

CITY OF COUNTRYSIDE

*803 Joliet Road
Countryside, IL 60525
www.countryside-il.org*



Meeting Minutes SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Monday, January 30, 2023

5:15 PM

Council Chambers

Committee Members

Chairman Musillami

Alderman Finn

Alderman Mikolyzk

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Sustainability Committee meeting was called to order at 5:15 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Chairman Musillami, Alderman Finn, Alderman Mikolyzk

Also Present: Mayor McDermott, City Administrator Paul and Assistant City Administrator Peterson

3. COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC.

None.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE October 26, 2022 SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING.

4.a. The minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 26, 2022 were previously distributed to the members of the Sustainability Committee.

Alderman Mikolyzk made a motion to approve the minutes of the Sustainability Committee meeting of October 26, 2022. The motion was seconded by Alderman Finn and carried unanimously.

5. BUSINESS FROM THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE FOR DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND IF SO DETERMINED, ACTION UPON:**5.a. Presentation by Solstice Regarding Community Solar Energy.**

City Administrator Paul stated that Prashanth "Sid" Siddalingaiah reached out to Mayor McDermott and her regarding the program Illinois Solar for All. This program would provide qualified households up to 50% savings on the supply portion of their energy bills. Ms. Paul introduced Mr. Siddalingaiah and John Kelly to the Committee.

The Illinois Solar for All Program is 100% dedicated for low to moderate income residents. The definition of low to moderate income is an annual household income of less than \$58,000 a year. Families or individuals that fall under this threshold would be eligible to participate in this program. Those who participate in this program will get up to 50% off the supply portion of their electric bill, which equals about 25% off their total electric bill. Most people aren't able to have solar panels installed on their roof tops, or people live in condos or apartments and can't have solar panels installed either. With this program, a solar energy project gets built near the community, and renters and homeowners subscribe to a part of the farm that matches their energy use. The energy

is piped out from the solar farm to ComEd and that is how the residents are able to use it.

Chairman Musillami inquired about the sign up process and commitment. Mr. Siddalingaiah stated that it is very easy to sign up, it takes about ten minutes, and it is a part of your electricity bill. The entire program is funded by federal tax credits as well as the Illinois Shines Program, so there are both federal and state subsidies that go on the program. The participants will always get a discount no matter if the ComEd rate goes up or down. The contract the individual signs is for 15 years. Chairman Musillami asked how it is handled if you don't fall into the low to moderate income bracket. Mr. Siddalingaiah stated that they wouldn't be eligible for the program and would have to participate in a mass market program; however, there aren't any of these programs available right now.

Alderman Mikolyzk asked how would people prove that they fall into this income bracket. Mr. Siddalingaiah said that there is a map that indicates where individuals live who fall in this income bracket. They would also check the census tracts; however, if you don't live in the areas identified, and you fall into this income bracket, you would need to provide tax paperwork that shows your yearly income. A question came up regarding the 15 year commitment; what happens if a renter moves out during the 15 year timeframe. The contract is for 15 years and the 15 years guarantees the discount, but the resident can cancel at any time.

Solstice is looking for the City to put information in our newsletter, and other ways to get the information out to members of the community. Assistant Administrator Peterson suggested that they attend the Ideal Park Wellness/Neighborhood Festival in August. This event has a resource fair with booths set up. Solstice could have a booth and promote the program to the residents at this event. Ms. Peterson will get information about the special event to Mr. Siddalingaiah. Mr. Siddalingaiah went on to say that if Countryside would provide them with their logo they could use that on any promotional material and if the Mayor would draft a letter to go along with the promotional material, that would be helpful as well. Mr. Siddalingaiah will get everything about the program to City Administrator Paul.

5.b. Review of Sustainable Initiatives Completed in 2022.

City Administrator Paul stated that the Sustainability Committee is required to meet every January to review the progress of the Sustainability Initiatives that were set. The initiatives are listed as 6 month, 12 month and 18 months. The tier 1 items have all been met, most of the tier 2 items have been met, there are a few that still need to be worked on, and the tier 3 items will carry over into this year, because they are to be achieved in 18 months. Chairman Musillami thanked Ms. Paul for the work that everyone has done on these items.

5.c. Review Sustainable Initiatives Set for the Next 18 Months.

Assistant City Administrator Peterson reviewed the Sustainable Initiatives that are set to be completed in the next 18 months. Tier 1 is 6 months, Tier 2 is 12 months and Tier 3 is 18 months. This will be an ongoing effort as the year moves forward. Alderman Finn commented that with the Golf Course, there are a lot of areas for the Golf Course to be greener; for example, there should be more recycling bins out to collect recyclable items around the course. They should also look into purchasing biodegradable cups and items like that.

5.d. Update on EV Readiness Program Cohort.

Assistant City Administrator Peterson updated the Committee on the EV Readiness Program Cohort. The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus was assembling cohorts of municipalities to participate and earn the designation of being an “EV Ready Community.” The City was notified that we will be participating in the second cohort which will begin in the late summer/early fall.

6. OTHER COMMITTEE BUSINESS

None.

7. ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Musillami asked for a motion. A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Finn, seconded by Alderman Mikolyzk and carried unanimously.

Chairman Musillami declared the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVED:

Respectfully Submitted,

Chairman, Scott Musillami

/sp