr. Johnson of the Council's Consultant Team recapped the regulatory updates from the November EEC meeting. The Consultant Team is currently working on a comprehensive memo with topics and timestamps of the three days of hearings for the EEC and will share when it's available. Mr. Caesar shared updates on the C&I sector, including a project which raised questions about large EE incentives. He also recapped discussions on revolving loan funds and on-bill payment.

Mr. Johnson provided an overview of residential and income-eligible discussion topics. There was discussion around the new methodology for heat pump assumptions for weatherization measures. They also spoke about delivered fuels customers becoming electric-resistant in that when they struggle to afford oil, some turn to using space heaters. The hearings also included questions regarding the Home Energy Reports now being electronic and how the assumptions and methodology translate to savings and how the rollout of advanced meter infrastructure may inform new insights for home energy reports or energy efficiency participation more broadly. Mr. Johnson explained that the DPUC asked several questions regarding the Council's awareness of both energy efficiency charges in the context of the other charges customers face, as well as the number and dollar value of ratepayers' delinquencies. A document was shared with Vice Chair Gill Case highlighting the increasing number of Rhode Islanders who are delinquent or having difficulty paying energy bills. Vice Chair Gill Case also shared that he felt it was unfortunate that the discussion moved from savings to dollars. Further discussion included reiterating that the Council Members are volunteers who put in a lot of time and effort to review the efficiency programs.



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Mr. Johnson shared that the Council's requested budget allocation was approved. Mr. Feldman spoke about RIE being supportive of a binding three-year plan. Council Member De La Cruz spoke about Mayor Smiley's support of energy efficiency in relation to energy affordability.

8. Council Business

Chair Oakley motioned to re-order Council business to move the "Consultant Team Presentation and Council Discussion on Setting 2027-2029 Energy Efficiency Targets" to the end of the Council Business agenda. Council Member AnderBois seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

a. Review and Potential Vote on Legal Services

Mr. Chybowski of the Office of Energy Resources (OER) summarized the legal services contract and reminded the Council Members that legal services were discussed at the prior two meetings. The Council did not have further discussion on the subject. Council Member Teichert motioned to execute the second of the EEC's two twelve-month extensions of the existing legal services contract and to direct the Office of Energy Resources to work with EEC Legal Counsel to execute the contract extension documents. Council Member AnderBois seconded. All in favor, no one opposed; the vote to approve the legal services passed.

b. Review of Council's 2025 Budget and Potential Vote for Reallocations

Mr. Chybowski presented on the Council's 2025 budget and spending. All items came in at or under projections except for consultant services. Council Member Teichert asked Mr. Chybowski if he found the increase in costs reasonable, as OER reviews the invoices. Mr. Chybowski responded that he did find the costs to be reasonable and that OER reviews the invoices line-by-line prior to any approvals. Council Member Teichert made a motion to allocate the \$75,000 from the EE and Climate Awareness Campaign line item toward the Consultant Services line item. Council Member AnderBois seconded. All in favor, none opposed, and the motion passed.

c. Review and Potential Vote on Consultant Services 2026 Scope of Work

Mr. Johnson presented on the Consultant Team's proposed 2026 Scope of Work. Chair Oakley asked if the additional costs seen in 2025 should be expected or reflected in the 2026 Scope of Work. Mr. Johnson responded that some tasks in 2025 required a greater level of support than anticipated, but that some of those tasks have wrapped up. Chair Oakley stated that he wanted to make it clear for 2026 that it is the responsibility of the



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consultants to manage time in line with the Scope of Work. Council Member Teichert made a motion to approve the 2026 Scope of Work for the Consultant Team led by Optimal and the associated budget for that scope of work as presented in today's meeting. Further, to direct the Office of Energy Resources to incorporate this approved scope of work and budget into the current consultant services contract. Council Member AnderBois seconded. All in favor, none opposed, and the vote passed.

d. Discussion and Potential Vote on the Council Meeting Calendar for 2026 and a Preview of Possible Discussion Topics

Mr. Chybowski shared the proposed meeting cadence of the Full Council, the Executive Committee, Education Committee, Learning, Education and Advancement Discussion (LEAD) Sessions for 2026. RI Energy hosts the Technical Working and Equity Working Groups as well that Council Members are welcome to attend. He shared possible dates for the meetings and listed major potential topics and will add the Rate Case, as well as smaller topics for meeting discussions. OER welcomed additional ideas. Dr. Gill offered to have RIE present on everything that goes into bills and the delinquency rates. Council Member Gill Case would like information on the relationship between Infrastructure, Safety, and Reliability plans to bill impacts. Council Member De La Cruz requested presentations on legislation that impacts EEC's priorities. Council Member Teichert motioned to approve the 2026 Energy Efficiency Council meeting calendar as presented by the OER today and to direct OER to make the necessary reservations for the meetings for the year; Council Member De La Cruz seconded. All in favor; none opposed, and the vote passed.

e. Consultant Team Presentation and Council Discussion on Setting 2027-2029 Energy Efficiency Targets

Held due to a building evacuation.

9. Public Comment

None taken due to a building evacuation.

10. Adjournment 4:38 pm

Due to an emergency building evacuation, Chair Oakley adjourned the meeting abruptly at 4:38 p.m.