



City of Concord

Fiscal Policy Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday, June 18, 2018

4:30 PM

City Hall
41 Green Street, 2nd Floor Conference
Room

1. Call to Order

Chairman Nyhan called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

2. Roll Call

Present: City Councilors Keith Nyhan (Chairman), Dan St. Hilaire, Candace White Bouchard, Mark Coen, Fred Keach, and Mayor Jim Bouley; City Staff Tom Aspell, City Manager; Carlos Baia, Deputy City Manager - Development; Bob McManus, Office of Management & Budget; Rebekah Dougherty, Office of Management and Budget.

Excused: City Councilor Amanda Grady Sexton.

Guests: City Councilor Rob Werner, Chairman, Energy & Environment Committee.

3. Approval of April 16, 2018 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved on a voice vote.

4. City Council Referral re: Proposed Goal for Renewable Energy

Councilor Rob Werner, Chairman of the Energy & Environment Committee, handed out a revised draft resolution resolving that the City of Concord adopt a goal of 100% renewable energy. Concerns were raised in May by the Chamber of Commerce and the Conservation Commission regarding the initial resolution that was proposed to City Council, who, in turn, referred the matter to the Fiscal Policy Advisory Committee (FPAC).

Councilor Werner reviewed the revisions that had been made to the resolution since it was initially proposed. He noted that the intent of the resolution is aspirational, was never meant to be a mandate, and language had been added in #12 of the

resolution to clarify this. He also noted that the definition of renewable energy had been revised to focus on the positives, and that those things that are not considered renewable energy were removed.

Councilor Werner noted that once the resolution is adopted, the Energy & Environment Committee will write a more detailed strategic plan. Councilor Werner added that the Chamber of Commerce aided in making the revisions to the resolution and will be giving their final feedback at their Board Meeting on June 28th. The Conservation Commission still has to weigh in, but they don't meet again until July 11th.

Chairman Nyhan thanked Councilor Nyhan and indicated that the revisions had addressed some of his concerns. However, he said that FPAC is charged with making decisions from a fiscal standpoint, not an environmental standpoint, and that they had not been provided with any cost estimates.

Councilor Bouchard suggested that Renewable Energy be defined more clearly in the resolution. She said she feels the way it's currently defined boxes the City in. Especially considering that technology is always changing and that may result in changes to renewable energy in the future.

Members of FPAC liked the addition of #12, which clarifies that the goal is aspirational and not a mandate. However, FPAC members questioned why there needs to be a special resolution for renewable energy when the Energy & Environment Committee is already charged with conducting the activities mentioned in the resolution. Councilor Werner responded that by the City adopting a resolution, it is committing to the goal of renewable energy and it will bring awareness and send a message to people.

During the lengthy discussion, FPAC members raised concerns about the stakeholder process and how stakeholders would be determined; the daunting process of having stakeholder meetings and finding locations to hold the meetings; the fact that there is no mention of energy conservation in the resolution; and, most importantly, what the costs would be.

City Manager Aspell suggested that the target date for the strategic plan be changed, as it is currently earmarked for a year from now and there is no funding designated for this in the FY 2019 budget, which was just adopted. Manager Aspell shared his concerns that additional resources would need to be appropriated

in order to successfully accomplish this effort, and that additional staff, which the City does not have, would be necessary to carry the plan out.

Councilor St. Hilaire stated that, after reviewing the Conservation Commission's Open Space Plan, which was written by a consultant, he is hesitant to bring in another consultant to define what the Energy & Environment Committee is already charged with.

Councilor Coen shared his feeling that this resolution doesn't really do anything and suggested that the focus be on how to get residents and businesses to change. Councilor Coen also suggested that the Energy & Environment Committee could have done much more over the last 10 years towards reaching their goal of 100% renewable energy.

In response to the lengthy discussion, Councilor Werner stated that in order to transition to renewable energy, the City needs to have a plan in place, which will require stakeholder input. He also stated that the Energy & Environment Committee is determined to have this plan be actionable.

FPAC members asked Councilor Werner to make more revisions to the resolution before putting it back before City Council in July. Specifically, FPAC members asked Councilor Werner to better define renewable energy. They also suggested that the resolution be simplified - with a simple statement of the goal to be reached - and bring a plan forward later. Chairman Nyhan requested parameters from Councilor Werner, i.e., how much staff time and consulting time will be required, and how much will it cost. FPAC also requested that Councilor Werner get feedback from the Conservation Commission, prior to the July City Council meeting.

5. Other

There was no other business discussed.

6. Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. A unanimous vote brought the meeting to an end at 6:00 PM.