

Woonsocket City Council Renewable Energy Sub-Committee

Meeting Minutes of 9 October 2018

The Woonsocket City Council Renewable Energy Sub-Committee convened a meeting in the Second Floor Conference Room at City Hall at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, October 9, 2018.

Sub-Committee members Jon Brien, Christopher Beauchamp and James Cournoyer were present. Chairman Brien presided over the meeting.

Also present: Director of Public Works, Mr. Steven D'Agostino, along with the following members of the Narragansett Bay Commission ("NBC") – Thomas P. Uva, Director of Environmental Science and Compliance; James McCaughey, Environmental, Safety and Technical Assistance Manager; Barry Wenskowicz, Sustainability Engineer.

Presentation by the Narragansett Bay Commission regarding the analysis of the City's Request For Proposal (RFP) and the responses received in connection with the RFP for renewable energy projects, and a recommendation based on that analysis.

In light of the fact that the City of Woonsocket and its staff has no experience with renewable energy RFPs / projects, coupled with the fact that NBC has significant experience with renewable energy projects and related RFPs, along with staff resources that are familiar with and fluent in renewable energy matters, the City, pursuant to City Council Resolution 18R79, which was passed unanimously by the Woonsocket City Council on 2 July 2018, requested the NBC to, at no cost to the City, provide an initial analysis of the seven renewable energy RFPs that were received by the City pursuant to RFP #5849 and to provide their initial observations and any recommendations they deemed appropriate. In connection with this request, the NBC provided the City with a written report via a memorandum dated 25 September 2018 wherein they summarized their analysis, findings, observations and recommendations.

The NBC staff provided the Committee an overview of their 25 September 2018 memorandum and answered related questions. It was noted that several addendums had been issued against the original RFP, including, but not limited to, the elimination of the requirement to have delivered a projected of at least 1MW AC in the State of RI –

that is, the RFP was amended to include *any* state, not just RI. It was further noted and acknowledged that the NBC staff had not been provided with the updated addendums, thus some of their analysis was no longer current.

The Committee reviewed the memorandum and asked a number of clarifying questions. Based on the information that was provided to NBC, along with their analysis of such information, NBC concluded that three respondents – Green Development LLC, Southern Sky Renewable Energy RI and Kearsarge Energy – were compliant with the RFP, however, due to the amendments that NBC was not made aware of at the time of their analysis, it was agreed that some of the other respondents were in fact compliant. NBC further concluded that Green Development *“provided the highest discount rate, the best financial package...”* and that Green Development *“has the most megawatts of renewable energy already operating in Rhode Island”*.

Notwithstanding their observations re Green Development LLC, NBC recommended *“that the City interview the potential proposers to hear their proposals and discuss the Power Purchase Agreement contract issues to ensure a Net Meter Credit agreement that is most advantageous to the City is realized.”* Further, NBC *“recommends that the City engage outside renewable energy professionals and outside legal counsel with expertise in renewable energy”* at the appropriate time.

Vote on whether or not to recommend to the City Council that it authorize and instruct the Administration to move forward with a renewable energy project.

The Committee discussed the attributes of each of the RFP respondents, after which it was decided to entertain a motion to recommend to the full Council as a Whole that the City down-select to four of the seven respondents and have each of the four make a 30-minute presentation to the entire City Council and Administration. The Committee concluded that the following four respondents would be recommended for further review – Southern Sky Renewable Energy RI; Green Development LLC; Ameresco and Kearsarge Energy. The remaining three respondents – Solar Micronics out of Illinois, SOLSYSTEMS out of Delaware, and CORE out of New Jersey – were rejected for a variety of reasons, including, but not limited to the fact that all three were located outside of New England, which was deemed by the Committee to be a potential detriment with

respect to dealing with National Grid, as well as with dealing with state and local regulations.

Committee member Brien made a motion to recommend to the City Council as a Whole that a Work Session be held wherein a presentation of their proposals would be made by each of Southern Sky Renewable Energy RI, Green Development LLC, Ameresco and Kearsage Energy. Committee member Beauchamp seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a 3-0 vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.