THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: December 12, 2023

Subject: City of Asheville's formal intervention in the North Carolina Utilities Commission Docket E-100 Sub 190 of Duke Energy's Carbon Plan Integrated Resource Plan

Staff Resource(s): Bridget Herring, Sustainability Director

Action Requested: Adoption of resolution directing the City Attorney to formally intervene in the North Carolina Utilities Commission Docket E-100 Sub 190 of Duke Energy's Carbon Plan Integrated Resource Plan

Background:

- In 2016, the City Council adopted Resolution 16-64 which established a joint task force with Duke Energy and Buncombe County to collaborate on solutions to reduce energy consumption in the region and increase deployment of renewable energy.
- In 2018, the City Council adopted Resolution 18-279 establishing a 100% renewable energy goal for all municipal operations by 2030 and to support the County's communitywide goal by 2042.
- In 2023 the City Council adopted Resolution 23-70 adopting the Municipal Climate Action Plan which identifies engaging in state level and utility policy as a high impact activity.
- Session Law 2021-165, more commonly referred to as House Bill 951 required Duke Energy to develop a Carbon Plan outlining how utilities would achieve a 70% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by the year 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050 and to be updated every two years. The first Carbon Plan was developed in 2022.
- Every two years Duke Energy submits an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) to communicate strategies for delivering reliable electricity at the lowest cost (typically a 10 to 20 year horizon).
- In 2023 the North Carolina Utilities Commission approved Duke Energy's request to submit the Carbon Plan and Integrated Resource Plan at one time and it was named the Carbon Plan Integrated Resource Plan (CPIRP).
- The proposed CPIRP includes three pathways. All scenarios include a mix of electricity generated from both renewable and nonrenewable sources in 2030 thus the City will need to procure additional renewable energy to meet its 100% renewable energy goal by 2030.
- The North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC) hosts statutory reviews prior to approving carbon plans and integrated resource plans from utilities.
- To participate, the City must petition to become a formal intervenor by demonstrating they are a stakeholder in the proceeding.
- Intervention in the review allows the City to help shape the final CPIRP content, potentially accelerating the transition to renewable energy in our utility territory.
- NCUC tends to give greater weight to public comments provided through this more formal intervention process, so the City's participation is critical to advance efficiency and renewable generation strategies aligned with our policies.
- This is an opportunity to strengthen and highlight the success of the current partnership with Duke Energy and advocate for affordable, renewable electricity.
- The City will partner with Buncombe County to provide consistent and coordinated comments on behalf of both the City of Asheville and Buncombe County.
- If approved, this intervention will be the third time the City has officially intervened in a docket at the NCUC. The City's comments continue to be reflected in Duke's continual plan development.

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- Not applicable

Council Goal(s):

- Equitable and Diverse Community
- A Clean and Healthy Environment

Committee(s):

- Environment and Safety, November 28, 2023 - 3-0 to approve and move forward to City Council

Pro(s):

- Supports Resolution 17-104 Encouraging a State Goal of 100% Renewable Energy by 2050
- Supports Resolution 18-279 Establishing a 100% Renewable Energy Goal
- Supports Resolution 20-25 Declaration of a Climate Emergency
- Action prioritized in Moving to 100% Renewable Energy Roadmap
- Action prioritized in the Municipal Climate Action Plan

Con(s):

- This will consume staff time to file the petition to intervene, draft comments, and monitor the docket

Fiscal Impact:

- This action requires no City resources and has no fiscal impact.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt a resolution directing the City Attorney to formally intervene in the North Carolina Utilities Commission Docket E-100 Sub 190 of Duke Energy's Carbon Plan Integrated Resource Plan

Attachment(s)

- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 23-____

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO FORMALLY INTERVENE IN THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION DOCKET E-100 SUB 190 OF DUKE ENERGY'S CARBON PLAN INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville adopted a resolution to reduce municipal carbon emissions by 80% by 2030 on April 12, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville adopted a resolution supporting a Clean Energy Economy on October 22, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville adopted a resolution on October 23, 2018 establishing a 100% Renewable Energy Goal for municipal operations and support Buncombe County's 100% Renewable Energy Community-wide Goal; and

WHEREAS, engaging on utility level policies at the North Carolina Utilities Commission was prioritized as a strategy in *Moving to 100 Percent: Renewable Energy Transition Pathways Analysis for Buncombe County and the City of Asheville*; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville adopted a resolution on January 28, 2020 declaring a climate emergency and committed to an equitable and just citywide mobilization effort to reverse global warming that, if met with all necessary financial and regulatory assistance and authorization from State and Federal authorities, would end citywide greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible and no later than 2030; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville adopted a resolution on March 28, 2023 to adopt the Municipal Climate Action Plan as the plan for sustainability goals and initiatives and that plan identifies engagement in state level and utility policies as a high impact activity; and

WHEREAS, intervention will give the City an opportunity to comment on the Carbon Plan Integrated Resource Plan and advocate for renewable energy and promote the success of the existing partnership efforts with Duke Energy and Buncombe County through the Blue Horizons Project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

The City Attorney, is hereby authorized to formally intervene in the North Carolina Utilities Commission Docket E-100 Sub 190 of Duke Energy's Carbon Plan Integrated Resource Plan in order to provide comment from the sustainability staff regarding the City's renewable energy goals as they relate to the Carbon Plan Integrated Resource Plan; and the City Manager is authorized to execute any and all documents necessary in order to give effect to this resolution.

Read, approved, and adopted this the 12th day of December 2023.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney