

Desert Community Energy Board
Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2021
2:30 pm



Held via Zoom videoconference

The audio file for this meeting can be found at: <http://www.desertcommunityenergy.org>

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the DCE Board was called to order by Chair Geoff Kors, City of Palm Springs, at 2:31 p.m. via Zoom videoconferencing, which was pursuant to Gov. Newsom's executive order governing how meetings are held during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken, and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Members Present

Councilmember Geoff Kors, Chair
Mayor Raymond Gregory
Councilmember Sabby Jonathan, Vice Chair

Agency

City of Palm Springs
City of Cathedral City
City of Palm Desert

DCE Staff & Consultants

Katie Barrows
Benjamin Druyon
Valdemar Galeana
Trisha Stull
Erica Felci
Joanna Stueckle
Peter Satin
Jaclyn Harr
Don Dame

The Energy Authority
DCE Consultant

Others Present

David Freedman
Kim Floyd
Shelley Kaplan
Councilmember Rita Lamb
Charlie McClendon
Lindsey Busk

Community Advisory Committee
Community Advisory Committee
Community Advisory Committee
City of Cathedral City
City of Cathedral City

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

4. BOARD MEMBER / DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Katie Barrows shared photos of solar + storage projects, which had been requested by Board members at a recent meeting.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Approve Minutes from Board Meeting of February 23, 2021**
- B. Approve DCE Policy 2021-01 outlining the Net Energy Metering program for DCE customers with onsite solar or other renewable generation systems**

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER JONATHAN AND SECONDED BY MAYOR GREGORY TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR, WITH MAYOR GREGORY ABSTAINING FROM ITEM 5A.

THE MOTION ON ITEM 5A CARRIED WITH 2 AYES AND 1 ABSTENTION.

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| Mayor Gregory | Abstain |
| Councilmember Jonathan | Aye |
| Councilmember Kors | Aye |

THE MOTION ON ITEM 5B CARRIED WITH 3 AYES.

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| Mayor Gregory | Aye |
| Councilmember Jonathan | Aye |
| Councilmember Kors | Aye |

6. DISCUSSION / ACTION

- A. Presentation of DCE’s Quarterly Financial Report – Jaclyn Harr, The Energy Authority**

Jaclyn Harr, of The Energy Authority, shared updated financial forecasts and possible actions for the Board to consider. Member discussion ensued.

No action was taken as this was an informational item.

- B. Credit Agreement with River City Bank – Valdemar Galeana**

Valdemar Galeana described the terms of the proposed line of credit to provide short-term capital. Member discussion ensued, and members expressed an interest in exploring transfers between DCE’s own accounts in the future.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER JONATHAN AND SECONDED BY MAYOR GREGORY TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2021-02, GRANTING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AUTHORITY, IN CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL, TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE A CREDIT AGREEMENT WITH RIVER CITY BANK FOR \$2 MILLION LINE OF CREDIT TO ADDRESS SHORT-TERM WORKING CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS, AND ALSO TO DIRECT STAFF TO EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF INTERDEPARTMENT TRANSFERS TO INCREASE WORKING CAPITAL.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 3 AYES.

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| Mayor Gregory | Aye |
| Councilmember Jonathan | Aye |
| Councilmember Kors | Aye |

- C. Revisions to Existing Agreement Regarding DCE’s Credit Banking – Katie Barrows**

Katie Barrows presented the staff report, which outlined adjustments needed on the existing TEA contract to meet River City Bank’s credit agreement terms.

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR GREGORY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER JONATHAN TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIR TO EXECUTE AMENDMENTS TO THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT, TASK ORDER 2 WITH THE ENERGY AUTHORITY (TEA), AND TO THE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT CONTROL AGREEMENT BETWEEN TEA AND RIVER CITY BANK.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 3 AYES.

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| Mayor Gregory | Aye |
| Councilmember Jonathan | Aye |
| Councilmember Kors | Aye |

D. March 2021 Rate Adjustment

Don Dame, DCE Energy Consultant, described changes to be made to Desert Saver rates due to changes in SCE's rates based on Board policies. Member discussion ensued.

No action was taken as this was an informational item.

E. Carbon Free Subsidy for Low-Income Customers

Katie Barrows briefly reviewed the financial impact of subsidy options. Member discussion ensued. Chair Kors indicated an interest in bringing this item back to the Palm Springs City Council for additional input.

DCE staff indicated it would work with the City of Palm Springs before bringing the item back to the Board for action.

F. Bill Assistance Program for DCE Customers Impacted by COVID-19

Katie Barrows noted that, amid the ongoing pandemic and resulting economic conditions, there has been an increase in delinquent customers. Ms. Barrows outlined the proposed bill assistance program. Member discussion ensued.

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR GREGORY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER JONATHAN TO AUTHORIZE A BILL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR RESIDENTIAL AND NON-RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS IMPACTED BY COVID-19, SUBJECT TO THE SPECIFIED PROGRAM CRITERIA, AND APPROVE A BUDGET REALLOCATION FOR \$70,000, CONTINGENT ON SUPPORT OF THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, WITH ALL EXPENSES ALLOCATED TO THE PALM SPRINGS FUND IN THE DCE BUDGET.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 3 AYES.

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| Mayor Gregory | Aye |
| Councilmember Jonathan | Aye |
| Councilmember Kors | Aye |

7. INFORMATION

The following items were put in the agenda packet for members' information :

- A. Attendance Record**
- B. Unaudited Financial Report for July 1 to January 31, 2021**
- C. Unaudited Financial Report for July 1 to February 28, 2021**
- D. Update on DCE Program Activities**

8. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Kim Floyd outlined the legislative advocacy work by the Sierra Club and thanked the DCE Board for their efforts. Councilmember Jonathan suggested the Board be provided an update at an upcoming meeting.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next DCE meeting will be held April 19, 2021 at 2:30 p.m. via Zoom webinar.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Trisha Stull