



City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
<http://a2gov.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

Meeting Minutes Energy Commission

Tuesday, October 14, 2014

6:00 PM City Hall, 301 E. Huron St. 2nd Floor Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Appleyard called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Macomber, Lenski, Eibert arrived after roll call.

Present: 12 - Charles Hookham, Wayne Appleyard, John Hieftje, David A. Wright, VACANT POSITION 1, Kenneth J. Wadland, Brigit Macomber, Mike Shriberg, Mark Clevey, Erik Eibert, Shoshannah Lenski, and Stephen Raiman

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve agenda (Hieftje), seconded (Clevey).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes (Hieftje), seconded (Wadland).

14-1499

Attachments: Energy Commission Minutes 7-8-14.pdf

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

ENERGY REPORT - NEWS FROM THE ENERGY OFFICE AND COMMISSIONERS

Geisler: November 19 - MI Advanced Lighting Conference (Radisson Hotel), hosted by NextEnergy. MI Energy Innovators gala on November 12th in East Lansing (more at www.meibc.org). Over 200 LEDs going into replace DTE's mercury vapor inventory, in the next few weeks. Will also be piloting two solar streetlights off Dhu Varren. The Mayor announced in a proclamation at City Council the launch of Drive Electric Ann Arbor Partnership (A2DEAP). Planning office is using new electric vehicle (EV) guidelines to assist developers in proactively installing EV charging infrastructure, and they are getting more projects including EV charging in their plans. Contract for community energy resourcing will be at City Council next Monday.

Appleyard: This month of September was the hottest on record - so two months this year where this was the case globally.

Recognition given of Mayor Hiefjite's service to the Energy Commission over many years.

a2energy Climate Videos

Four videos posted at www.a2energy.org/climate were aired during the meeting.

Raiman asked if links to underlying data presented in the videos was available. Geisler clarified that links in the right window go to the GLISA and Ann Arbor climatology data used.

Hookham: Involved in a study recently with the Great Lakes Commission on the water-energy nexus - how to link the changes in climate that are affecting water supply and what we're doing energy-wise may be a good future video idea.

The Community Climate Partnership is working on a communications strategy that would include roll-out of the videos to take advantage of many of the channels available in the community. A viewing event was recently held to "premier" them.

EPA Clean Power Plan

Geisler: This rule was discussed at the last full meeting so wanted to keep on the agenda if there was interest in commenting during the current period open to the public.

Lenski: Original comment period was October and extended to December due to several industry questions and it being such an extensive document. Lenski corrected a prior statement that one of the industry "levers" available for meeting requirements was coal retirement, when the forth option (in addition to energy efficiency broadly, renewables, and natural gas dispatching) is coal plant efficiency through improving the heat rate (energy output per BTU).

Hookham stated there are already over 16,000 comments received, so at this stage a comment from the Commission would likely be lost in the shuffle.

Shriberg mentioned the Detroit Free Press ran a series over the weekend on energy and the sense of an industry response was "we can do this," so not a lot of push back. The series talked about how jobs will result from the new rule, in particular refurbishment of existing coal plants.

Fossil Fuel Divestment

Shriberg along with Commissioner Appleyard presented before the city's Pension Board. One big update, there are now indexes that are fossil fuel free, though no index funds yet (but likely soon). Around 30% here is in index funds, so made the argument that a third of the money in there now could go fossil-fuel free, with the really harder moves coming later. A good, long discussion was held and it was a positive step.

November meeting rescheduling

Rescheduling to Monday the 10th at 6 PM to accommodate Veteran's Day and abatement work happening in Council Chambers.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Commercial Energy Benchmarking

Appleyard: Working through the community engagement toolkit developed by the city to effectively engage stakeholders.

Lenski: a DTE staff team convened to determine how an ordinance could be dealt with - it doesn't seem to be a burdensome request. All the data that would be required can be downloaded from DTE online (~8 minutes of someone's time). At the site level all the data would be aggregated from DTE. In the future a more automated transfer might be possible. It would take many months to figure out where this would fit in the list of priorities and activities underway at DTE related to energy efficiency and customer service; not likely in the next few months but will keep assisting.

Climate Action Plan

Geisler: the Climate Partnership Priority Teams have narrowed down actions in their area to 3 to 5 items for focus. Will look to get Monica Patel in at an approaching meeting for further updating.

Renewable Energy Access/Community Solar

Wright asked about status of the city Assessor's look into modifying tax assessment for solar equipment. Staff was informed that the March rolls would incorporate changes reflecting a new approach that should result in an effective reduction in annual assessments for photovoltaics. Will reconvene the community solar group soon (will find a date over email).

Appleyard: might also look at the permit process and whether there's any suggestions to give the building department.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

There was the feasibility for a community biodigester, shared with the Commission, which points to (with some caveats) a system making economic sense.

Hookham stated he has been involved in biodigester projects, one very large one that got far along before stopping. There are some critical tipping points that can really swing the viability (e.g. transportation costs).

Staff said Commissioners would be kept in the loop as a next phase of a partner assessment is done and a system is further examined. This evaluation made it in for a funding request in the CIP so an indication that the city is

looking seriously at a community digester.

Appleyard and others discussed a resolution of support once more of the Commissioners have had time to read the study.

ADJOURNMENT

Appleyard adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

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