



## **Atlantic City Alternative Energy Task Force**

# **MINUTES**

**Date: October 15, 2009**

**Time: 11:00 am**

**Location: Mayor's Conference Room – 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, City Hall**

**In attendance:**

Honorable G. Bruce Ward, Chairman

Andrew Weber, Esq., Stradley Ronon et al

Michael Scott, Business Administrator

William Crane, Director of Planning

Edward Lax, Aide to Councilman Schultz

Dennis Weiss, Stockton College

Keith Eric Groff, Photovoltaic Consultant

Richard Perniciaro, Atlantic Cape Community College

Katie Vesey, Atlantic County Utilities Authority

Paul Gallagher, Fisherman's Energy

The meeting was officially called to order by Councilman Ward at 11:10 am.

## **Welcome and Introduction**

Councilman Ward welcomed the Alternative Energy Task Force participants.

## **Progress Report/Collaborations**

Business Administrator Michael Scott provided an update and progress report. He informed the Task Force that the City is planning to partner with the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey to work on energy conservation and apply for grant funding for energy projects. Additionally, the City has received a grant totaling \$219,000 from the Federal Government. Stockton College will receive \$25,000 of this grant to prepare a strategy for our energy conversation program. Additional funds will be used to implement the program.

Projects include: the installation of solar panels on the roof of the Public Works Building, studying and measuring wind velocity, which is necessary to move forward for future grant funding; implementation of compactable trash receptacles called "Big Bellies" along the boardwalk, which are solar operated and will reduce the time it takes to empty trash receptacles by 66%.

New hi-tech parking meters with a solar component will soon be tested in an area near the Atlantic City Convention Center.

The City is also preparing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for electricity and gas, which the Business Administrator estimates will save the City 20% annually on its energy costs. Retrofitting is underway for lighting in City Hall and street lights are also being reviewed.

Mr. Scott said the City is looking forward to working with Stockton College, which is renowned for its expertise in the energy field.

Andy Weber indicated that a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and Stockton College will be presented to Council on October 21. The one-year agreement with Stockton will help identify and assess grant opportunities, assist in submitting applications for potential funding and allow the City to utilize Stockton's leading energy experts. Also, the City plans to work with the City of Pleasantville to jointly coordinate efforts. This will increase our opportunity to receive funds from the Federal Government.

The Atlantic County Utilities Authority (ACUA) will assist the City with developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Public Works Building.

Councilman Ward emphasized the importance of the Task Force being inclusive and inviting to others to help share ideas, as well as create partnerships which would facilitate alternative energy opportunities.

## **Report of Offshore Wind Assessment Project**

Paul Gallagher of Fisherman's Energy of New Jersey said his company is one of three (3) companies the Federal Government provided a lease to to build wind farms.

His company has been studying the bottom of the ocean and collecting necessary data. On November 9, the company plans to announce that it will construct a twenty (20) megawatt wind farm three (3) miles off of Steel Pier. Permits will be applied for next year, with the project built in 2011. Approximately 250 jobs will be created during construction and a crew of 25 will be needed to run the wind farm. The company may request the right to construct an underground horizontal bore on Tennessee Avenue from the City. Future wind farms are planned for 2014 or 2015 and 2016 or 2017. Mr. Gallagher indicated the Federal Government continues to delay rule making decisions relating to alternative energy and new, different and complex issues will take time to resolve. He emphasized the continued commitment of his investors to develop alternative energy projects and indicated that public sentiment for alternative energy is positive with recent survey results being 19 to 1 in favor of offshore wind farms.

### **Discussion**

Keith Eric Groff would like the City of Atlantic City to provide land to Stockton College to build a manufacturing complex for solar panels. Councilman Ward indicated that an important component of the BPU is public education and reminded the Task Force of the General Motors exhibit at Steel Pier. Councilman Ward also thanked the attendees for their continued cooperation and said he is excited about the potential of future projects. He also invited Mr. Gallagher to appear before the First Ward Civic Association to advise the community of his company's upcoming plans.

With no further business, Councilman Ward adjourned the meeting at 12:15 pm.

*Minutes respectively submitted by Edward Lax, Aide to Councilman Schultz, on October 16, 2009.*