

City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

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Meeting Minutes - Final

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

7:00 PM

Special Work Session

Public commentary can be made in person or by calling Zoom at:
Larcom City Hall, 301 E Huron St., Second floor, City Council
Chambers
877-853-5247 or 888-788-0099

City Council
Enter Meeting ID 942 1273 2148

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CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Christopher Taylor called the Special Work Session of the Ann Arbor City Council to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Guy C. Larcom, Jr. Building, 2nd Floor Council Chambers, 301 E. Huron Street.

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

Present: 10 - Mayor Christopher Taylor, Councilmember Erica Briggs, Councilmember Lisa Disch, Councilmember Linh Song, Councilmember Jen Eyer, Councilmember Travis Radina, Councilmember Cynthia Harrison, Councilmember Ayesha Ghazi Edwin, Councilmember Dharma Akmon and Councilmember Jennifer Cornell

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Chris Watson

WS WORK SESSION

WS-1 [23-1555](#) Energy Options Analysis Report

Sustainability and Innovations Director Dr. Missy Stults, Dustin Olson on behalf of American Pulse Research and Polling, Douglas Jester of the 5 Lakes Energy Team, Scott Burnham of NewGen Strategies & Solutions, and Tim Lundgren of Potomac Law Group presented Council with an options analysis for achieving the City's goal of providing 100% renewable energy by 2030.

A copy of the presentation is on file in the City Clerk's Office.

Received and Filed

PUBLIC COMMENT - GENERAL (MUST BEGIN NO LATER THAN 8:45 P.M.)*** ACCOMMODATIONS CAN BE MADE FOR PERSONS NEEDING ASSISTANCE WHILE ADDRESSING COUNCIL****TO PARTICIPATE ONLINE, CALL ZOOM AT: 877 853 5247 or 888 788 0099
ENTER MEETING ID 942 1273 2148****PHONE CALLERS CAN PRESS *9 TO RAISE HANDS AND *6 TO UNMUTE THEIR PHONES WHEN CALLED UPON TO SPEAK.**

Greg Woodring, President of Ann Arbor for Public Power, spoke in favor of municipal power and stated it would increase reliability. Mr. Woodring urged Council to proceed with a phase two feasibility study.

Milton Baker, 628 Green Road, discussed the growing need for increased power reliability.

Zackariah Farah, spokesperson for Ann Arbor for Public Power, spoke in favor of proceeding with phase two of a municipal feasibility study.

A University of Michigan undergraduate student spoke in support of municipalization of power to increase power reliability.

A resident of Pittsfield Township stated the first six communities to achieve 100% renewable energy did so with municipal energy. She also discussed the personal impacts of shut-offs to residents, and how a municipal-owned utility could prevent that.

Joshua Jacobson, a Ward 5 voter, discussed the impact the current lack of reliability is having on the A2Zero goals. The impacts includes the increased reliance on fossil fuels due to massive generator usage related to all of the recent power outages.

Dr. Lauren Sargent, on behalf of Washtenaw 350, discussed how the plan did not address the mounting costs to residents due to the increased unreliability of the existing grid.

Don Lee, Executive Director of Ann Arbor for Public Power, discussed the freedom that a municipal-owned utility would provide the City in determining its future.

A resident of Scio Township shared his experience as someone who suffers from asthma and how a 100% renewable municipal-owned utility would help individuals with sensitivities and help save future generations.

Brendan Ireland, an electrical engineering student at the University of Michigan, discussed the need for increased redundancy in the electrical system, stating the current arrangement is flawed. He stated DTE currently prioritizes profit over upgrades to the electrical grid.

David Roush, an undergraduate student at the University of Michigan, discussed how a municipal utility would be more responsive to the needs of the community.

An undergraduate student from the University of Michigan discussed how climate change is going to increase the strain on the grid and how a municipal grid can better meet this demand.

Kathy Griswold, resident, spoke about the support from local state representatives to Ann Arbor and support for reforming legislation to support community solar and the creation of municipal utilities.

Julia Goode, resident, spoke of the inequality that the unreliability of DTE creates for residents who rent, as they are unable to take steps to go off grid or to obtain their own generator.

A 4th Ward resident spoke of the struggles that the numerous multi-day power outages cause and urged City Council to take action to address reliability in the short-term, while proceeding with long-term solutions.

A 5th Ward resident urged City Council to launch the SEU and proceed with the second phase of the municipal power feasibility study. He urged Council to avoid renewable energy credits.

Ken Garber, resident, discussed the issue that the City will face with attempting to establishing a valuation with DTE, but noted that DTE will be taking power plants offline in the coming years.

CC COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL

COUNCILMEMBER RADINA

Councilmember Radina thanked all of the members of the community for coming out and speaking at the meeting this evening. He also noted that as a result of tonight's work session that his and Councilmember Ghazi Edwin's coffee hour at the Mallet's Creek Branch of the Ann Arbor District Library was rescheduled to October 24th.

COUNCILMEMBER SONG

Councilmember Song clarified that Council will still be able to submit written questions to the City Administrator to be compiled and presented to tonight's presenters. Future answers will be presented as a written report to Council.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilmember Harrison, seconded by Councilmember Disch, that the meeting adjourn. On a voice vote, the Mayor declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

COMMUNITY TELEVISION NETWORK (CTN) COMCAST CHANNEL 16, AT&T CHANNEL 99:

**LIVE: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023 @ 7:00 P.M.
REPLAY: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2023 @ 8:00 P.M.**

REPLAYS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

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Ann Arbor, MI 48104

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