

**CITY OF NEWARK
DELAWARE**

**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

November 10, 2015

MEETING CONVENED: 7:00 p.m. Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: George Irvine, Chair, Kismet Hazelwood, John Hornor, Bob McDowell, Ajay Prasad, Kass Sheedy, John Wessells

STAFF: Tom Coleman, Director of Public Works & Water Resources
Ricky Nietubicz, Community Affairs Officer

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 13, 2015

MOTION THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 13, 2015 MEETING BE APPROVED AS RECEIVED

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one from the public that wished to speak

3. PRESENTATION OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS – SCOTT LYNCH, ENERGY SERVICES MANAGER, DEMEC

Mr. Irvine said he had distributed a draft for discussion purposes only to the commission members that detailed some ideas to increase energy efficiency and decrease carbon footprint for the City of Newark. (copy entered into the record). He would like to propose these ideas to DEMEC.

Mr. Lynch reported that DEMEC is holding its November board meeting on November 17, 2015. Mr. Lynch stated he had brought a condensed version of presentation to show the CAC this evening. (copy entered into the record).

Mr. Lynch stated energy efficiency did not “get on the radar” significantly until 2009 with the Energy Efficiency Resource Standard “EERS.” This law was looking for energy efficiency in the state in a more meaningful way. The goal was to get from 0 to 15% energy efficiency by 2015. It was Mr. Lynch’s opinion this was a very aggressive goal. Additionally, there were other components of the law that required rules created on how to measure those savings, and the costs associated with such.

The result was a task force to make sense of the legislation and how to implement it. Many ideas came from the recommendation. The main issue was the feasibility of being able to do a 15% energy savings. One of the hindrances was the requirement that regulations be created to define how savings will be achieved. This did not happen.

On the last day of the legislative session, an Energy Efficiency Bill was passed. The Energy Efficiency Council was instituted upon the passage of this bill. Mr. Lynch is on that council to represent the interests of the all the municipalities that have their own electric distribution company.

Mr. Lynch stated any energy efficiency that had been done prior to the implementation of the energy bill has to meet the regulations that the State promulgates in order to count.

Mr. Irvine asked how many cities in Delaware are similar to Newark and sell electricity. Mr. Lynch stated there are municipals that own their own electric distribution system. They are New Castle, Newark and Middletown, Delaware. In Kent County, there is Clayton, Smyrna and Dover. In Sussex County, there is Milford, Lewis and Seaford.

Mr. Lynch reported the process started initially with talks regarding the Efficiency Smart Program, which was established by American Municipal Power. American Municipal Power, is similar to DEMEC, in a general way. They are a very large joint action agency which have over 100 members, primarily in Ohio. In Delaware, DEMEC is the only member of American Municipal Power.

Mr. Lynch detailed the proposed budget and savings with the two initial initiatives to be (1) Custom C&I (Commercial and Industrial) only Program with this program achieving 80% of the DEMEC targets and (2) Retail Efficient Lighting. This is detailed on page 5 of Mr. Lynch's presentation.

Mr. Lynch reported the goal of DEMEC was to get to the targets everyone can participate in and ones that have the "biggest bang for the buck." The budget and savings on Mr. Lynch's presentation is what is anticipated to be proposed to DEMEC board.

In addition, there will be a customized programs. (see below)

Custom Program

- Offers businesses personalized consultative services and financial incentives
- Efficiency Smart will guide customers to determine the most cost-effective upgrades
- Eligible projects include but are not limited to retrofits and replacements, new equipment, new construction, equipment optimization, and design/plan review.
- All reporting is independently verified to insure accuracy-with savings realization rates that are among the highest in the industry.
- Targeting all business customers with cumulative annual electric usage greater than 500,000 kilowatt-hours per year .

Mr. Lynch stated that lighting is always a great way to initiate any energy efficiency

program. The savings is easy to calculate and people are willing to do this. It is very cost effective.

Mr. Irvine asked what the results would be in the future (years 4, 5 and 6, for example). Mr. Lynch stated they would be developed once it is determined how successful the initial years are.

Mr. Prasad asked what kinds of project would fall under the "C&I" initiative. Mr. Lynch stated air compressors, refrigerators, hot water heaters, etc., would fall under this initiative.

Mr. McDowell asked if school districts would be approached to be part of the initiatives since they are such large consumers of power. Mr. Lynch stated they would be considered.

Mr. Irvine asked how the performance of American Municipal Power would be judged. Mr. Lynch stated they offer a guaranteed savings and they would be held to that. Mr. Irvine asked how familiar Efficiency Smart is with the State of Delaware. Mr. Lynch stated DEMEC has been working with them for several years and a representative would be agreeable to attending a meeting. Additionally, Dave Colley, from Vermont Energy Investment Corporation would be available to attend a meeting in the future and provide further detail on Efficiency Smart.

Mr. Irvine wished to provide Mr. Lynch and DEMEC with the draft proposal of ideas to increase energy efficiency and decrease the carbon footprint for the City of Newark. (copy entered into the record).

Mr. Lynch explained any proposal to the DEMEC board will not be voted on until December 8, 2015 at the earliest.

Mr. McDowell stated it was his opinion that a proposed \$1.50/MWh surcharge (equates to approximately \$20/yr.) on a residents monthly electric bill would be acceptable.

Mr. Coleman stated McKees solar power costs \$125/MWh so the comparison to the \$1.50/MWh would be very small compared to the cost of solar. Mr. Lynch stated for a business the charge would be as follows, (for example) if a business were using 500,000 kilowatts per month, there would be an additional \$750.00 on the electric bill.

Mr. Irvine stated after Ms. Houck (the City's representative on DEMEC's board) attends the November 17th DEMEC board meeting, it was his opinion the CAC would be better prepared to offer a formal directive. In other words, Mr. Irvine stated the CAC could make a recommendation to Council to support the proposal after Mr. Lynch makes the presentation on November 17th. Mr. Irvine stated he believes the CAC is not in a position to make a recommendation at this point.

Mr. Wessells asked Mr. Lynch if there was anything that DEMEC could bring to the Green Energy Day that the CAC is proposing holding in the spring. Mr. Lynch suggested the CAC come up with suggestions and then DEMEC will review the suggestions.

4. LED LIGHT REPLACEMENT PROJECT

There was nothing to report.

5. GREEN ENERGY

Mr. Wessells proposed having a Green Energy Day. Suggested events are solar powered go-karts, detailing the history of wind energy. etc. Mr. Lynch reported there is an event called the “Junior Solar Sprint” where middle school students build a solar car with a kit provided by the State of Delaware. To his knowledge, no school in Newark has participated. The suggestion was to have UDEL students mentor the school students through the process. The other suggestion was to have the event scheduled around when McKees Park produces its 300 MWh. He also proposed shutting down Main Street, but that may not be feasible due to timing and other issues. Another suggestion was to combine it with the Main Street Mile. Social media should be used to promote these events.

6. FUTURE GOALS

Mr. McDowell reported there will be tree planting project on Monday, November 21st at Curtis Mill Park from 9 AM to noon. This project is funded by the Friends of White Clay. This organization purchased 100 native trees to be planted. This is the initial phase with the second phase to be done in the spring in the same area with plantings of understory native vegetation. Ms. Hazelwood will contact the New Castle County Master Gardeners to see if they have any interest in attending the tree planting.

Mr. Irvine reported he had spoken with Ms. Michelle Bennett, the sustainability manager at UDEL. She agreed to attend one of the CAC upcoming meetings. Her topic of interest is the reduction of plastic bags.

7. A BETTER NEWARK AWARD

Mr. Irvine asked Mr. Nietubicz if he had any news with the A Better Newark Award. He stated he did not.

8. REVIEW OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENTS REPORTS

There was nothing to report.

9. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Prasad asked Ms. Feeney Roser the following:

- Did the LEED modifications of the Code had any impact?
- Were builders finding the incentives attractive enough to incorporate the Leed features into their buildings?
- How many LEED based buildings have be built?
- How extensive were the LEED features in these buildings?

Ms. Feeney Roser forwarded the request to the manager of the Code Enforcement, Dave Culver. If the information is not already compiled, it may take some time do so.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 8, 2015.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Tara A. Schiano
Secretary

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