

Clean Energy Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2025

Call to order at 1:00 pm

Attendance:

Present In-person: Richard Smith

Present via Zoom: Sean Sullivan, Phyllis Goodson, Andrea Bennett, PJ Klein

Not Present: Jessica Cannon, Valjeanne Estes,

City Staff Present: David Ingram, Dave Mayes

Approval of January minutes: All ayes, approval of minutes passed.

Item #1: Updates & Discussion

- **Resolution on 2025 State & Federal Legislative Agenda**

David I kicked off the update on this item. Reminded the Committee they were briefed on this item previously by Kara Spencer and that the committee provided input on this item to her. Since the input was provided to Kara, the Federal elections occurred and the climate for policy items has shifted. Input that Kara receives, from a variety of sources, is compiled and presented to each City Council member. For an item to make it onto the final version of the agenda, it must be agreed upon by all City Council members. Due to 100% agreement needed and changes at the federal level, the clean energy recommendations suggested by the Committee did not make it onto the final 2025 State & Federal Legislative Agenda. The Resolution approved by Council at their Jan 21st meeting was provided to the Committee.

Andrea had a question in regard to how the Committee might refine their strategy moving forward to be successful and make progress. Dave M replied that additional discussion with Kara would be needed and perhaps have her back at a future meeting to discuss.

- **C-PACE Resolution of Intent**

David I update the Committee that the CPACE Resolution of Intent was presented to City Council at their February 4th meeting, the resolution passed unanimously. This was the 1st step in a 3-step process to join the North Carolina CPACE program. David also noted that New Hanover County also passed a Resolution of Intent. Next steps are a public hearing and resolution to formally adopting the program. Those next steps are scheduled for the March 4th City Council meeting.

- **FY25 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report**

David I updated the Committee on this item. The GHG annual report was presented to City Council at their March 3rd agenda briefing.

Rich had a question in regard to the increase in GHG emissions in 2022. Dave M noted that 2022 was the first year that Duke Energy provided estimated electricity usage from all the streetlights. That usage was not part of previous years GHG emissions. Dave M also noted there was interest from City Council around streetlighting and stadium lighting, and what energy efficiency opportunities are possible from those assets.

Rich noted in regard to retrofitting stadium / athletic field lighting to LED to factor in the maintenance savings from not having to change them as often which would require renting/hiring the use of a cherry picker equipment in order to reach them.

- **Fleet EV Transition RFP Vendor Selection**

David I updated the committee that the vendor selection and contract award are on the City Council March 4th agenda. The vendor selected for the study is ICF Incorporated. David noted the caveat to this item is the study is being funded by the EECBG and those federal funds are currently frozen following the federal administration change. David I has reached out to the grant coordinator for news and updates on the funding.

Rich questioned if the EECBG funds are not available, is there an alternative funding source for the study to fall back on?

Dave M replied we will continue on the track we are on with the EECBG funding appropriation and contract award scheduled for March 4. If the grant funding does fall through, then alternative sources will be explored.

David I will continue to reach out to the grant coordinator for updates.

- **Skyline Center Energy Study (Terracon)**

David I updated the committee that a draft report was received from Terracon. A phone call to review the report was had with Terracon that included the Deputy City Manager and the Skyline Center facility superintendent. A number of additional items were requested from Terracon to include in the final report. The final report will be provided to committee for review once it is received.

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm

Recording of the meeting can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-xWDwjUPJ5Q>

Next meeting is Monday, March 10, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.