

City of Gainesville

City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601



Minutes - Draft

November 18, 2019

3:00 PM

City Commission Workshop

Gainesville Regional Utilities Multi-Purpose Room

City Commission

Mayor Lauren Poe (At Large)
Commissioner Helen Warren (At Large)
Commissioner Gail Johnson (At Large)
Commissioner Gigi Simmons (District 1)
Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Harvey Ward (District 2)
Commissioner David Arreola (District 3)
Commissioner Adrian Hayes-Santos (District 4)

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CALL TO ORDER - 3:04 PM

AGENDA STATEMENT

ROLL CALL

Present 7 - Commissioner Arreola, Commissioner Warren, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Hayes-Santos, Mayor Poe, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Ward

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Warren, seconded by Commissioner Hayes-Santos, that this Matter be Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Commissioner Arreola, Commissioner Warren, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Hayes-Santos, Mayor Poe, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Ward

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Simmons

BUSINESS DISCUSSION ITEMS

[190639.](#) GRU Solar Status Update (B)

Mayor Poe gave opening remarks.

Chuck Heidt, GRU Project Engineer gave a presentation, "Here Comes the Sun" on the Solar ITN. GRU Manager, Ed Bielarski participated in the presentation.

Commissioner Simmons arrived 3:08 PM.

Eric Walters, Administrative & Fuels Operations Director presented on solar power.

Commissioner Simmons asked a question. Mr. Walters responded.

Commissioner Warren asked question about energy costs. Mr. Walters and Mr. Bielarski responded.

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Ward asked a question. Mr. Walters and Mr. Bielarski responded.

Commissioner Hayes-Santos asked a question about solar rates. GRU staff stated that they were not permitted to respond due to the ITN blackout period during negotiations.

Mayor Poe asked a question about what power would be replaced/supplemented with the potential solar energy. Mr. Walters responded. Mayor Poe asked a follow-up question. Mr. Walters and Mr. Bielarski responded.

Mr. Warren asked questions. Mr. Bielarski responded. Mr. Walters responded.

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Ward asked a question about coal emissions versus natural gas. GRU staff responded.

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Ward asked follow-up questions about renewable energy and emissions. GRU staff, responded. Mr. Bielarski and Mr. Walters responded.

Commissioner Hayes-Santos asked questions about Deerhaven 2 conversion feasibility study. Staff responded. Mr. Bielarski responded. Mr. Walters responded.

Commissioner Arreola asked questions about converting Deerhaven 2. Mr. Walters and Mr. Bielarski responded. Commissioner Arreola asked about smart meters. Mr. Walters responded.

Commissioner Warren asked a question. Mr. Walters responded.

Mayor Poe asked a question regarding the ITN.

Jamie Verschage, Managing Utility Analyst presented Frequently Asked Questions on the Solar Invitation to Negotiate. Mr. Bielarski spoke to the matter.

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Ward asked a question about timeline. Mr. Verschage responded.

Mayor Poe spoke to the matter. GRU staff responded.

Commissioner Warren commented about discussing proposals from

staff about both Solar ITN and converting Deerhaven 2 at the same time. Mr. Bielarski responded. Commissioner Warren commented about budget decisions. Mr. Bielarski responded. Mayor Poe commented.

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Ward commented that he would also like to receive information about both items at the same time.

Mayor Poe spoke to the matter.

Commissioner Simmons asked about cost savings/rate analysis.

Kali Blount, Jeffery Shapiro, Ray Washington and Christina Fields spoke to the matter.

Ed Bielarski responded to questions from public comment. Mayor Poe responded.

RECOMMENDATION

The City Commission hear a presentation from staff.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

MEMBER COMMENT

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Ward asked a question about Deerhaven 1. Mr. Bielarski responded. Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Ward commented that the Commission will take time to gather feedback from the community and staff before moving forward with these decisions.

Mayor Poe thanked staff.

ADJOURNMENT - 5:02 PM