



City of Ann Arbor

Meeting Minutes

Energy Commission

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
[http://a2gov.legistar.com/
Calendar.aspx](http://a2gov.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx)

Thursday, April 6, 2017

6:00 PM

Larcom City Hall, 301 E Huron St,
Basement, conference room

This is a rescheduled meeting due to overlap with Passover and takes the place of April 11th Energy Commission. Location also changed from Council Chambers to the City Hall Basement Conference Room.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Appleyard called the meeting to order at 6:10pm.

ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Charles Hookham, Mark Clevey, Shoshannah Lenski, Wayne Appleyard, Kenneth J. Wadland, John Mirsky, and Jason Frenzel

Absent: 4 - Brigit Macomber, Mike Shriberg, Noah Levin, and Sarah Paleg

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Clevey and seconded by Commissioner Lenski. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A spelling correction was made to prior month's minutes. With that change the minutes were approved unanimously on a voice vote.

PUBLIC INPUT

No public comment.

ENERGY REPORT - NEWS FROM THE ENERGY OFFICE AND COMMISSIONERS

Staff gave an update on the Power Together program sponsored by DTE. DTE representatives on a different topic (Renewable Energy and Energy Optimization Programs) will be presenting at the May

Commission meeting. Earth Day at Leslie Science Center on April 23rd from Noon-4pm. The final 2017 sustainability forum will be held on April 13th at the public library. Staff noted multiple City facilities will undertake energy audits in 2017 that could lead to improvements.

City staff presented information on the update to greenhouse gas emissions. Staff confirmed that they would be able to get yearly updates going forward. Commissioner Hookham asked what the community inventory included, to which staff responded everything Community related from residential to transportation and waste. Nate Geisler explained that the reductions in greenhouse gases can be attributed to the renewable portfolio standard amongst other factors.

Commissioner Lenski brought up the projected changes to DTE's generation portfolio, which includes a shift from coal plants to natural gas and renewables. Commissioner Wadland asked about changes to DTE's nuclear generation and Commissioner Lenski confirmed that there are no plans to change nuclear generation. Commissioner Clevey suggested that the Commission think about possible synergizes with the DTE going forward. Commissioner Hookham added that the most cost effective method of installing renewables was through large-scale projects.

Chair Appleyard shared the ongoing process of calculating the solar avoided costs at the MPSC's solar working group meetings.

Funding Proposal for Sustainability

Chair Appleyard presented on possible projects that could use sustainability funding. His presentation began by noting the current state of affairs and the changes the City faces from climate change. He emphasized the need for action at the Community level. He presented five programs that would help to address climate change in Ann Arbor. These included a Rain Ready program based on work by the Center for Neighborhood Technology, an energy efficiency program modeled off Boulder's Energy Smart, a "solar for all" program for rooftop and community solar offerings, an electric vehicle program, and new neighborhood green/sustainability grants.

After friendly amendments were offered and accepted, a motion was

made my Commissioner Clevey, and seconded by Commissioner Wadland. On a voice vote, the resolution passed unanimously.

Solar Taxation/Resolution Discussion

Commissioner Clevey gave a background on where solar taxation currently stands. The Commissioners discussed possible paths going forward along with an update on rulings from the Tax Tribunal. Commissioners also addressed the current valuation methodology of the City's Tax Assessor and there was discussion over whether there could be recommendations on a change of the valuation methodology. They concluded that there were various methods that could both decrease but also increase the cost of the taxation. They agreed to discuss the matter further at the following meeting.

Commissioners asked Council Member Frenzel for an update to the community solar resolution passed by the Commission. Council Member Frenzel confirmed that it would be brought to Council in the coming month.

Renewable Energy Goals

The Commissioners discussed a Sierra Club recommendation for cities to go towards 100% renewable energy. The Commission agreed to have someone from the group come and present in a future meeting. Commissioner Mirsky explained that the City should also consider its efficiency and renewable goals as a first step. Commissioner Clevey added that the Commission should take stock and reassess how the City plans to meet its targets.

Council Member Frenzel informed the commission that the Planning Commission is interested in solar readiness, along with a general interest in zoning and planning as it pertains to sustainability.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Climate Action Plan

No updates.

Renewable Energies

No updates.

Sustainable Funding

No updates.

PUBLIC INPUT

Larry Kerber asked Commissioner Hookham to clarify what he meant when he said larger renewable projects were more cost effective. Commissioner Hookham explained he was emphasizing the concept of economies of scale; the larger the purchase the more cost effective it generally is in aggregate and potentially to consumers/customers.

An unidentified speaker wanted the City to present a way in which a solar array would not be taxed by emphasizing how it is more similar to personal property not real property.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Commissioner Mirsky was interested in looking at alternative funding options for climate action activities. He also wanted to give an update with his work on recruiting volunteers. On a separate note, he wanted further clarification on the City's STAR Certification once the review process was completed.

Chair Appleyard was interested in looking further into the franchise agreement with DTE. DTE is set to present on renewables and energy efficiency programs for the May meeting.

Solar taxation discussions to continue at future date(s).

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 8:35pm

All persons are encouraged to participate in public meetings. Citizens requiring translation or sign language services or other reasonable accommodations may contact the City Clerk's office at 734.794.6140; via e-mail to: cityclerk@a2gov.org; or by written request addressed and mailed or delivered to:

City Clerk's Office
301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Requests made with less than two business days' notice may not be able to be accommodated.

Visit www.a2energy.org for community energy information in Ann Arbor,
or
www.a2gov.org/energy to learn more about the City's Energy Programs

Regular meetings shown Live and replayed on CTN Channel 16 and at
www.a2gov.org/ctn