



Pueblo Energy Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 4th, 2024, | 4 – 5:30 PM

Hybrid – Zoom and Public Works

<https://www.zoomgov.com/rec/share/gtCazftF7RFQkKSYZ3ykBAIBc41YFpzHTLINpbgcje3mjvnnGoOfv3Gehop5xjs8.sy6K8mlbZBQOhY3v>

Passcode:mbuy2J^e

Attendance				
✓	Michael Briscoe	✓	Jodie Hendershot	✓ George Andrews, Staff
	Brett Boston, City Councilor	✓	Tyler Surat	✓ Andrew Hayes, Staff
✓	Tom Corlett	✓	John Vigil	
✓	Ken Danti	✓	Anthony Vigil	
✓	Dylan Goodman	✓	Alan Ward	✓ Conner Dailey, Guest
✓	Laura Getts	✓	Edgie Walrath	
	Patti Olenick	✓	Mike Wakefield	
✓	Thea Rodriguez			

Call to Order, Chair Ken Danti called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

Dylan moved to approve meeting minutes and from November 6th, 2024, Edgie seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission gave introductions for the newest member to join, Jodie

Energy Performance Contracting Update, Conner Dailey, CMTA

Conner spoke on the background of CMTA, investment grade audit overview, EPC approach, site visit overview and opportunities. Opportunities include LED lighting upgrades, rooftop solar generation, mechanical upgrades in PMJC, and Airport Terminal, and potential geothermal.

Q&A: Ken: Will utility rebates be utilized?

Yes, as much money from different sources with different options will be brought in

Ken: How does the financing work?

Any financed dollars must 100% be pay for itself over the term of the contract with energy savings.

John: Is the equipment installed considered collateral or is the loan collateralized differently?

CMTA offers different options including lease-purchase agreements, and energy bond sales, but CMTA is not a fiduciary and the City will work with different financial institutions to determine the best option.

Laura: Has there been thought of combining different commercial or nonprofit entities that may not qualify on their own for EPC?

It is easy to combine audits together, but implementing the energy savings contract between separate entities is much more difficult to achieve.

Electric Utility Municipalization Project, Andrew Hayes

City Council work session presentation on Monday was to prepare Council for potential to award an agreement to complete municipalization study of electric utility in Black Hills service territory. Solicited RFP for \$300k to include municipalization study and \$65k set aside to determine communication strategy. If awarded, the study will provide information leading up to a May special election that will ask voters about municipalizing or not, and the status of taking the 2025 franchise offramp. Alan recapped the municipalization effort in 2020 that failed but valuable information was gathered and to ask the Board of Water Works for more data to the study.

City Updates, George Andrews:

Virtual public comment hearing December 5th 4-7pm regarding Black Hills Rate Case. Register at PUC website, also live streamed and recorded on YouTube. Recapped 2024 accomplishments: Successfully expanded the Energy Advisory Commission to its full capacity of 15 members Launched the Energy Resources Webpage, providing residents and businesses with a centralized hub for information on energy programs, rebates, and resources. Procured 4 Beam off-grid EV chargers, providing solar-powered charging solutions. The completion of the EV Readiness Plan lays the groundwork for Pueblo's EV infrastructure expansion. Secured \$45,000 in funding for 5 Level 2 chargers through Charge Ahead Colorado. Secured \$445,000 for a DC Fast Charging Plaza. Investigated streetlight charging stations, which could integrate into our urban infrastructure. Implemented an EV parking fine ordinance, ensuring proper use of charging spaces. Began collecting revenue on City owned public charging stations. Submitted a \$14.3 million grant under the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) program to expand EV infrastructure in Pueblo. Applied for the Communities Taking Charge Initiative, seeking \$207,000 for EV policy and demonstration project. Secured \$90,000 e-bike grant. City broke ground on 3 net-zero fire stations. Worked with CSU Pueblo students to develop a strategic energy plan foundation The City advanced municipalization discussions by issuing an RFP to study municipal ownership of the electric utility. Plans for a New Day Hydrogen fuel station, enhancing future energy portfolio. Launched the Energy Performance Contracting (EPC) program, to evaluate city buildings for energy savings opportunities and renewable energy integration. Began the Charging Smart Designation program, setting Pueblo on track for certification in EV readiness. Began implementing Energy Manager software, which focuses on optimizing energy use across city operations. Built valuable relationships within the energy sector to align efforts on renewable energy and energy efficiency. Attended several critical industry events, including conferences on nuclear energy, carbon capture, hydrogen, and renewable energy (e.g., COSSA, Action Colorado). George became active member of the Drive Clean Colorado Southern Colorado Advisory Committee and the PCC Solar Advisory Board, reinforcing Pueblo's role in regional energy collaboration. **Goals for 2025 Q1:** Fully implement the Energy Manager Program to track energy efficiency across 1.9 million sq ft of city operations. Procure e-bike equipment to have ready by summer 2025, Complete Investment grade energy audits, Determine newsletter content and publish on recurring cadence. **Goals 2025 Q2** Complete Charging Smart Designation, Execute EPC and begin construction. **Goals for 2025 ongoing:** Key Continue the iterative strategic planning process for the EAC, Co-Host energy advisory events to engage the public and increase awareness of energy initiatives,

Promote renewable energy adoption by increasing participation in state programs. Promote utility rebates and energy efficiency resources, making them more accessible to residents and businesses. Secure additional funding to support renewable energy, energy efficiency, and EV infrastructure projects.

Open Discussion

City secured grant position to create full time energy coordinator position and collaboration with Pueblo County. Discussed the possibility of the City Council rescinding the 2035 100% renewable energy goal with no placement. Tom commented it would be very difficult for a municipalization effort to build out the renewable energy assets that Black Hills is pursuing, and lower energy costs without renewable energy. Discussed the need to refine the goal and have the Commission make a statement. A municipal utility could change how the city gets its energy. The municipal study could identify different generation assets. Discussed the need to share with City Council the achievements of the past year and the money brought in. Discussed the need to cite the City Code of Ordinances on the role of the Energy Advisory Commission. The Commission to present to City Council on December 16th to recap successes and ask for better direction moving forward. The City efforts to municipalize the electric utility is not in the scope of the Energy Advisory Commission; the goal is still working on the same mission of 100% renewable energy power by 2035. Planning Wednesday January 8th for the next meeting.

Suggestions for next meeting

Black Hills Energy 2025 rebates.

Adjourn 5:38pm

Zoom Chat log

01:02:05 Laura Getts: Is the BHE hearing link posted on the City's Facebook page at all?

01:11:55 Laura Getts: Wonderful news!

01:12:14 Laura Getts: And great work!

01:13:43 Jodie H: The slide mentioned promoting items on the "webpage" could someone post a link for me?

01:19:11 Public Works: It is the "Energy Resources" webpage on pueblo.us

01:19:44 Laura Getts: Thank you

01:33:27 Laura Getts: That's right. I forgot about that planned session.

01:42:08 Laura Getts: Apologies I have to drop now.

01:47:05 Michael Briscoe: Thanks all

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 8th 4 – 5:30 pm