



City of Avondale

Energy, Environment and Natural
Resources Commission



[Link to Summary of Actions](#)



[Link to Meeting Minutes](#)



**The Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Commission
Online Meeting**

Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 6:30 P.M.

Summary of Actions

- 1. Roll Call by Staff Liaison at 6:30 PM**
- 2. Introduction of New Member, Alejandro Arreguin**
- 3. Unscheduled Public Appearances – None**
- 4. Approval of September 23, 2020 Minutes (For Action) – Approved**
- 5. Approval of October 21, 2020 Work Session Minutes (For Action) – Approved**
- 6. Election of Chair and Vice Chair (For Action) – Elected**
- 7. Review and Approval of 2021 Annual Goals (For Action) – Approved as amended**
- 8. Update from Sustainability Officer**
- 9. Discussion of Future Agenda Items**
- 10. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM**

Members will attend either in person or by telephone conference call.

Los miembros asistirán en persona o vía teleconferencia.

Individuals with special accessibility needs, including sight or hearing impaired, large print, or interpreter, should contact the City Clerk at 623-333-1200 or TDD 623-333-0010 at least two business days prior to the meeting.

Personas con necesidades especiales de accesibilidad, incluyendo personas con impedimentos de vista u oído, o con necesidad de impresión grande o intérprete, deben comunicarse con la Secretaría de la Ciudad al 623-333-1200 o TDD 623-333-0010 cuando menos dos días hábiles antes de la junta.



**The Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Commission
Online Meeting via Zoom
Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 6:30 P.M.**

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM.

1. Roll Call by Staff Liaison

Commissioners Present: Chair Litzy Hernandez, Paul Lemmon, Billy Vaughan, Bernadette Barba, Daniel Schuh, Thomas Albrigo, and Alejandro Arreguin.

Commissioners Absent: Elizabeth Valencia (excused), Kim Avila (excused), Vice Chair Rebecca Forstner, and Ariel Gomez

Other Municipal Officials Present: Danae Presler, Sustainability Officer

2. Introduction of New Member, Alejandro Arreguin

The Commission welcomed new Member Alejandro Arreguin and Commissioners and staff members introduced themselves.

3. Unscheduled Public Appearances

None.

4. Approval of September 23, 2020 Minutes (For Action)

Motion was made by Commissioner Vaughan, seconded by Commissioner Lemmon, to approve the September 23, 2020 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Approval of October 21, 2020 Work Session Minutes (For Action)

Motion was made by Commissioner Lemmon, seconded by Commissioner Schuh, to approve the October 21, 2020 Work Session Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Election of Chair and Vice Chair (For Action)

Commissioner Lemmon nominated Commissioner Vaughan to serve as Chair. No other nominations for Chair were received.

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Commissioner Lemmon self-nominated to serve as Vice Chair. No other nominations for Vice Chair were received.

Chair Hernandez moved to appoint Commissioner Vaughan as Chair and Commissioner Lemmon as Vice Chair. Commissioner Schuh seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Review and Approval of 2021 Annual Goals (For Action)

Danae Presler, Sustainability Officer, displayed the EENRC 2021 Draft Goals for the Commission to review and discuss. The Draft 2021 Goals were developed during the EENRC Work Session of October 21, 2020.

Commissioner Schuh voiced his support for the proposed goals. Chair Hernandez and Commissioner Vaughan agreed.

Ms. Presler shared that Commissioner Avila, who was unable to attend the meeting, emailed in advance that she was in support of the goals as drafted.

Commissioner Barba inquired about a timeline to execute the goals and track progress.

Commissioner Vaughan suggested that the Commission consider subcommittees for some of the goals.

Ms. Presler reviewed the anticipated completion date associated with each goal and noted which corresponded to the EENRC Regular Meeting schedule and which would involve additional meetings or activities.

Commissioner Albrigo noted that the goals did not include oversight of the Municipal Sustainability Plan nor any goal pertaining to water. Commissioner Albrigo requested the draft goal, "Provide input to city staff on General Plan Update Sustainable Development Theme" be amended to include "and support Municipal Sustainability Plan and oversight."

Commissioner Vaughan agreed that it is important to consider water and suggested it could be included in the campaign the EENRC plans to launch in Fall 2021.

Commissioner Lemmon voiced his interest in hearing from the City's recycling staff regarding potential changes with the expiration of the City's current contract. Ms. Presler will arrange for the EENRC to receive a presentation on the topic.

Motion was made by Commissioner Vaughan, seconded by Commissioner Schuh, to approve the 2021 Goals as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Update from Sustainability Officer

Ms. Presler provided the following updates:

City of Avondale's Draft Strategic Plan

- The Draft Plan was presented to City Council last week and is under their review.
- Input from a virtual Community Summit and review by City Council and City Manager's Office led to adding two new strategic outcomes, including one on Natural Resources and Open Spaces. Sustainability remains a key part of Avondale's Draft Strategic Plan.
- Ms. Presler will share the document with the EENRC following the meeting.

Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

- Ms. Presler shared results of the Community-wide Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory conducted by Maricopa County Air Quality Department in the most recent edition of the RAVE Magazine.

Electric Vehicle Efforts

- The public EV charging station at the Civic Center Library has been well-received and is being increasingly used by EV drivers.
- The City is working with utility service providers to install more EV charging stations at City facilities for the public to use.
- The Zoning Ordinance has been revised to include standards for EV charging stations for new construction.
- A fee structure for using the EV charging stations is being proposed to encourage proper use of the charging stations and recover a portion of the cost of providing the service.
- EV Roadmap is being developed and will include plans for fleet electrification, expanding charging infrastructure, modernizing City Building Codes and Zoning Ordinance, and raising awareness of electric vehicle benefits.

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Energy Benchmarking

- Development and Engineering Services and Facilities staff are working with a team of graduate and undergraduate students from ASU and University of Chicago to help benchmark the City's facilities in terms of energy use.

Green Business Program

- Sustainability Office has partnered with Economic Development to promote the Green Business Program through the Local EDGE initiative.
- There are currently 20 Certified Green Businesses.
- Businesses will be recognized at the State of the City event on March 4, 2021.

River Revitalization

- City staff is working with partners to develop a cleanup plan for Tres Rios area.
- Brownfields Assessment Grant is underway.
- The Lower Gila River Collaborative is holding a Full Partner Meeting on January 28, 2021.

9. Discussion of Future Agenda Items

Chair Hernandez invited suggestions on future agenda items.

Commissioner Vaughan requested a presentation on the General Plan Update from planning staff and including Youth Engagement as a topic for the Regular Meeting in March to align with the adopted goals.

Chair Hernandez noted that Global Youth Service Day is in April and offered to help promote youth participation in sustainability efforts through her connections with ASU.

Commissioner Lemmon inquired how the water will be used for the planned water feature at the "Blvd" development and questioned if this was the best use of water.

Commissioner Barba inquired how much water the City uses on water features in general and where the water is coming from.

Ms. Presler will bring Commissioners Lemmon and Barba's questions to City staff and follow-up by email with a response.

The next Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Commission Regular Meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2021 at 6:30 P.M.

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10. Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Lemmon, seconded by Commissioner Vaughan, to adjourn the meeting.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 7:25 P.M.


Chair Lizzy Hernandez
Danae Presler
Sustainability Officer as Staff Liaison

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the meeting held on the 27th day of January 2021. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that the quorum was present.


Danae Presler
Sustainability Officer as Staff Liaison