



Lowell City Council

Technology & Utilities SC Meeting Minutes

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: September 14, 2021
Time: 5:30 PM
Location: City Council Chamber/Zoom
375 Merrimack Street, 2nd Floor, Lowell, MA

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call were Chairman Nuon, C. Drinkwater and C. Samaras. Also present were C. Mercier, C. Elliott, C. Conway, Christine McCall (DPD) and Katherine Moses (DPD).

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairman Nuon called the meeting to order noting the attendance and the need to review for renewal the Community Choice Aggregation Contract of the City (CCA).

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

C. Nuon requested Ms. Moses provide presentation to the body. Ms. Moses presented a report entitled "Municipal Aggregation: Progress, Challenges, and Opportunities in our next Supply Contract". Ms. Moses provided overview of the CCA that allows municipalities to establish favorable energy rates for citizens which allows an opt-out provision. Ms. Moses defined renewable energy noting the progress the City has made over the past few years noting they were among the leaders in the Commonwealth. Ms. Moses noted the challenges of the program is market fluctuation; rising energy costs as well as level of wealth in the community. Ms. Moses noted next step is to pressure the DPU to allow rate options for the City which will result in greater renewable energy use and possible savings over time. C. Drinkwater questioned savings as a result of the program in terms of rates available in the City. Ms. Moses outlined how market impacts rates and offered comparison to Nation Grid products. C. Drinkwater commented on how State regulations effect the marketplace as well. Ms. Moses indicated the consultants for the (City Colonial Power) could provide market rate information. Representative of Colonial Power indicated market is typical supply/demand scenario. C. Nuon commented on the pricing in other communities. C. Samaras noted City is moving in right direction concerning renewable energy and that continued information be supplied to consumers throughout the City. C. Nuon question the amount of people who are in the program. Colonial Power indicted they would provide that number to the body. C. Nuon



opened matter up to public and following individuals addressed the subcommittee: Jay Mason, John Grossman and Mary Wambui-Ekop. C. Elliott noted how rates factor into income levels of the community. C. Nuon noted that resources can be used to assist rate payers as well as providing energy efficiency. **Motion** by C. Drinkwater, seconded by C. Samaras to request City Manager have DPD research various options for programs to assist with rate costs and explore other programs to increase energy efficiency in the City. Adopted per Roll Call vote 3 years. So voted. Ms. Moses noted there are many resources available. C. Samaras noted that savings can be realized. C. Drinkwater noted need to pressure DPU to offer additional options for rates as based on income levels and questioned time frame moving forward.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to recess by C. Samaras, seconded by C. Drinkwater. So Voted.

Meeting recessed at 6:29 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk

***Continued
Meeting***

Date: September 23, 2021
Time: 5:30 PM
Location: City Council Chamber/Zoom
375 Merrimack Street, 2nd Floor, Lowell, MA

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call were Chairman Nuon, C. Drinkwater and C. Samaras. Also present were Katherine Moses (DPD) and C. Chau.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairman Nuon called the meeting to order noting continuation from prior meeting and continued discussion and support of renewing CCA agreement by the City.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:



Ms. Moses responded to prior inquiries regarding resources to assist community with energy costs. Ms. Moses noted short term solution would involve direct assistance with payment of bills and weatherization of homes to make more energy efficient. Ms. Moses commented on upcoming National Grid program that would assist with information regarding energy efficiency and that her department would provide further information once the program is completed. Ms. Moses noted the long term goal would be continued pressure on the Mass. Dept. Energy to set rates that the City could adopt. C. Drinkwater requested further information regarding the National Grid program. C. Samaras noted programs promoting energy efficiency are helpful to low income groups. C. Samaras commented on opt out options regarding the CCA contract. Ms. Moses outlined that option. C. Samaras noted need to provide information to the community. Ms. Moses outlined the various methods of communication. C. Nuon opened matter up to public and following individuals addressed the subcommittee: Jay Mason, John Grossman and Mary Wambui-Ekop. C. Nuon noted use of an energy advocate for citizens would be useful as area is confusing. Motion by C. Drinkwater, seconded by C. Samaras to recommend to the City Council adoption of renewed CCA contract to reflect continued rate of 45% for renewable energy. Adopted per Roll Call vote 3 yeas. So voted.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to Adjourn by C. Samaras, seconded by C. Drinkwater. So Voted.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk