



City of Ann Arbor

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

Action Minutes

Energy Commission

Tuesday, November 13, 2018

6:00 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Appleyard called the meeting to order at 6:12 PM

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Clevey, seconded by Mirsky, that the Agenda be Approved. On a voice vote, Chair Appleyard declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mirsky, seconded by Levin, that the Minutes be Approved. On a voice vote, Chair Appleyard declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT

No public input.

ENERGY REPORT - NEWS FROM THE ENERGY OFFICE AND COMMISSIONERS

Staff Josh MacDonald informed the commission on the status of completing an internal greenhouse gas inventory. Currently he is waiting for DTE to provide data. The inventory will enable updates to public dashboards and be presented to the energy commission. He also informed the commission of a new temporary Sustainability and Innovations staff, Thea Yagerlener. He informed the commission that the Office of Sustainability and Innovations is planning on overhauling their web presence and dashboard.

Staff MacDonald informed the commission of the Great Lakes Region Association 2018 Annual Meeting on December 8, 2018 from 9:30 am – 3:30 pm at Freighthouse, Ypsilanti Michigan.

Commissioner Clevey informed the commission of the Energy Commission endorsed-2018 GLREA Business Leadership Award presented to Mark Hagerty of Michigan Solar Solutions and Jeremy Zinn of Oak Electric Services for entrepreneurship and businesses leadership.

Commissioner Mirsky informed the commission of a New York Times article

“Clean Energy Is Surging, but Not Fast Enough to Solve Global Warming,” which reports that the International Energy Agency, in their annual World Energy Outlook, predicts global carbon dioxide emissions will keep climbing due to growing fossil fuel use, and the critical nature of local, state, and federal government federal government actions to achieve energy changes.

Ypsilanti Firestation Solar System

Dave Strenski of Solar Ypsi presented on the Solar Ypsi’s recent installation of additional solar panels on the Ypsilanti Fire station. He covered Solar Ypsi’s financial strategy for affordable solar installations, including leveraging volunteer labor, power purchasing agreements, and pre-buyout leases with Chart House Energy. Strenski described both the 2016 installation of 176 solar panels, and the recent installation of 52 additional solar panels at the site, partially funded by energy savings from the initial installation. Strenski informed the commission of safety considerations, obstacles, and achievements of the site. Strenski published his findings from the experience in Firehouse, a national magazine. Commissioners inquired about relevance of the project to other firehouse projects.

Strenski described Solar Ypsi and Chart House Energy’s solar panel installation process at other sites, including affordable housing, which provided training and hired residents in skilled solar panel installation. Strenski discussed additional funding strategies using tax credits for roof and structural improvements that enable solar installations, and prioritizing sites that require structural and insulation improvements with high solar potential for future sites. Strenski informed the commission of Solar Ypsi’s community education presentations, including presentations with the Rotary Club and Kiwanis Club.

Commissioners discussed the relevance of Solar Ypsi’s funding strategy to Ann Arbor residential properties, which have longer payback periods and larger initial investments. The conversation brainstormed potential projects in both Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor, including ground-mounted solar panels at public schools. The commission discussed applications for solar installations on emergency centers and including resiliency solutions of energy storage.

HOUSE KEEPING

Commissioner Clevey proposed a resolution that would require Ann Arbor emergency management and renewable energy plans to give priority to solar installations on emergency response buildings. The commission agreed to consider the commission and discuss it at their next full meeting in January 2019.

2019 Schedule Approval

Staff MacDonald proposed to set all Energy Commissioner meetings for Tuesdays. MacDonald also proposed to consistently record Commission attendance to adhere to Commission bylaws. Chairman Appleyard suggested planning a joint meeting with the Environmental Commission should the administrator want to speak with both commissions.

Staff MacDonald proposed to schedule Energy Commission Subcommittee meetings on Tuesdays, with each Subcommittee meeting taking place on a

specific Tuesday of the month (e.g., 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, etc.).

The Commission discussed how City Council, City Staff, and the Energy Commission should coordinate efforts and focuses, including providing SMART goals and annual reports to City Council and incorporating the Office of Sustainability and Innovations Plan suggestions on achieving outcomes.

A motion was made by Mirsky seconded by Macomber that the schedule be approved. On a voice note, the Chair declared the motion carried.

Energy Commission Policy Recommendations

Staff MacDonald reviewed the Energy Commission's Policy Updates for the City Council's Policy Committee. The following changes were recommended:

For recommendation relating to legislative remedies for removing disincentives for installation of sustainable and renewable energy resources, remove language relating to state-wide property tax exemptions for residential solar systems.

For recommendation relating to incorporating high performance building efficiency systems, specify Michigan Building, Residential, and Energy Codes.

Staff MacDonald recommended including how funds resulting from the VW settlement will be spent relating to electric vehicles.

Commissioner Eaton recommended including renewable supportive building codes.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

100% Clean Municipal Operations

Staff MacDonald informed the commission that the subcommittee met and discussed Honeywell's proposition and have decided to move beyond Honeywell. Next steps will be determined at the next meeting.

Dark Skies Ordinance

Commissioner Mirsky informed the commission that at the next meeting an ordinance would be drafted with involvement of City attorneys and stakeholder groups. The Sign Ordinance will be addressed as well.

Commissioner Mirsky proposed renaming the Dark Skies Ordinance the Lighting Ordinance.

Time of Marketing Ordinance

Staff MacDonald informed the commission he has developed a timeline for the next subcommittee meeting, identified stakeholders, and shared overview material.

Staff MacDonald proposed renaming the Time of Marketing Ordinance the Energy Auditing Disclosure at Time of Marketing.

EV Readiness Ordinance

Staff MacDonald informed the commission he has developed a timeline for the next subcommittee meeting, identified stakeholders, and shared overview material.

Solar Access Ordinance

Commissioner Hookham informed the commission that the ordinance will involve stakeholders, the planning commission, and the director of planning involved. Commissioner Hookham will bring proposed ordinance to the Commission for feedback.

Outreach to Schools

Staff MacDonald informed the commission that he is discussing Power Purchase Agreements options (National Housing Trust and Michigan Saves) with schools.

Community Outreach (Solar & EE)

Commissioner Clevey informed the commission of continued development of a listening tour and has received various community inputs.

Report from Environmental Commission

Commissioner Mirsky informed the commission that after the joint meeting, efforts have focused on solid waste. Commissioner Mirsky informed the commission that the City is in the process of updating its solid waste resource management plan together with the Environmental Commission and City waste consultants. An Advisory Group meeting of experts, stakeholders, downtown businesses, and residents, which Commissioner Mirsky will attend as substitute to Allison Skinner.

PUBLIC INPUT

Resident Jay Zocher informed the commission of an opportunity for involvement on the proposed Veridian at County Farm development. Commissioner Clevey informed the commission that while the project requires County approval, the commission has provided a draft resolution and anticipates being requested to endorse designating the area as a solar micro grid with DTE. Commissioner Mirsky proposed a holding off on a resolution until things advanced further with the proposed project. Councilman Eaton informed the commission that there will be opportunities for public input at planning commission hearings.

The commission discussed water department efforts to measure and mitigate various water contaminants. Council Member Eaton informed the commission of City efforts including installing activated charcoal filters, which the City has authorized expenditure to install, and will inquire about water testing for contaminants including micro plastics. Council Member Eaton informed the commission of the City's priority to secure fundamental infrastructure critical to

environmental health.

A resident inquired about City incentives for short-term limited income energy support. Staff MacDonald discussed the equity lens used by the Office of Sustainability and Innovation in rental properties and affordable housing. Commissioner Mirsky discussed a proposed resolution for Net Zero Affordable Housing. Council Member Eaton discussed the housing director's efforts to improve the durability and energy efficiency of affordable housing. The commission suggested available resources for more information including Habitat for Humanity and prior Power Hours.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

December

- Ongoing conversation about commission, staff, and city council coordination

- Update on Energy Fund

January/Future

- Resolution to prioritize solar installations on emergency response buildings proposed by Commissioner Clevey

- Commissioner Clevey report on Listening Tour

- Energy Commission Bylaws

- Solar Faithful Update

- Tubingen, Germany Energy and Climate Action presentation by Commissioner Mirsky

ADJOURNMENT

The chair adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm.

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.
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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

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