

Athens City Environment and Sustainability Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday December 7th, 2022, 6:00 PM
Athens City Building
8 East Washington Street, 3rd Floor
Athens, OH 45701

1. Call to order—In absence of Chair Aimee Delach, Elaine Goetz called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM. Members present include Elaine Goetz, Sam Crowl, Jasmine Facun, Katelyn Rousch, Megan Westervelt, Sarah Conley-Bellew, Ed Newman, and new member Beth Clodfelter. Quorum was established. Members absent included Megan Almeida, and Paul Logue. Guests included Third Sun Solar representative Geoff Greenfield, Molly Jo Stanley, and Mayor Steve Patterson.

2. Disposition of Minutes—Crowl motioned to approve minutes for November as submitted. Clodfelter seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The motion was approved.

3. Next Meeting Date—January 4th, 2023.

4. Old Business

A. Green House Gas (GHG) Inventory—Conley-Bellew volunteered to reach out to Jon-Paul with Power a Clean Future Ohio to determine what methodology was used by the inventory so it can be replicated each year. Other members interested in learning more about the technicalities of doing the inventory were Rousch, Clodfelter, and Goetz. Patterson noted that the city has purchased renewable energy credits (RECs) to offset residential energy since 2016, and now also offsets all mercantile energy with RECs as well.

5. New Business

A. Third Sun Solar Presentation—Geoff Greenfield provided updates on upcoming solar installations around the community center and near the wastewater treatment plant. With help from a Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council (SOPEC) grant and the carbon fee program, the project transformer will be upgraded. The larger installation by the wastewater treatment plant will feature Hanwha Q polysilicon cells, which have already been acquired and are in storage, and is projected to offset 1834 metric tons of CO2 every year. Project construction is pending a few approvals and switchgear supply chain issues but should be completed in 2024.

6. Announcements and Updates

A. OhioHealth O'Bleness Hospital earned a superior energy performance ENERGY STAR certification.

7. Adjournment—Crowl motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:56. Facun seconded the motion. All members voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Katelyn Rousch.