THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: June 14, 2022

Subject: City of Asheville's formal intervention in the North Carolina Utilities Commission Docket E-100 Sub 179 of Duke Energy's Carbon Plan

Staff Resource(s): Bridget Herring, Sustainability Director

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution directing the City Attorney to formally intervene in the North Carolina Utilities Commission Docket E-100 Sub 179 of Duke Energy's Carbon 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.
- Session Law 2021-165, more commonly referred to as House Bill 951 required Duke Energy to develop a Carbon Plan no later than December 31, 2022, outlining how utilities would achieve a 70% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by the year 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050.
- The Carbon Plan was submitted by Duke to the NCUC on May 16, 2022, following three stakeholder engagement sessions in which the city staff participated.
- The Carbon Plan modeled four scenarios. The most aggressive scenario still includes 5.8 gigawatts (GW) of electricity from non-renewable sources (nuclear and natural gas) in 2030.
- This means that the City would need to procure additional renewable energy to meet its 100% renewable energy goal by 2030.
- The NCUC hosts statutory reviews prior to approving carbon 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 process and the final Carbon Plan 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.
- The City of Asheville's Moving to 100% - Renewable Energy Transition Pathways Analysis identifies the need to participate in State and Utility actions to achieve the City's renewable energy goals.
- This is an opportunity to highlight the success of the current partnership with Duke Energy and advocate for affordable, renewable electricity.
- If approved, this intervention will be the second time the City has officially intervened in a docket at the NCUC.
- The first time was in 2021 on the 2020 Integrated Resource Plan, that docket concluded in the NCUC providing guidance on what to include in the Carbon Plan which included several recommendations from the City's comments.

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- Not applicable

Council Goal(s):

- Equitable and Diverse Community
- A Clean and Healthy Environment

Committee(s):

- None

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

Con(s):

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

Fiscal Impact:

- None anticipated

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt a resolution directing the City Attorney to formally intervene in the North Carolina Utilities Commission Docket E-100 Sub 179 of Duke Energy's Carbon Plan

Attachment(s)

- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 22-____

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO FORMALLY INTERVENE IN THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION DOCKET E-100 SUB 179 OF DUKE ENERGY'S CARBON 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 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 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, intervention will give the City an opportunity to comment on the Carbon 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 179 of Duke Energy's Carbon Plan in order to provide comment from the sustainability staff regarding the City's renewable energy goals as they relate to the Carbon 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 14th day of June 2022.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney