

Energy Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting
February 18, 2021 Zoom Meeting

PRESENT: Sean Dunn, Karen Hintz, Dave Butkus, Sheldon Scott, Tom Ragaini

ABSENT: Jack Ferraro

ALSO PRESENT: Jeff Andrade, Dave Oakes, Greg Hahn and Ray Rogozinski

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Dunn welcomed new member Jeff Andrade, who introduced himself, he was interested in getting involved on a Commission. The Mayor and Justin Malley suggested this Commission as a vacancy existed, Jeff has not been sworn in yet as an active member of the Commission.

2. Public Participation

None

3. Approval of the regular meeting minutes – January 21, 2021

Commissioner Ragaini made a motion seconded by Commissioner Butkus “to approve the minutes from January 21, 2021.” Motion approved.

4. Updates by Dave Oakes, Public Facilities & Energy Manager

Dave discussed the following updates:

- Fire Headquarters incentive rebates for the LED lighting, mini split HVAC system, and condensing boiler water heater total approximately \$23,500 for the project
- Van Zelm study conducted on electrical generators, Firehouse 2 A/C funding requested in the upcoming budget
- Eversource Natural Gas for 51 High Street, with no customer contribution cost to buy gas. Working with MEP firm to spec properly. This is the last source of #2 fuel oil on city buildings. The building has run out of oil a few times time already, and this will provide a steady source.

5. Energy Plan – Next Phase

Chairman Dunn discussed the State energy initiatives and updates, he will send some links out to review. The integrated resources plan was presented to legislators in January. Former Commissioner Jenn briefed Chairman Dunn on the recent budget updates from the State, which discussed not building the Killingly natural gas plant. Energy improvement districts and microgrids are the direction the Energy Commission would like to see the City pursue with the possibility of putting a fuel cell into the City Hall renovations linking City Hall, the Firehouse, Police Department and possibly the Post Office. As Centre Square is developed hopefully a microgrid can be built within the developments and knitted together with other microgrids downtown. Hopefully this Commission, the Mayor and local legislators can work together to make this all happen. One of the challenges has been trying to get funding for all of this, especially a fuel cell. Currently a large component of the small amount of funds goes off to schools or higher education

institutions, but one of the components Lamont's draft budget has is expanding the Green Bank to fund through bonding. The Green Bank is currently funded by charges on energy bills, and can turn those into larger efforts.

Chairman Dunn discussed the Institutional side of the Energy Plan, which could include Bristol Hospital, Sewer/Water and the Board of Education.

Chairman Dunn suggested a working session to review the current Energy Plan to review the goals, policy statement, and action items. The initial charter of the commission has been met, but a lot of the items are continuous. Commissioners should review the current Energy Plan to work on at a future meeting.

Commissioner Hintz asked if there were any other organizations such as CCM to take advantage of. Sean is going to work to have CMEEC or NVCOG present at a future meeting.

Dave Oakes would like to continue to work with CT Green Bank to promote the C-Pace program. Chairman Dunn would like to see Portfolio Manager updated, Dave will touch base with ECSU to see if there is any assistance in that area as there has been some updates and changes in the specifications.

6. Any Other Business

7. Adjournment

Commissioner Butkus made a motion seconded by Commissioner Hintz "to adjourn at 7:50 p.m." Motion approved.

*Jodi A. McGrane
Recording Secretary*

DRAFT