



COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

Ledding Library Community Room, 10660 SE 21st Ave Street
& Zoom Video Conference (www.milwaukieoregon.gov)

MINUTES

OCTOBER 11, 2022

Council Present: Councilors Adam Khosroabadi, Lisa Batey, Desi Nicodemus, Council President Kathy Hyzy, and Mayor Mark Gamba

Staff Present: Nicole Madigan, Deputy City Recorder
Ann Ober, City Manager

Natalie Rogers, Climate and Natural Resources
Manager

Courtney Wilson, Urban Forrester

Mayor Gamba called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Council President Hyzy announced that it was National Coming Out Day, shared personal experiences, and encouraged community members to celebrate and feel comfortable in who they are.

1. Climate Goal Update – Green Tariff

Rogers provided an overview on how electrical grids work and how electricity products such as unbundled renewable energy certificates (REC) are purchased. **Councilor Batey** and **Rogers** discussed how electrons are produced in the state of Oregon versus procurement of unbundled RECs.

Rogers explained the difference in producing and using a bundled REC. **Mayor Gamba, Rogers, and Councilor Khosroabadi** discussed what it means for those who buy unbundled REC certificates and whether customers understand that the clean energy they are buying is not what is being produced to power their homes and businesses but offsetting how the electrons are being produced.

Rogers noted that Portland General Electric (PGE) does not offer a bundled REC product for residential and small business customers which is why city staff have been working on the green tariff product. **Rogers** reminded Council of the net zero electricity by 2030 goal and what type of energy production the city was considering as clean. **Councilor Batey** asked if the law prohibits the sale of RECs from offshore wind farms. **Rogers** was unaware of any prohibited sales on private investments such as offshore wind farms.

Rogers advised staff had calculated community energy usage and there is a large gap to close for the city to reach the net zero goal, but new state legislative changes were coming that may reduce the gap.

Mayor Gamba and **Rogers** discussed the calculations, and that the production gap could be larger as unbundled RECs were included in the calculations.

Rogers presented goals the city's potential green tariff goals. **Council President Hyzy** and **Rogers** discussed electron loss over transmission lines, the benefits of investing in more transmission between the United States east and west coasts, and energy storage. **Rogers** presented a goal that the product would include automatic enrollment for all community members with a call-in option to opt out. **Hyzy** and **Rogers** discussed the benefits of the opt out method versus an opt in. **Rogers** presented additional goals for the product that included low-income rate programs and cost saving features.

Rogers presented a timeline of the city's history with the green tariff product program that included the 2021 Oregon House Bill (HB) 2475 for energy affordability. **Mayor**

Gamba asked if an income level had been established and **Rogers** responded that the Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC) was still working on the program but believed that PGE had rolled out its own program that would address those at 60% of median income. **Rogers** presented the last of the tariff's timeline that included a survey PGE conducted in 2021, and the most recent steps that had occurred in 2022 which included partnering with PGE to work on passing legislation.

Mayor Gamba, Rogers, and Council President Hyzy discussed frustrations with the pace at which the program was moving and the possibility of the city branching off and partnering with the City of Beaverton to move quicker on a green tariff product.

Rogers presented the next steps for the tariff program that included a community workgroup hosted by the PUC. **Mayor Gamba** asked when the PUC would meet, and **Rogers** replied the PUC was checking with participants to meet in fall of 2022/winter 2023 and that Rogers would be taking the lead in the meeting by talking to other communities about the steps Milwaukie had already taken. **Council President Hyzy** stated the importance of including discussions around a low-income product.

Rogers mentioned that PGE would submit a draft of the tariff to the city, but staff had questions that need to be answered first. **Mayor Gamba and Rogers** commented on build timing. **Rogers** reviewed additional questions that need to be answered and circled back to Council President Hyzy's comment on considerations needed to be taken regarding a low-income option.

Rogers explained that once PGE submits the tariff to the PUC the city would likely submit a letter supporting the concept but that would not lock the city into agreeing to use the product. Next the PUC would review the tariff and then PGE and the city would begin to build Milwaukie's specific tariff product program and negotiate the agreement. The tariff then goes to the PUC to approve. **Mayor Gamba and Rogers** discussed how long the PUC's review process should take. **Rogers** stated that the city would likely sign a participation agreement and Council would issue a resolution or ordinance. The final step would be for utility customers to enroll in the program with an option to opt out.

The group discussed if the focus of the tariff product should be on affordability, when and how to begin community outreach and engagement, and at what level Council would like to be involved with submitting the tariff to the PUC.

Mayor Gamba noted disparities on billing amounts versus income levels. The group discussed low-income homeowner and renter weatherization programs that reduce billing costs, how the city could increase outreach to notify customers of the available programs, and how those in need of services could be auto enrolled into services. **Councilor Nicodemus** asked how the city could keep landlords from pricing out their renters after taking advantage of energy upgrade programs. **Rogers** advised that most programs available to renters were temporary weatherization improvements that would be minimal to the value of the home or go with the renter.

Councilor Batey asked for an update on the home energy score (HES) program. **Rogers** reported that the HES program was self-sufficient and ongoing.

Mayor Gamba adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Nicole Madigan, Deputy City Recorder