

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF ALAMEDA PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD MEETING

December 11, 2017

1. ROLL CALL

President McCormick called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. On roll call, the following commissioners were present: President McCormick, Vice President Serventi, Commissioner Deaton, Commissioner Giuntini and City Manager Keimach.

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – NON AGENDA (Public Comment)

Alameda resident Travis Wilson urged the Public Utilities Board (Board) to create a grievance process for customers to use when they have complaints.

Alan Pryor of Alameda said he appeared at the meeting on behalf of resident Gabrielle Dolphin, but added that he would decline to comment.

3. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

None.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Minutes – Regular Meeting – November 13, 2017

B. Listing of Bills Paid – November 2017

C. Financial Report – October 2017

D. Treasurer’s Report for the month ending November 30, 2017

E. By Resolution, Approve and Adopt the Revised Rules & Regulations for Alameda Municipal Power

F. By Motion, Authorize the General Manager to Amend the Current Agreement with DataProse to Extend the Bill, Insert, Customer Newsletter Printing, and Mailing Services Through December 31, 2019 in an Amount Not to Exceed \$610,000

G. Budget Amendment to Fund Position

With a motion from Commissioner Deaton and a second from Commissioner Serventi, the Board unanimously approved the consent calendar.

5. AGENDA ITEMS

- A. By Motion, Accept the Independent Audit of Alameda Municipal Power's Financial Position for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2017 and June 30, 2016 and its Associated Reports

City Manager Keimach asked if the information regarding the item was posted on AMP's website. Staff confirmed.

Commissioner Serventi thanked staffers for their work. With a motion from Commissioner Giuntini and a second from Commissioner Deaton, the Board unanimously approved the item.

- B. For Information Only, Update on the Eligible Renewable Generation Rider

The Board heard public comments on the item. Alameda resident William Morrison asked clarifying questions about Alameda Municipal Power's (AMP) avoided cost rate.

Jeff Gould of Alameda said that many Alamedans perceive that installing rooftop solar is the right thing to do. He criticized the eligible renewable generation (ERG) program, saying that it was an attempt by AMP to discourage customers from installing solar.

Alameda resident Nick deVries suggested that AMP examine ERG residential and commercial data separately.

President McCormick said she had been concerned that the ERG rate was in place before AMP had time-dependent metered data. Because smart meters and time-of-use rates can provide detailed information to help ensure accurate utility programs, the investor owned-utilities were required to have smart meters before they set up a net energy metering (NEM) successor program, she said.

With the implementation of smart meters, AMP will now be able to use smart meter data to refine ERG, which is AMP's NEM successor program. She said she was thrilled that AMP has 64 ERG projects in the works.

City Manager Keimach asked clarifying questions regarding comparisons between AMP's previous NEM data and the ERG data.

Commissioner Deaton said that ERG is not a static program, noting that there will be changes over time as AMP receives new data. We need to ensure that we collect the data in a timely fashion and use it in updates and planning, she said. Updates to the Board should occur on a regular basis, she said.

President McCormick said the Board members want the program to be successful. They also want to encourage customers to pursue on-site energy generation and energy storage, she said. The Board will continue to examine this topic in next year's strategic planning and rate making phases.

The Board did not vote because the item was for informational purposes only.

C. By Resolution, Approve Revisions to the Rider Opt Out of Energy inView Metering Electric Rate Schedule

The Board heard public comments on the item.

Presenting his view that smart meters are unsafe, Alameda resident Christopher Rabe said he would take the following actions: deduct the opt-out fee from his electric bill; remain in his home without electricity if AMP shuts off his power; and file a lawsuit if denied power for not paying smart meter opt-out fees.

In her comments, Shelby Sheehan of Alameda made the following points: She praised the proposal to remove the sunset provision from the opt-out policy; objected to the opt-out fees; presented her view that smart meters are a public health hazard; and called for a moratorium on the installation of smart meters.

Lisa Zapata presented her view that smart meters have negative health effects, and said it was only a matter of time before the hazards are felt by the Alameda community.

President McCormick noted that AMP's rollout of advanced metering infrastructure has been a five-year process. Responding to public comments, she stated that there are no cities in California that have moratoriums on smart meters.

In the state of California, the growth of energy efficiency and solar energy initiatives, and the electrification of the transportation sector, depend on advanced metering infrastructure (AMI), President McCormick said.

There are PG&E gas smart meters on almost every household in Alameda, she said. Currently, there are 70 million smart meters in the U.S., and there are projections that the number will grow to 90 million by 2020. The industry is convinced that the health impacts have been studied to our satisfaction, she said.

The Board respects the right of residents to opt out of the program, President McCormick said.

General Manager Procos noted that AMP, as a municipal utility, is subject to Prop. 26.

Commissioner Deaton also commented on the topic of Prop. 26, saying that AMP must ensure it recovers the manual meter-reading fee for those who opt out. Plus, AMP can't spread the fee over other customers who are not requesting to opt out of the program.

City Manager Keimach said everyone who has spoken about the health impacts of radio frequency emissions has valid and real concerns. She said she was glad that the staff recommendation allows customers to opt out indefinitely. The recommendation represents the City Council's view, as well.

President McCormick said it was incumbent on the Board to make sure that the opt-out fees are fair, reasonable, and as low as possible. The Board has no desire to penalize anyone for opting out, she said. President McCormick also said she appreciated the revised fees for low-income customers.

Following a motion from City Manager Keimach and a second by Commissioner Giuntini, the Board unanimously approved the resolution.

D. For Information Only, Advanced Metering Infrastructure Update

Speaking on behalf of Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda (CASA), Fred Patterson said that AMP's AMI strategy is an important step toward a climate-appropriate utility.

Following a staff presentation, City Manager Keimach asked whether AMP will be able to track aggregated customer data relating to energy conservation.

Staff responded that the system provides data on energy use for commercial customers at 15-minute intervals and for residential customers at one-hour intervals. The software allows you to create aggregated groups for different customer segments, staff said, and the system is able to keep data for three years.

President McCormick said the data will allow AMP to measure the impacts of its energy efficiency initiatives. The Board is committed to the City's climate action plan, President McCormick said, and AMP's energy mix will be greenhouse-gas free in 2020.

Alameda resident William Morrison asked about the relationship between AMP's AMI system and geographical information system (GIS).

General Manager Procos responded that AMP will be able to have access to granular data that may allow AMP to head off possible issues.

The Board did not vote because the item was for informational purposes only.

- E. By Motion, Approve Amendment #1 to the Professional Services Agreement PS 09-15-01 with Ecology Action to extend the Term of the Contract from December 31, 2017, to December 31, 2019, Update the Scope of Service, and Increase the Total Compensation by an Amount Not to Exceed \$1,840,000

At staff's request, the Board rescheduled Item E to the January Board meeting.

6. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

A. General Manager's Report: November 2017

General Manager Procos clarified that he was not referring to Kairos Power when he mentioned a new customer at the November Board meeting.

He updated the Board that the Northern California Power Agency (NCPA) has decided to provide energy services for East Bay Community Energy.

7. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Keimach said she will strive to make her City Manager Update memo more visible to encourage communication between the City Council and the Board.

She noted that the City Council approved the scope of the climate action plan.

8. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

President McCormick said it was her pleasure to attend the recent opening of the fire station.

Commissioner Deaton provided an update from the NCPA legislative and regulatory committee. NCPA helps AMP to stay in charge locally, and extend its voice when communicating with legislators. She urged AMP to continue to be active with NCPA to address legislative and regulatory issues in 2018.

There are a number of issues coming up in 2018 that could impact AMP's ability to retain local control, such as regionalization and wildfire management funding, Commissioner Deaton said.

Commissioner Serventi said he would like to thank the members of the public who attended the Board meeting to express their views. Public comments led to the changes to the opt-out policy for smart meters, he said.

9. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Alameda resident Jeff Gould noted that he wrote a letter to the Alameda Sun about Kairos Power's move to Alameda. He read his letter out loud, which expressed his opposition to the company's nuclear power research.

William Morrison of Alameda encouraged staff to look at Alameda Point as a possible site for solar installations.

10. ADJOURNMENT

President McCormick adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.