

Memorandum

Date: May 5, 2023

To: City Council



From: Leanne Tippet Mosby, Chair
Climate and Environment Commission

Subject: Electricity Rate Proposal

At the Climate and Environment Commission's April 25 meeting, Greg Coffin presented a summary of the Water and Light Advisory Board's deliberations and actions with respect to electric rates, followed by a presentation from Jim Windsor on an alternative rate proposal. The commission appreciated hearing this information from Mr. Coffin and Mr. Windsor. As part of its role in overseeing implementation of the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, the Commission adopted the following statement:

The Climate and Environment Commission urges City Council to request a summary of the effects of the new rate proposal on rate affordability for low-income residents and/or disparate impacts, and long-term total emissions.

A copy of this statement will also be shared with the Water and Light Advisory Board.

cc: Water and Light Advisory Board



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

Climate and Environment Commission

Tuesday, April 25, 2023
6:00 PM

Regular

701 E Broadway
City Council Chambers

I. CALL TO ORDER

Leanne Tippett Mosby called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Staff: Eric Hempel (Sustainability), Becca Elder (Sustainability), Brandon Renaud (Utilities)

Members of the Public: Mark Haim, Gregg Coffin, Jim Windsor, Missourian Staff

Present: 9 - Linda Godwin, Leanne Tippett Mosby, Annette Triplett, Joseph Barnett, Dick Parker, Jessica Norris, Emily Gustafson, David Adams and David Huhman

Excused: 6 - Ryan Kaufmann, Matthew Ludden, Jacquelyn Sample, Abra Spisso, Roni Becherer and Raymond Holland

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Members, staff, and guests introduced themselves around the room.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda: Dick Parker

Second: David Huhman

All in favor; motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

TMP-24197 March 2023 CEC Meeting Minutes Draft

Attachments: [March 2023 CEC Minutes Draft](#)

Motion to approve the minutes: Linda Godwin

Second: Dick Parker

Annett Triplett and Joseph Barnett abstained; motion carried.

V. SPECIAL ITEMS

TMP-24181 Electric Rate Structure - Gregg Coffin, Water and Light Advisory Board

Attachments: [WLAB Cost of Service Memo](#)

Gregg Coffin spoke to the Climate and Environment Commission about the history of the cost of service and rate study. Topics that Coffin covered included the following: the Water & Light Advisory Board's review process and trainings, the utility's financial needs, the findings of the cost of service and rate study, rate affordability, impacts of COVID, rate classes, the inverted block rate's ability to encourage energy conservation, and causes of cost increases.

Members asked questions about demand, electric vehicles charging, utility assistance programs, residential cost increases, and AMI.

TMP-24218 Alternative Electric Rate Proposal- Jim Windsor

Attachments: [Proposal by Dick Parker](#)

Jim Windsor, a member of the community and former City employee, presented his disagreements with the rate design and the findings of the consultant. Windsor discussed disagreements with the assumptions used by the consultant and issues with the base charge. Windsor stated his prediction that the costs would disproportionately be paid by customers who use the least and that the proposed rate would not encourage efficiency. Windsor encouraged the Climate and Environment Commission (CEC) to advocate for the creation of an alternative rate proposal from the consultant's proposal.

Dick Parker handed out a typed recommendation for the CEC to make to City Council, attached as "Proposal by Dick Parker."

Members discussed the suggestion of an alternative proposal, including the lack of information and expertise that the commission has to make recommendations, the importance of rates being monitored for impact on climate and incentivizing energy efficiency, and the timing of the City Council's decision making on the rates.

Leanne Tippett Mosby made a motion that was discussed by the commission. The motion was amended, discussed, and withdrawn.

Jessica Norris made a new motion, then amended that motion. The commission discussed and passed the motion.

**Motion that the CEC recommends to the Water & Light Advisory Board that in their testimony to council that they ensure that the rate structure both energy efficiency and equity, and to send to the City Council: Leanne Tippett Mosby
Second: Dick Parker
Motion withdrawn.**

**Motion that the CEC provide a letter to Council and copy the Water & Light Advisory Board urging them to request a summary of the effects of the new rate proposal on climate/rate equity and long term total emissions.
Second: Annette Triplett**

**Motion amended to: move that the CEC provide a letter to Council and copy the Water & Light Advisory Board urging them to request a summary of the effects of the new rate proposal on rate affordability for low income residents and/or disparate impacts, and long term total emissions.
Second: Annette Triplett
All in favor; motion carried.**

VI. OLD BUSINESS

TMP-24182 Climate and Environment Commission Annual Report

Attachments: [CEC annual rep 2022.docx](#)
[Edits on 2022 CEC Priorities Final](#)
[Edits on CEC Priorities 4.26.2023](#)
[NR CAAP Priorities 2023 draft](#)

Members looked over the drafted CEC accomplishments for calendar year 2022. It was suggested that the date that the commission passed items, along with materials sent to City Council be added to the accomplishments list where possible. Eric Hempel stated

that he would clarify the action for the triple bottom line and provided an update for the budget allocation. A typo was corrected.

The commission looked at the priorities updates list and made changes that are outlined in the attachment titled "Edits on CEC Priorities_4.26.2023" and reviewed the drafted Natural Resources priorities outlined in "NR CAAP Priorities_2023_draft."

VII. NEW BUSINESS

VIII. TASK UPDATES

Leanne Tippet Mosby stated that the Building Construction Codes Commission/Climate and Environment Commission ad hoc group is meeting May 8th and other members can participate in this discussion about 2021 and 2024 energy codes.

Jessica Norris stated that she will reissue a letter to the Tree Board asking for a collaborative set of priorities, clarifying that Norris is working as a task lead and not part of a working group.

Linda Godwin provided an update that meetings had taken place with staff and other commission members about the dashboard and Sustainability's social media. Commission members can make suggestions for social media topics to Eric Hempel and/or write a blog post and bring it to the commission. Godwin encouraged commission members to sign up for the newsletter.

IX. STAFF REPORT

Eric Hempel's staff report included the following: The rental energy efficiency project update will be presented at the next City Council meeting as a report; Hempel will be attending the building energy codes conference in Chicago in May; MEEA is hosting an energy efficiency commercial training in May at the Daniel Boone Regional Library; and there will be Show Me the Heat community stakeholder meeting in late May organized by Community Resilience Organizer and Community Conservationist.

X. CHAIR REPORT

Leanne Tippet Mosby thanked CEC members for coming to the Earth Day event and suggested having Earth Day as a task that the commission starts earlier next year.

XI. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

XII. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be May 23rd, 2023 at 6 PM in City Council Chambers.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Motion to adjourn: Jessica Norris
Second: Leanne Tippet Mosby
All in favor; motion carried.

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