FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

Thursday, August 20, 2026 | 3:00 - 5:00 PM

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

With public participation available via Zoom.

Members in attendance: Joe Garlick, Chris Kearns, Kurt Teichert, Harry Oakley, Priscilla De La Cruz, Dr. Carrie Gill, Melissa Travis (3:15 PM)

Others in attendance: David Augustyn, Katie Critelli, Toby Ast, Brendan Dagher, Carinel LeGrand, Rachel Sholly, Claire Williams, Adam Jacobs, Theo Smith, Craig Johnson, Atticus Makuch, Seth Handy, Olivia Poulos, Ian Plante, Kyle Jolicouer, Ava Marchand, Steven Chybowski, Bert Cooper, Oliwia Krupinska (virtual), David Capwell (virtual), Joh Typadis (virtual), Allison Archambault (virtual), Jessica Reno (virtual), Adrian Caesar (virtual), Jordan Galluzzo (virtual), Stephanie Morse (virtual), Arthur Larson (virtual), Logan Ziegler (virtual), Dave Larson (virtual), Nancy Chafetz (virtual), Chinmay Patil (virtual), Mark Siegal (virtual), Keith Black (virtual), Evan Tao (virtual), Emily Koo (virtual), Ryan Cote (virtual), Peter Gill Case (virtual), Bryan Evans (virtual), Jeanne Cherry (virtual), Jeremy Newberger (virtual)

1. **Call to Order**
   Chair Oakley called the meeting to order at 3:02 PM.
2. **Chair Report**
   Chair Oakley provided instructions on how to make public comments and outlined the meeting agenda.
3. **Executive Director Report**
   Acting Commissioner Kearns, of the Office of Energy Resources (OER), shared updates on some of OER's programs, including HEAR, HER, NEHPA, the battery storage program and Lead By Example's carport and EV projects.
4. **Public Comment**
   Nancy Chafetz, *NRG/C-Power*
   Ms. Chafetz commented on increased transmission costs due to the huge load growth expected. She stated that RI needs to align ConnectedSolutions with states such as Mass and Connecticut and the importance of starting a winter program. She also spoke about C&I Batteries and the issues limiting their use in Rhode Island, which include the rate lock not being guaranteed and the $1M cap per year.

5. **Special Topic**
   a. ***Green and Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) and Rhode Island Energy (RIE) Presentation on Equity Working Group Recent Developments***
   Mr. Cooper shared the timeline of how the plan was developed and the importance of incorporating member input. Two years of data assisted in developing key recommendations and potential strategies. Council Member Teichert asked why strategies are "potential" and Mr. Dagher explained it's because the plan hasn't been submitted yet. Council Member Garlick asked about environmental justice (EJ) community investment and

tracking. Mr. Dagher shared how it's currently tracked and that they could add more factors (including dollars). Ms. LeGrand spoke about language access, that all involved in the entire process need to be aware of the customer's language needs as well as needing additional staff that speak Spanish and Portuguese. Mr. Cooper spoke about the status of the Whole Home + Electrification Program.

Chair Oakley motioned to change the agenda to next vote on the meeting minutes. Council Member Travis seconded; all in favor and none opposed.

6. **Meeting Minutes**
   - ***a.*** *May 28, 2026*
     Chair Oakley motioned to approve the May 28, 2026 meeting minutes. Council Member De La Cruz seconded. Council Member Travis abstained; Council Members Garlick and Teichert were in favor and the minutes were approved.

   - ***b.*** *June 8, 2026 (LEAD Session)*
     Chair Oakley motioned to approve the June 8, 2026 meeting minutes. Council Member De La Cruz seconded. Council Members Garlick and Travis abstained; Council Member Teichert was in favor and the minutes were approved.

   - ***c.*** *June 18, 2026*
     Chair Oakley motioned to approve the June 18, 2026 meeting minutes. Council Member De La Cruz seconded. Council Member Travis abstained; Council Members Garlick and Teichert were in favor and the minutes were approved.

   - ***d.*** *July 16, 2026*
     Chair Oakley motioned to approve the July 16, 2026 meeting minutes. Council Member De La Cruz seconded. Council Member Garlick abstained; Council Members Teichert and Travis were in favor and the minutes were approved.

7. **Council Business**
   - ***a. Council Discussion and Vote on 2027-2029 Draft EEC Budget Proposal***
     Chair Oakley motioned to move this agenda item to the next meeting; Council Member Garlick seconded. All in favor, none opposed and the vote passed.
   - ***b. Review and Vote to Issue Consultant Services RFP***
     Council Member Teichert motioned to issue and RFP for Consultant Services as presented by the Office of Energy Resources. Chair Oakley seconded. All in favor, none opposed and the vote passed.

8. **Program Oversight**
   - ***a. Presentation and Discussion on 2026 Energy Efficiency Program Performance***
     Mr. Caesar and Ms. Morse from the Consultant Team (C-Team) presented on key takeaways from the overall portfolio and highlighted areas where the forecast was doing well. Chair Oakley stated he would like to see areas where performance is not doing well and focus the discussion on why that was the case and the ways to improve. Mr. Caesar shared that

struggling areas include low-income and multi-family sectors. While discussing performance in the commercial and industrial sectors, Council Member Travis mentioned involving C-PACE. Chair Oakley asked Mr. Caesar to create a list of state funding resources/opportunities for the Council. Ms. Galluzzo reviewed the key takeaways from the resident and income-eligible sectors. Mr. Makuch elaborated on the performance – there was an $1.8M project that produced significantly less savings than expected. Council Member Garlick suggested contacting Rhode Island Housing/Executive Office of Housing to discuss multi-family housing projects.

b. Updates on System Reliability Procurement Planning (SRP) and the ConnectedSolutions Program

Chair Oakley suggested holding this agenda item for a future meeting. Dr. Gill suggested that RIE team members could meet one on one with council members. Chair Oakley suggested that the C-Team create a document. Mr. Jacobs presented a brief version of the planning and program. Mr. Cote provided an overview of the timeline and workplan. Ms. Reno highlighted proposed program design changes. Mr. Jacobs shared the key takeaways.

9. Public Comment

Chair Oakley called for public comment for both virtual and in-person attendees. There were no parties interested in public comment during this second public comment period.

10. Adjournment

Chair Oakley adjourned the meeting at 5:05 PM.