FULL COUNCIL DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 24, 2026 | 3:00 - 5:00 PM

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

With public participation available via Zoom.

Members in attendance: Chris Kearns, Dave Caldwell, Sue AnderBois, Priscilla De La Cruz, Brett Feldman, Harry Oakley, Kurt Teichert, Peter Gill Case (arrived at 3:20 PM)

Others in attendance: Steven Chybowski, Josh Cornell, Toby Ast, Oliwia Krupinska, Mark Siegel, Adrian Caesar, Jordan Galluzzo, Brendan Dagher, Theo Smith, Savannah Goncalves, Spencer Lawrence, Shauna Beland, Abbie Hasenfus, Sam Ross, Alison Archambault, Jessica Reno, Celeste Smith (virtual), Ryan Corrigan (virtual), Suriya Selvakumar (virtual), Stephanie Morse (virtual), Logan Ziegler (virtual), Adam Jacobs (virtual), Jeremy Newberger (virtual), Craig Johnson (virtual), Kristin Dupre (virtual), Ryan Cote (virtual), Nancy Chafetz (virtual), Ann Clarke (virtual), Carinel LeGrand (virtual), Rachel Sholly (virtual), Atticus Makuch (virtual), Jeanne Cherry (virtual), Claire Williams (virtual), Yiran He (virtual), Nicholas Zhu (virtual), Carrie Gill (virtual), Augustina Munter (virtual)

1. **Call to Order**
   Chair Oakley called the meeting to order at 3:03 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), provided updates on some of the Office's programs. The Department of Energy recently released new guidelines for the HEAR program which no longer allows for fuel switching. The HOMES program was launched the week prior to the meeting. He also shared updates to the OER battery storage program and the work being done by the Lead By Example team. Solar carports are being constructed in the Department of Administration parking lots, with construction expected to begin in late winter/early spring.
4. **Meeting Minutes – September 10, 2026**
   Chair Oakley motioned to approve the September 10, 2026 meeting minutes. Council Member Teichert seconded. Council Members Gill Case, Caldwell and De La Cruz were in favor. Council Member AnderBois abstained, and the minutes were approved.
5. **Public Comment**
   None.
6. **Program Oversight**
   a. ***Facilitated Discussion and Vote on the Final Draft of the 2027-2029 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan***

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Mr. Ast of Rhode Island Energy presented on the 2027-2029 Energy Efficiency Plan which would be filed with the Public Utilities Commission on October 1st. He outlined how feedback has been addressed in the Plan. He provided updates since the second draft and shared the changes in budget numbers and he addressed the last steps for filing.

Mr. Caesar, on behalf of the Consultant Team, presented on the plan updates, the most significant of which was proposed language for Mid-Term Modifications (MTMs). The assessment of the plan included Least-Cost Procurement (LCP) Standards and Council Priorities. Mr. Caesar described the ways in which the Plan was largely successful in its responsiveness to the LCP Standards. Acting Commissioner Kearns asked how the smart meters/application will affect Home Energy Reports (HERs). Mr. Caesar stated the Company hadn't yet indicated a way to measure savings, and Mr. Feldman said the Company is working on it. Regarding Council Priorities, the Consultant Team found the plan was partially responsive to these priorities. Rhode Island Energy explained there is difficulty collecting data on equity metrics and expressed hope that the three-year plan will allow for more time to gather such data.

Mr. Caesar reviewed the voting language and options for the Council. Vice Chair Gill Case spoke about synchronization with neighboring states and Council Member De La Cruz wished there was additional time to consider the three-year plan as well as a deeper dive into the analytics. Acting Commissioner Kearns pointed out that if the avoided energy supply cost analysis is done, the Council could ask the Commission to consider it. Council Member Teichert asked how to set conditions. Chair Oakley stated that the Council should consider this plan as 'framework' and vote to endorse it. Council Member Teichert moved to endorse the 2027-2029 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan as presented by Rhode Island Energy to the Council, allowing for non-substantive changes to be done prior to the filing. Council Member AnderBois seconded. All in favor, none opposed and the vote to endorse passed. Council Member De La Cruz suggested working on pre-filed testimony during the upcoming LEAD session.

b. Presentation and Potential Vote on the Cost-Effectiveness Report for the 2027-2029 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan

Mr. Caesar on behalf of the Consultant Team presented on the Cost-Effectiveness Report for the 2027-2029 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan, summarizing that the plan is cost-effective per the requirements. He showed cost analysis values in the RI Test and Intrastate tests. Council Member Teichert motioned to approve the cost-effectiveness report. Council Member De La Cruz seconded. All in favor, none opposed, and the vote passed.

c. Presentation of the Second Draft of the 2027-2029 Three-Year System Reliability Procurement (SRP) and ConnectedSolutions Plans

Mr. Cote of Rhode Island Energy presented on SRP. He shared the timeline and workplan update as well as the Connected Solutions Investment Proposal Overview. Ms. Reno and Ms. Archambault shared proposed ConnectedSolutions program design changes. The major changes to the second draft are related to coordination and customer experience; incentive transparency; and operations and accountability. Vice Chair Gill Case inquired as to the program only being available in the summer. Mr. Jacobs of the Consultant Team presented key takeaways of the System Reliability Procurement.

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7. **Public Comment**
   None.

8. **Adjournment**
   Chair Oakley adjourned the meeting at 5:00 PM.

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