

# **City of Gainesville**

*City Hall  
200 East University Avenue  
Gainesville, Florida 32601*



## **Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, September 8, 2010**

**1:00 PM**

**CITY HALL ROOM 16**

## **Regional Utilities Committee**

*Commissioner Lauren Poe, Chair  
Mayor Craig Lowe, Member  
Commissioner Thomas Hawkins, Member*

*Persons with disabilities who require assistance to participate in this meeting are requested to notify the Office of Equal Opportunity at 334-5051 or call the TDD phone line at 334-2069 at least two business days in advance.*

## CALL TO ORDER

Present: Craig Lowe, Lauren Poe and Thomas Hawkins

## ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### 100316.            **Regional Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes for July 14, 2010 (B)**

**RECOMMENDATION**        *The Regional Utilities Committee approve the meeting minutes for July 14, 2010 as circulated.*

**This matter was Approved as Recommended. The motion carried.**

RUC Meeting Minutes for July 14 2010.pdf

## CURRENT ACTION ITEMS

### 100008.            **Rebates/Incentives for Window Replacement (B)**

*Kathy Viehe, Assistant General Manager for Customer Support Services introduced the item and staff that would be making the presentation. Bill Shepherd, Energy and Business Services Manager, gave a presentation to the RUC which included overall strategy, the current status of GRU's energy efficiency programs and what has been achieved so far. Bill Shepherd also spoke about the cost effectiveness and how the programs are evaluated.*

*There was discussion about the state building code. Commissioner Poe asked if staff knew what the feeling is around the state regarding toughening the building codes and if Gainesville decided to do that, would it be able to muster the necessary support to convince those elected officials in Tallahassee to allow us to do that.*

*Commissioner Hawkins asked in regard to the current status of the programs how much of this is a fault of the recession and how much is due to the success of the programs. Bill Shepherd advised that we are seeing sales go down in part due to the economic times and people are conserving on their own.*

*Mayor Lowe stated that at some point he would like to see the City address the minimum housing code with respect to insulation. Kathy Viehe advised that the Community Development Committee would be discussing that in October.*

*Jamie Verschage, Senior Analyst for Strategic Planning gave a presentation on a window replacement program. Explained that staff would like more time to evaluate such a program and report back to the RUC with full recommendations. Jamie Verschage also spoke on program evaluation.*

*Bill Shepherd continued the presentation with an update on federal and state programs one of which is the Cash for Caulkers program, if it gets passed.*

*Mr. Rob Brinkman was recognized and asked if replacing exterior doors could be considered along with the window rebate.*

*Sean McClendon, Alachua County Sustainability Coordinator, gave a presentation on the PACE program which would allow home and business owners to voluntarily subscribe to a special assessment on their property to perform energy efficient upgrades to their home or business. He further explained to the RUC that the program is currently on hold due to two financial organizations, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, releasing a statement that there were issues with PACE programs and the concern that a PACE loan would take precedent over a mortgage.*

*Staff will continue to evaluate the window replacement program and report back to the RUC with full recommendations.*

**RECOMMENDATION**      *Staff will provide an update of GRU's conservation strategies and progress to date; an explanation of the federal stimulus funds designated for weatherization; and an explanation of staff's evaluation of rebates for the replacement of windows.*

#### **Discussed**

Presentation for RUC Item #100008 9 8 10.pdf

### **100228.**

#### **Water Rate Tier Structures (B)**

*Diane Wilson, Managing Utility Analyst in Strategic Planning gave a presentation on water rate tier structures including a history, background and water forecasting.*

*Commissioner Poe stated that we've learned when we go a long stretch without changing the customer charge it's bad. He would like to have them done more incrementally to be fair to the customer.*

*Kathy Viehe advised that there are big problems with tiers when there is a water leak. It affects the wastewater charge and customers want a credit for that but it's hard to calculate what would be fair and reasonable.*

*David Richardson advised the RUC that the Water Management Districts are working on completing a Water Supply Plan which is expected between December 2010 and June 2011 and the potential impact of that plan.*

*Mayor Lowe stated his support of the tiered system approach.*

*Commissioner Hawkins suggested rolling the first 1 kgal into the base rate, adding a 4th tier for high consumers and bracket the peak of the L curve (as shown on slide 8 of the presentation).*

*David Richardson advised that the water management districts actively discourage imbedding any usage in the base rate.*

*There was discussion regarding where the break point should be and how to change the price structure.*

*Raymond Manasco, Utilities Attorney reminded the RUC that we have bond covenants to consider in the way we operate our utility and we don't want to get away from recovering the cost of service and meeting the revenue requirements.*

*There was discussion about private well usage.*

*Staff will continue to evaluate the tiers and rates for future discussion.*

**RECOMMENDATION**      *The Regional Utilities Commission (RUC) receive a presentation from staff describing the prior and current water rate structures.*

**Discussed**

Presentation for RUC Item #100228 9 8 10.pdf

**MEMBER COMMENT**

**CITIZEN COMMENT**

**OUTSTANDING REFERRALS**

**100317.      Regional Utilities Committee Outstanding Referral Status Report (B)**

*Commissioner Poe will discuss with the General Manager which items to discuss at the next meeting.*

**RECOMMENDATION**      *The Regional Utilities Committee review the Outstanding Referral Status Report dated September 8, 2010.*

**No Action Taken**

RUC Outstanding Referrals status report Sept 23 2010.pdf

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

*Next meeting is October 27, 2010 @ 3:30 p.m.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.*

