



## Pueblo Energy Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, | 4 – 5:30 PM

Hybrid – Zoom and Mayor’s Office

Attendance					
	Larry Atencio	✓	Alan Ward	✓	George Andrews, Staff
✓	Tom Corlett		Edgie Walrath	✓	Andrew Hayes, Staff
✓	Laura Getts	✓	Kenneth Danti	✓	Laura Solano, Staff
✓	John Vigil		Steve Nawrocki		
✓	Tyler Surat	✓	Thea Rodriguez		

1. Call to Order, Chair Ken Danti at 4:07 pm
  - Due to a network outage at Public Works, meeting was held at Mayor’s Office Conference Room. Because of audio issues, meeting called to order at 4:07 PM.
  
2. Chair Ken Danti called for a motion to approve the previous meeting’s minutes and consent agenda. Tom Corlett made the motion to approve the minutes and consent agenda. Alan Ward seconded the motion. The minutes and consent agenda passed unanimously.
  
3. Committee Reports
  - No Committee reports due to holiday season.
  
4. Regular Agenda
  - George gave updates on behalf of the City of Pueblo.
    - The City applied to Community Access to E-Bike Grant and will hear approval of funding beginning January 12<sup>th</sup>.
    - The City is in the middle of evaluating the EV Readiness Plan proposals, anticipates choosing vendor by middle of January.
    - Five more level II EV Chargers from Charge Ahead Colorado Grant are in procurement.
    - George is meeting with Pueblo Food Project Friday Jan 5<sup>th</sup> to kick off Agrivoltaic project for their Community Garden.
    - Shared City’s ChargePoint data. Energy usage from November – December accounting for public use. Unique Drivers, Charging Sessions, utilization trending upward month over month. Average Charging Length – 2h 37min charging, 13 min idle. Past 30 days dispensed 2.59 MWh, estimated 12 cents

per kWh totaling \$310 energy cost to City. EV Charging has helped remove 11,434 kg of Greenhouse Gas over the lifetime of the account.

- City ChargePoint Chargers are free to use for public charging until September 30, 2024.
  - Andrew shared Public Works services ChargePoint Chargers in the event of breaker reset or lost communication. Servicing hasn't escalated where ChargePoint technicians are required to inspect the unit.
- John suggested to George to separately discuss with him if the Pueblo Food Project Agrivoltaic project qualifies for financial support from Black Hills Energy new Renewable Energy Filing that benefits DI Communities
  - Tyler asked George how City employees feel about using EV Chargers. Tyler shared Steel City Solar's Fleet uses EVs, but employees are hesitant to trust EVs without additional training. Tyler offered to share additional data about his fleet at the next meeting. Tyler's fuel saving equals approximately \$5,000.
  - Laura asked Andrew about downtime of ChargePoint Chargers. Generally, chargers work well other than sometimes the need to reset the breaker in the Main St. Garage; in addition to vandalism/mischief in the Weisbrod Grage with people unplugging the safety disconnect.
  - Tom requested a monthly progress update regarding EVs, Charging Station installation & energy usage.
5. Presentation- Charlie Stevens and Arin Chakraverty, Colorado Energy Office Energy Performance Contracts 101
- Charlie shared Pueblo County completed two phases of EPC in 2017. EPC is a financing and contracting tool that allows Public entities to use future savings from energy improvements to fund capital projects. EPC includes utilities savings from gas, electricity, water, and telecoms.
  - Program began in 1997. Public buildings achieved 292 million kWh energy savings. Colorado statues establish EPC guidelines including guaranteed utility savings, cash flow positive, three years of M&V, cost weighted average life of equipment greater than project term.
  - Five step process – Client Commitment, ESCO Selection, IGA, Implement, M&V
  - Standard IGA pricing for Pueblo (75-150 miles from Energy Office) equals. \$.225/sq. foot for 500k+ total facility sq. footage, \$.25/sq. foot for 250-500k total facility sq. footage, \$.275/sq. foot for total facility sq. under 250k, respectively.

- Benefits of EPC- Single procurement contract, generates positive cash flow, guarantees savings, promotes local workforce and economic development, no cost support from Energy Office.
  - Grant Programs to help cover costs, found on Colorado Energy Office Website - PBEG, HEEHA, GEGP, Charge Ahead, Fleet Zero.
  - Laura Getts asked the presenters if communities are seeking renewable energy assessments and electrification measures from EPCs. Solar installation is increasing, but the EPC projects have focused on more efficient appliances. Laura asked Andrew how many City buildings trigger the Colorado Building Benchmarking requirements for over 50,000 sq. feet. Approximately 5 or 6 qualify but some are airport hangers that do not fall under the requirement.
  - EPC is somewhat limiting that the projects must pay for themselves. The presenters shared that previous projects have required additional capital injection to get to additional level of long-term savings.
  - Tom asked about the requirements for EPC and non-profits. The same requirements apply, and non-profits have entered the program.
  - The City would need to sign the MOU, and someone would show the ESCO the facility. Amendments to the IGA are possible if something was left off that the project wishes to pursue. Communication with City Facilities Team is an important aspect of the process. Regular update meetings with CEO and Project Team occur every 2 – 4 weeks.
- Ken shared his desire to move forward with this process, but there needs to be political buy in from City Officials. Andrew shared his concerns regarding project selection and human behavior can affect payback period. PMJC is first to be considered for EPC because of the HVAC system issues.
  - The City has opportunities to aggregate large solar production to different buildings, rather than attaching solar to each individual meter.
  - Andrew estimates it would require about \$150k from the City to pay for the facility IGAs
  - George asked the Commission if the date and time of the meeting still works for everyone or if he should send a scheduling poll, the Commission agrees the first Wednesday of the month from 4-5:30 is still the best time
  - Ken asked about the status of Strategic Planning Session and George will follow up with Laura Solana about engaging with Civic Canopy to facilitate
  - Adjourned at 5:33 pm

Next meeting: Wednesday, Feb.7<sup>th</sup> at 4 – 5:30 pm

## Zoom Chat Log

00:56:21 Pueblo - Laura Solano: These are great slides. May we have a copy of the power point presentation?

00:56:44 Arin - CEO: Absolutely, we're happy to share them

00:57:10 Pueblo - Laura Solano: Thank you

01:07:25 Arin - CEO: <https://maps.touchstoneiq.com/colorado/>

01:28:57 Pueblo - Laura Solano: Thank you for allowing me to attend this evening and hearing the presentations. I have to jump off to attend another meeting at 5:30 pm with the Pueblo Food Project. Thanks all!

01:39:30 Laura Getts, Tri-State Generation & Transmission: Until 5 pm works for me, anything after 5 becomes a little more difficult once my toddler gets home.