

# City of Gainesville

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



## Minutes

**Thursday, November 12, 2015**

**4:00 PM**

**Roberta Lisle Kline Conference Room**

### **Regional Utilities Committee**

*Commissioner Harvey Budd, Chair  
Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Craig Carter, Member  
Commissioner Charles Goston, Member  
Commissioner Lee Pinkoson, Member*

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

## CALL TO ORDER

*The meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m.*

## ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

*The agenda was adopted as drafted at the start of the meeting. Ten minutes into the meeting (at approximately 4:26), Chair Budd asked if the agenda could be modified to include a separate discussion on the question of a straw ballot to ask citizens whether they a separate governing board for GRU. The committee agreed to add the item to the agenda.*

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### [150529.](#)      **October 8, 2015 RUC Meeting Minutes (B)**

**Attachments:**      [150529 RUC 10-8-15 Meeting Minutes 20151112](#)

*The minutes were approved as drafted.*

**RECOMMENDATION**      *Approve the minutes of the October 8, 2015 RUC meeting as drafted.*

## CURRENT ACTION ITEMS

### [150524.](#)      **Proposed Charter Amendment (B)**

**Attachments:**      [150524 Draft Charter Amendment 20151112](#)

*Assistant City Attorney Lisa Bennett explained that her office drafted the ordinance based on consensus from the City Commission to see what an ordinance would look like that would change the charter, an alternative to Representative Perry's bill. She explained that after discussion between her, the City Attorney and the General Manager, she took the Utility Advisory Board ordinance and moved it into a charter amendment. She then reviewed the charters of Ft. Pierce and JEA to see what might be applicable to the City of Gainesville and put those elements into the charter amendment. She said that the result was a separate board of trustees that would govern just GRU. The draft provides for the City Commission to hold on to certain things, such as issuance of bonds and disapproval of rate increases by super majority. She said that in the event the Commission agreed to the charter change, there would have to be a companion ordinance to dictate things such as board expertise and whether the Commission wanted to do the super majority.*

*Chair Budd said that some citizens had expressed concern over transparency and whether a separate board would be required to hold public meetings and take public input. Attorney Bennett explained that because GRU is a government entity, all aspects of the Sunshine law would apply to the board.*

*The Committee went through the draft ordinance and discussed various aspects, including: what constitutes a super majority; whether the board would be compensated; whether the board would have authority to fire GM; issuance of bonds;*

*a cap for the GFT.*

*Commissioner Goston made a motion to change the term "Board of Trustees" to "Board of Directors." Commissioner Carter seconded the motion and it passed.*

*After some discussion about the desired outcome of the current RUC meeting, the committee voted to ask the Commission to hold a workshop so that the full commission and the public could be included in the discussion of the proposed ordinance.*

**RECOMMENDATION**

*Discuss the proposed charter amendment drafted by the City Attorney following discussion by the City Commission at their November 5, 2015 regular meeting.*

**MEMBER COMMENT**

**CITIZEN COMMENT**

*Citizens Jim Konish, Debbie Martinez and Ray Washington and Commissioner Helen Warren spoke.*

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

*January 14, 2016*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.*