THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: November 10, 2020

Subject: City of Asheville's formal intervention in the North Carolina Utilities Commission Docket E-100 Sub 165 of Duke Energy's 2020 Integrated Resource Plan

Staff Resource(s): Amber Weaver, Sustainability Officer, Office of Sustainability
Bridget Herring, Energy Program Coordinator, Office of Sustainability

Action Requested: Adoption of resolution authorizing the City Attorney to formally intervene in the North Carolina Utilities Commission Docket E-100 Sub 165 of Duke Energy's 2020 Integrated Resource Plan if deemed appropriate by City staff.

Background:

- 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).
- This is the first IRP that has been published since the City adopted a 100% renewable energy goal.
- The IRP models potential pathways to accelerate renewable energy deployment but reform of state policy is required. This is an opportunity to advocate for such reform.
- The North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC) hosts statutory IRP reviews for approval.
- To participate, the City must petition to become a formal intervenor by demonstrating standing.
- Intervention in the review allows the City to help shape the process and the final IRP 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.
- Sustainability staff have conferred with the City's Legal Department regarding filing an intervention petition and have determined that Legal has the ability to assist.
- City staff will continue to review the IRP with Duke Energy to determine if it is appropriate to file the petition.

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 for the City of Asheville.
- Supports Resolution 16-64 Establishing the Energy Innovation Task Force which is an on-going partnership between Buncombe County, City of Asheville and Duke Energy Progress for the

purpose of researching, prioritizing, recommending and implementing recommendations to create renewable energy opportunities.
- Supports Resolution 20-18 Establishing the Creation of the Blue Horizons Community Council.
- Intervention will give the City an opportunity to promote the success of the existing partnership efforts with Duke Energy and Buncombe County through the Blue Horizons Project and Climate Collaborative.
- Action prioritized in Moving to 100% Renewable Energy Roadmap.
- The City is benefiting from free technical assistance from the Rocky Mountain Institute that will ensure the City's comments advocate for policies and practices that align with our renewable energy goal.
- The Rocky Mountain Institute is a nonprofit that engages businesses, communities, institutions, and entrepreneurs to accelerate the adoption of market-based solutions that cost-effectively shift from fossil fuels to efficiency and renewables.

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 authorizing the City Attorney to formally intervene in the North Carolina Utilities Commission Docket E-100 Sub 165 of Duke Energy's 2020 Integrated Resource Plan if deemed appropriate by City staff.

Attachment(s)
- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 20-____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO FORMALLY INTERVENE IN THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION DOCKET E-100 SUB 165 OF DUKE ENERGY'S 2020 INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN ("IRP")

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, this is the first IRP that has been published since the City adopted its 100% renewable energy 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 GHG emissions as quickly as possible and no later than 2030; and

WHEREAS, intervention will give the City an opportunity to comment on the 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 165 of Duke Energy's 2020 Integrated Resource Plan ("IRP") in order to provide comment from the Sustainability Staff regarding the City's renewable energy goals as they relate to the IRP; 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 10th day of November 2020.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney