**The City of Provo**

**Department of Energy**

**Minutes of the Provo City Energy Board Meeting**

**November 6, 2023**

**City Staff & Administration**

Travis Ball

Charlie Little

Jenna Li

Becky Hunt

**Energy Board Members**

Gary Winterton

Ned Hill

Julie Rash

Erin Hernandez

Carol-Lyn Jardine

Cheryl Taylor

Julie Radle

**Municipal Council & Staff**

Shannon Ellsworth

Tad Smallcomb

Matt Griffiths

Chaz Addis

**Welcome & Introduction**

Chairman Gary Winterton conducted the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes**

Erin Hernandez motioned to approve the minutes from October 2, 2023; Julie Rash seconded, all approved. (4:0)

Board members in attendance: Gary Winterton, Julie Radle, Julie Rash, Erin Hernandez, Ned Hill

**Financial Report**

Charlie Little gave the financial report from August 2023 through September 2023.

Provo Power has had $4 million less in electricity costs than last year due to refunds in the first three months of the fiscal year. This financial boost will be used to prepare to build a power plant and other capital projects in the future. This will benefit the citizens of Provo because Provo Power won’t have to borrow as much money to fund this expensive project. This power plant will allow Provo to be less dependent on the market and move towards cleaner energy.

Charlie reported on Provo City’s financial chargeback charges. The finance department has charged the entire years’ worth of chargebacks at one time. This has caused our finances to be slightly skewed and will result in us losing interest on our loans to the city. Luckily, we had a good year and can still float despite the $200,000 that we will not be making from that interest.

**KPI Report**

Charlie Little presented the KPI report from July 2023 to September 2023. Provo Power received a $2.6 million refund from so many off-system sales from UMPA. Additionally, our load factors were consistent for summer months and still in the margin of 65%.

The CAIDI is particularly low due to a very large outage that took place in September. Most of North Provo lost power. However, we were able to restore power to the entire area in about ten minutes. This data significantly lowered the average for September.

**Forestry Report**

Chaz Addis reported on the state of utility and city forestry. In the past year, the tree replacement program has been updated. In the past, when the forestry crew took out a tree on a customer’s property that is threatening power lines, the customer would receive a $50 gift certificate to replace the tree. However, now the forestry department can give them a gift certificate for the entire cost of a tree (approximately $130).

Tree limbs are typically one of the highest causes of power outages, however, Chaz reported that for this fiscal year, we have only seen four tree caused outages. Due to last year’s major winter weather, Chaz restructured the utility and forestry divisions of the city to make the forestry division more efficient and reliable for the customers.

This year marks Provo’s 27th consecutive year as a Tree Line USA, which is like Tree City USA, but for utility companies. This makes Provo the longest running utility company in the State of Utah to receive the award. Additionally, Provo is also celebrating its 39th year as Tree City USA. Last year, the forestry program gave out 500 trees, spent $34,000 on tree stock, and gave out planting information along with the trees to ensure health of the trees through the NatureShade program. These trees are meant to help preserve energy, cool the city, and beautify Provo in the future. Last year, Provo Forestry also planted 492 new trees, gave out $3,412 for new trees, pruned 800 trees around roadway, sidewalk, and roadway clearance, and removed 142 dead or hazardous trees.

This year, Provo City Forestry received a $370,000 grant to plant trees in underserved areas of the city. They have three years to use the funding. Chaz has allocated that some of the funds will also be used for drought tolerant grass seed, high efficiency sprinkler nozzles, smart controller incentives, and a demonstration garden to show what can be done under powerlines that will be low maintenance, efficient for the city, and beautiful.

**Manager Report**

Gary Winterton thanked Provo Power for the Public Power Fair in October. Almost 1000 people attended.

Travis Ball reported on possible electric vehicle charging rates. In the past few years, many consumers have purchased electric vehicles and need places to charge their vehicles as they travel around Provo or just stop in. While many residents enjoy charging their EVs on their own property, there is also a demand for chargers to be available in public places. In order to encourage businesses to place EV charging stations in Provo, Travis proposed a rate that applies only to commercial EV charging stations. These charges would consist of $30.76/month (same for all commercial accounts) and .36/kWh for on-peak charging and $.12/kWh for off-peak charging. These new rates will be more affordable for businesses than the current rate with no effect on the cost for consumers.

Erin Hernandez motioned to take these rates to Provo City Council for approval; seconded by Julie Rash, all approved. (5:0)

Travis also reported that Provo Power recently applied for a grant to place fast chargers near Provo Mall. We will hear back about the grant in January 2024.

**Calendaring and Scheduling**

Next meeting: January 8, 2024 (will have public meeting training)

New calendar approved for 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 5:22 pm