

City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 13, 2018

6:00 PM

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

Energy Commission

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Appleyard called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

ROLL CALL

Present: 10 - Charles Hookham, Brigit Macomber, Mark Clevey, Shoshannah Lenski, Wayne Appleyard, John Mirsky, Sarah Paleg, Carlene Colvin-Garcia, Charlotte Jameson, and Jack Eaton

Absent: 2 - Mike Shriberg, and Noah Levin

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Appleyard noted a correction of changing the word "agenda" to "minutes" in the minutes.

A motion was made that the minutes be approved. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public comment.

ENERGY REPORT - NEWS FROM STAFF AND COMMISSIONERS

Staff Geisler reported on the upcoming Sustainability Forum at the library. Commissioner Mirsky shared about the previous month's Sustainability Forum. Staff Geisler also shared about on-street EV parking possibilities near City Hall on 5th Ave.

A2 STEAM School Student Solar Presentation

Students and a teacher from the Ann Arbor STEAM school gave a presentation about their efforts to get solar panels on their school's roof. They have a goal of getting 100 panels installed by the end of summer 2018 which would cover approximately 10% of the school's electrical demand. They plan to raise money for this project through corporate

sponsorships and events, and then work with the school district and DTE to get a quote. Commissioner Clevey reported that Chair Appleyard worked as volunteer labor to install solar on a firehouse in Ypsilanti, and that something similar for this project. Commissioner Mirsky asked whether the students had looked for inspiration and ideas from other schools who have gone solar. Video for this presentation runs from 4:50 to 23:10.

Our Energy Future Presentation (Ecology Center)

Attachments: Our Energy FutureDTE CON proposal.pdf

Charles Griffith from the Ecology Center gave a presentation about DTE's proposed 1,100 MW East China Township Natural Gas Plant. DTE is proposing the new natural gas power plant due to their upcoming efforts to shut down existing coal-powered plants. It is proposed to cost approximately \$1 billion and to go online in 2023. Several parties have intervened and are challenging DTE's assertion that the proposed natural gas plant is the best path forward. The interveners have developed an Alternative Clean Energy Scenario to meet the demand needs and at approximately \$340 million in lower cost over building the natural gas plant. The interveners did an economic analysis which found that the Alternative Clean Energy Scenario would bring ten times more construction jobs; four times more permanent jobs; over \$181 million in increased local and state taxes; and increased consumer spending. DTE has committed to reducing carbon emissions by 80% by 2050, but their plan relies mostly on front-loading new natural gas plants instead of renewables. The decision about this natural gas plant will be made by the end of April. Commissioner Jameson passed out a handout about DTE's natural gas plant and about DTE's energy efficiency and demand response programs. Commissioner Clevey asked potential nuclear options. Commissioner Mirsky spoke about the magnitude of this decision relative to STEAM's solar project. Commissioner Lenski offered to have a DTE colleague address the concerns brought up by this presentation and gave some insights from the perspective of working for DTE. Commissioner Hookham spoke about the difficulties of scaling up renewables given the constraints of electricity distribution. Commissioner Jameson asked about the assumed increased in renewables in the intervener's proposal. Commissioner Mirsky spoke about a project in the state of South Australia to install solar and battery storage on 50,000 buildings. Chair Appleyard spoke about the difficulties of estimating the cost of natural gas over a long term and that there is a PURPA queue of 400 MW of large-scale solar projects in Michigan. Commissioner Jameson spoke about the economic development benefits of Michigan

being able to provide increased renewables for companies wishing to reduce their carbon footprints. Commissioner Mirsky requested that a representative from DTE come to a future meeting to address this topic. Commissioner Jameson also spoke about a ballot measure that will be on the November ballot to increase the state's carbon reduction goals. The video for this presentation runs between 23:10 and 1:17:30.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Environmental Commission Update - Mirsky

Commissioner Mirsky spoke about how metrics have been a concern for both the Energy and Environmental Commissions, the plans for moving the metrics forward, finalizing the metrics by the end of May, improving the trend charting of the metrics by the end of July, and developing 5 year workplans for departments to reach those goals for the 2020 budget. He also reported that the Environmental Commission will be expecting updated solid waste fund balance figures from the Administrator by their next meeting.

Climate Action Plan Priorities - Hookham

Commissioner Hookham spoke about how the City's Climate Action Plan is now outdated and that there is a large potential for carbon reductions from the building space. This Subcommittee will review the goals identified in the 2012 Climate Action Plan, cross out the ones that do not make sense anymore, and add new ones. Staff Geisler spoke about how the Climate Action Plan could be essentially updated by addressing the actions identified in the plan. Commissioner Clevey spoke about how the upcoming solar and energy efficiency targets project could work with this Subcommittee. Commissioner Hookham suggested combining the two efforts. Chair Appleyard offered to serve on this Subcommittee. Staff MacDonald will continue working on this with this Subcommittee. Commissioners Jameson and Shriberg might also serve on this Subcommittee. Commissioner Mirsky shared that the only spending priority that has been set with the new millage funds is that Council has set the intention to devote 40% of the total millage money towards climate programs. Councilmember Eaton spoke of how the Administrator does not want to start spending the millage funds until July 1st, 2019 but has already begun increasing climate staff capacity and has moved them into his office.

Solar Schools - Colvin-Garcia

Commissioner Colvin-Garcia spoke about the District's work to bring solar to the Ann Arbor STEAM project through the My Solar Schools contest. Pioneer High is also participating in this contest as are 16 schools in Michigan. The prize for this contest is \$1,000 towards their project. STEAM has already raised \$4,000. The District has hired Emile Lauzzana to be the Executive Director for physical properties and is committed to solar and other green projects as well as making sure that all students receive the educational benefits of having solar on their schools. She spoke about recent progress moving this effort forward. Commissioner Clevey asked if either of the Ann Arbor schools needs roof repairs. She replied that Pioneer needs roof maintenance. Staff Geisler spoke about how staff is interested in environmental education in the schools and and possible intersections with this effort.

Ordinances - Paleg

Commissioner Paleg spoke about the recent information gathering work of the Ordinances Subcommittee. Commissioner Shriberg has an intern looking at possible new ordinances in other communities. Paleg also spoke about the Subcommittee developing a relationship with the real estate community in the area. Next steps are to meet in person and to develop relationships with real estate contacts.

Solar & Energy Efficiency Target-Setting - Clevey

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Staff Geisler asked Commissioner Lenski to ask her DTE colleague to come to the March meeting and whether to change it to a regular session rather than the planned work session. Commissioner Clevey asked whether a presentation from Pioneer High would be welcome. Commissioner Colvin-Garcia will be checking.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Appleyard adjourned the meeting at 7:47pm.

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City Clerk's Office
301 E. Huron St.
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