



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
**ENERGY EFFICIENCY &  
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

## **EERMC FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, July 28, 2022**

**Full Council Meeting | 3:00 - 5:00 PM**

Department of Administration Conference Room 2B, Providence, RI 02908 with additional audio/video participation available through Zoom.

**Members in Attendance:** Peter Gill Case, Kurt Teichert, Sue AnderBois, Dave Caldwell, Interim Commissioner Chris Kearns, Brett Feldman, Tom Magliocchetti, Kate Grant, Harry Oakley

**Others in Attendance:** Steven Chybowski, Sam Ross, Adrian Caesar, Anika Kreckel, Marisa Desautel, Angela Li, Nelson DiBiase, Josh Kessler, Jessica Darling, Sarah Barraco, Kyle Bannon

**1. Call to Order**

Chairperson Oakley called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

**2. Administrative Updates**

Mr. Chybowski provided administrative updates from the Office of Energy Resources (OER) including introducing the new interim Commissioner Chris Kearns, listing the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative allocation proposals, noting OER's High-efficiency Heat Pump Program proposal, noting major energy bill signings that occurred over the past month, and noting that the Council client fund has been transferred to the utility and closed out.

**3. Chair Report**

Chairperson Oakley provided an overview of the meeting agenda, listed materials available online that will not be discussed at today's meeting, and provided instructions for making public comments.

**4. Meeting Minutes – June 16, 2022**

Council Member Caldwell motioned to approve the June meeting minutes. Vice Chair Gill Case seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

**5. Program Oversight (55 Minutes, 3:15 – 4:10 p.m.)**

a) *Update on Public Utilities Commission Dockets (5 min, 3:15 – 3:20 p.m.)*

Mr. Chybowski notified the Council of PUC dockets 22-05-EE and 22-01-NG for the Committee's awareness and for the Council to consider motioning as interveners on docket 22-01-NG.

*b) Rhode Island Energy Presentation on the First Draft of the 2023 Energy Efficiency Program Plan (25 min, 3:20 – 3:45 p.m.)*

Council Member Feldman presented on Rhode Island Energy's initial draft of the 2023 energy efficiency plan. Mr. Kessler presented on commercial and industrial programming and Ms. Li presented on residential programming. Council Members shared suggestions for providing more energy efficiency information to customers. Interim Commissioner Kearns noted that the winter energy rates should be taken into consideration with the development of the 2023 Energy Efficiency Plan.

*c) Council Consultant Team Perspectives on the First Draft of the 2023 Energy Efficiency Program Plan (25 min, 3:45 – 4:10 p.m.)*

Mr. Ross, Mr. Caesar, and Ms. Lynch of the Consultant Team presented on their initial takeaways on the first draft of the energy efficiency plan. The Consultant Team highlighted the cost increases currently proposed for energy efficiency measures for next year.

**6. Council Business (50 Minutes, 4:10 – 4:55 p.m.)**

*a) Vote to confirm Executive Committee Members (5 min, 4:10 – 4:15 p.m.)*

Council Member Teichert motioned to approve Chair Oakley, Vice Chair Gill Case, and Council Member AnderBois to the Executive Committee. Council Member Caldwell seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

*b) Discussion and Vote to Issue a Request for Proposals for Consultant Team Services (10 min, 4:15 – 4:25 p.m.)*

Chairperson Oakley voiced his support for executing the current consultant services contract as he has found the current services to be satisfactory and values the consistency of maintaining the existing team. Vice Chair Gill Case noted that OER and the Consultant Team collaborated to revise the consultant services scope of work in response to the recommendations from the Public Utilities Commission hearings at the start of the year. Vice Chair Gill Case motioned to execute one of the two 24-month extensions of the existing EERMC Consultant Team contract and to direct OER to work with the Consultant Team and legal counsel to execute the extension. Council Member AnderBois seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

*c) Review and Potential Vote on the Consultant Team Services Request for Proposals (10 minutes, 4:25 - 4:35 p.m.)*

Chairperson Oakley skipped this item as a result of the decision made on agenda item 6.b to execute a contract extension option with the current consulting vendor.

*d) Review and Vote on the 2023 Draft EERMC Budget Proposal (20 minutes, 4:35-4:55 p.m.)*

Mr. Chybowski presented budget proposals for the EERMC for the 2023 calendar year and Mr. Ross provided additional details on line-item proposals. OER will seek additional guidance on accounting for initiatives that would extend across calendar years. Council Member AnderBois motioned to approve the 2023 Council budget as presented by OER, on July 28<sup>th</sup> 2022 with the following amendments: combine line items of Council Travel and EERMC Councilor Education and Advancement into one item at \$900, to eliminate the C-Team 3<sup>rd</sup> party implementation RFI analysis from the budget, and remove the dollar amount

from the gas study which will be renamed to “Strategies to Phase out Fossil Gas in Rhode Island,” and to add the 3-year plan incremental cost to the Consultant Services initial line item and respectfully direct OER to submit this budget to the utility to file with the 2023 plan filing. Vice Chair Gill Case seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed.

**7. Public Comment**

Hank Webster, The Acadia Center

Mr. Webster is finding it hard to reconcile the Company’s stance that inflation is making energy efficiency measures more expensive, yet the Company is expecting to underspend on programming in 2022. He was hoping to see a more ambitious plan from the Company. At this point, he believes that the State should not be incentivizing new gas appliances and that there could be more investment for supporting zero energy buildings. He would like to see the new Company be intentional with using ratepayer funds to decarbonize and save energy.

**8. Adjournment**

Council Member Teichert motioned to adjourn the meeting. Council Member AnderBois seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.