



City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
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Action Minutes

Energy Commission

Tuesday, November 10, 2020

6:00 PM

Larcom City Hall, 301 E Huron St,
Second floor, City Council Chambers

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ROLL CALL

Chair Mirsky called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Macomber, seconded by Commissioner Hookam, that the Agenda be Approved. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Chair and staff informed the commission that they would be voting on past minutes at their next meeting

PUBLIC INPUT

Citizen Ken Garber informed the commission about how dirty the grid was and the need for batteries and renewables. He also brought up the need to have large scale changes at the federal level to support these endeavours. Commissioner Clevey commented to the commission that there needed to be a deeper understanding of what municipalization would in tale. Chair Mirsky brought up the CO2 initiative for carbon sequestration at the University of Michigan and the commission discussed the need to have them present to the commission.

ENERGY REPORT - NEWS FROM THE ENERGY OFFICE AND COMMISSIONERS

Staff MacDonald informed the commission that the City's website was updated to include the sustainability and Innovations Office updates as requested by

commissioners. He also told the commission that OSI manager Missy Stults would be coming to the next commission meeting to discuss the ways that the commission and the Office of Sustainability and Innovations (OSI) should work together.

Staff MacDonald proceeded to go through the OSI November update file with the commission. The topics included energy disclosure work, with meetings being held for community stakeholders by OSI staff Yagerlener and Waaz-Smith. Chair Mirsky mentioned how the energy disclosure work for the residential sector would be tied into the ongoing work.

Staff also informed the commission about the RE4M work being done. The commission discussed the bulk buy program and there was an interest by the Chair to have the Solarize program to implement greater transparency in its pricing. Commissioners also addressed the effectiveness of batteries as it related to renewables.

Staff covered the electrification of City vehicles. Commissioners discussed the issues with using Tesla vehicles especially as it pertained to their union record. Staff informed the commission that Teslas were being considered because they met the use case. Commissioners proceeded to talk about potential alternative for using Teslas and the positive and negatives of charging the electric vehicles with batteries versus renewables alone.

Staff also updated the Commission on the electric bike bulk buy program, green rental housing, and continued work with energy disclosure. Commission discussed the 10,000 tree initiative especially as it pertained to the use of green spaces. Chair Mirsky informed the Commission about the importance of wetlands for carbon sequestration and the commission agreed that a presentation on Carbon Sequestration would be useful. Finally, staff gave an update on Aging in place efficiently, and the ambassadors program

Some public engagement opportunities included a coffee hour with the office of OSI happening on a weekly basis and an EV power hour. Chair Mirsky informed the commission about webinars on financing carbon neutrality, along with equity and carbon neutrality put on by Voices for Neutrality. Commissioner Clevey informed the Commission about GLREA annual event happening December 5th.

Council Member Hayner informed the Commission that he was no longer going to be part of the energy commission but informed the Commission of policies going up to Council related to Energy work including solar height restrictions and natural gas procurement.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Renewables

Staff MacDonald informed the Commission that the Renewables subcommittee

had meet and had a bunch of different projects they would be working on especially as it pertained to municipal operations. The subcommittee also had conversations about battery storage. The Commission discussed the usefulness of having a future presentation on battery storage.

Building & Built Environment

Staff MacDonald informed the Commission that staff Yagerlener and Waas-Smith had held a stakeholder engagement meeting on commercial energy disclosures.

Community Outreach

Staff MacDonald informed the Commission about the A2 Zero Ambassadors meeting that was being held. Commissioners had questions about whether there would be one or more A2 Ambassador cohorts. Chair Mirsky informed the Commission that there would be multiple cohorts.

Transportation Electrification

Vice Chair Colvin Garcia informed the Commission that the EV Readiness Ordinance had been postponed because of legal, but would most likely be going up for approval on December 7th.

Report from Environmental Commission

Chair Mirsky informed the Commission that the Environmental Commission had voted to update their bylaws. They discussed the Greenhouse Gas inventory and specifically addressed the fugitive emissions included in the greenhouse gas update. Commissioner Mirsky discussed the potential for using "green" natural gas. Chair Mirsky wrapped up his report by discussing the work being done by the Environmental Commission on including Demolition waste in future Green House Gas inventories.

PUBLIC INPUT

Tygwen Young talked about the need to have energy sovereignty and move away from DTE. Commissioners talked about Boulder and municipalization more broadly.

Ian Piercall echoed Tygwen Young's points of looking at different ways to look for ways to get energy sovereignty.

Wayne Appleyard touched on a number of items addressed by the Commission including the fact that carbon removal is harder then reducing emissions in the first place. He also touched on battery storage, tree sequestration, the EV

ordinance and the difficulties of municipilization but the need to focus on the Franchise agreement instead.

Ken Garber supports the need to seek energy independence and talked specifically about the Boulder model and listed ways in which Ann Arbor was different from Boulder. Chair Mirsky urged staff to consider presenting on Energy options and municipalization. He also discussed the constant delays felt from City's legal department.

Zack Farah talked about the need to look towards other countries for the potential for renewables.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

The Commission discussed the need to have presentations on carbon sequestration, battery storage, a presentation on the grid, and municipalization more broadly.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Mirsky called the meeting to a close at 8:10pm.

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City Clerk's Office
301 E. Huron St.
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