

City of Gainesville

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



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

5:00 PM

CITY HALL ROOM 16

Regional Utilities Committee

*Commissioner Jack Donovan, Chair
Commissioner Ed Braddy, Member
Commissioner Craig Lowe, 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 and Jack Donovan
Absent: Edward Braddy

ROLL CALL

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Agenda was adopted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

070449. Regional Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes for August 14, 2007 (B)

The minutes of August 14, 2007 were discussed. Commissioner Donovan recognized Dian Deevey who had a comment about the minutes. She stated that the section on wholesale sales happened slightly different from what was written in the minutes. According to her notes, Commissioner Lowe did say something about 10 or 15 minutes for each side initially but he also stated there could be time for follow-up rounds and that it was important to have a full discussion of all the issues.

There was further discussion as to how the meeting on wholesale sales should be structured. Commissioner Donovan advised he would have his executive assistant contact all parties involved and schedule the preliminary meeting that was originally planned.

Ms. Deevey offered to respond to the written comments prepared by Karen Johnson. Commissioner Lowe stated that it might be beneficial.

Mr. Rob Brinkman was recognized and asked when the RUC would be discussing the photovoltaic item again. After a brief discussion of the referral Commissioner Donovan pointed out that the photovoltaic item would be a topic for a future meeting.

The RUC approved the minutes based on the discussion above.

RECOMMENDATION *The Regional Utilities Committee approve the minutes for August 14, 2007 as circulated.*

A motion was made that this matter be Approved. The motion carried unanimously.

RUC Meeting Minutes for 8 14 07.pdf

CURRENT RUC ACTION ITEMS

070035.**GEAC Recommendation for Carbon Footprint Assessment Tool (NB)**

The Regional Utilities Committee heard a presentation from staff and received comments from Mark Van Soestbergen. Rob Brinkman, GEAC Chair, was recognized and spoke in favor of the project. There was discussion as to who and how this information would be used and the need to move forward.

The RUC agreed to submit an agenda item to the City Commission requesting \$10,000 be allocated from City Commission Contingency for the purchase of the carbon footprint assessment tool and have staff work with Mr. Van Soestbergen to apply for an APPA DEED grant requesting funding. If the grant is awarded, the contingency funds would be reimbursed.

This item can be removed from the referral list.

RECOMMENDATION *The Regional Utilities Committee hear a presentation from staff and Mark Van Soestbergen regarding development and purchase of this carbon assessment tool.*

Approved as shown above (See Motion)

060775.**Impact of Tiered Rates on People With Low Income Levels (NB)**

The Regional Utilities Committee heard a presentation from staff.

Commissioner Lowe observed that it is difficult to make the relationship between energy usage and income.

Karen Johnson mentioned that the DEED survey helped us understand that every house has a base energy usage no matter what size, i.e. refrigeration, lights, TV.

Commissioner Donovan asked what is being done to advertise ways for customers to save on their utility bill. He further suggested doing a feature cost reduction idea of the month.

Commissioner Lowe suggested that perhaps a community goal could be established to promote energy conservation. He recommended and Commissioner Donovan agreed that the RUC ask the City Commission for a referral to explore goals for energy usage that would be community wide and how it might be implemented.

Commissioner Donovan asked why other utilities don't use a tiering system. Staff responded that these other systems are beginning to look at using it.

Commissioner Donovan asked about adding gas energy usage to the chart to figure out how much energy is being used. Staff replied that it would be hard to do as not everybody uses gas.

Commissioner Donovan stated that it's a good thing we are doing and it would be good for Florida in general to have as a tool. It is a worthwhile thing to share. The RUC should raise this at a Commission meeting as a useful thing to write a letter about.

As a result of the meeting the RUC agreed that the tiered rate structure is beneficial and takes into consideration the needs of low income customers. The RUC also agreed to recommend: 1) that the City Commission send a letter to Governor Crist promoting the tiered rate structure as a conservation tool; 2) request a separate referral to investigate a community goal for energy conservation; and 3) to remove item #060775 from the referral list.

RECOMMENDATION *The Regional Utilities Committee hear a presentation from staff on the impacts of tiered rates on people with low income levels, and remove this item from the referral list.*

This matter was Approved, as shown above - See Motion(s). The motion carried.

MEMBER COMMENT

CITIZEN COMMENT

OUTSTANDING REFERRALS

The RUC discussed the outstanding referral list and decided that the following items would be placed on the October 9, 2007 meeting agenda:

Item #070360 - GRU Rate Structure - Jim Konish referral

Item #070456 - Large Electric Power Customers - Commissioner Lowe referral Item #070181 - Forest Certification Stewardship Issues - Jim Dickenson's referral.

051194

GRU Wholesale Sales of Electricity (NB)

RECOMMENDATION *The Regional Utilities Committee review the status of this referral.*

Backup for Item #051194 GRU Wholesale Sales.pdf

060294.

General Fund Transfer from GRU

061213.

Digital Cities Conference in Washington DC - Commissioner Braddy Referral Item

061214.

Photovoltaic Policies- Proposed Energy Neutral Neighborhood- Commissioner Craig Lowe Referral

070181.

Forest Certification Stewardship Issues (B)

RECOMMENDATION *The Regional Utilities Committee: 1) hear a presentation from staff on forest management programs; and 2) remove this item on the referral list.*

RUC Forestry Presentation October 9 2007.pdf

Backup for Forest Stewardship Item #070181 Oct 9.pdf

070084.

City of Gainesville Energy Policy - Gainesville Energy Advisory Committee (GEAC) (NB)

RECOMMENDATION *The Regional Utilities Committee hear a presentation from the Gainesville Energy Advisory Committee (GEAC) on progress towards the recommendation on an Energy Policy*

for the City of Gainesville.

070255. Home Energy Rating System (HERS)

070360. Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) Rate Structure (B)

RECOMMENDATION *The Regional Utilities Committee: 1) hear a presentation from staff on the GRU rate structure; and 2) remove this item on the referral list.*

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RUC Rate Structure Presentation October 9 2007.pdf

Backup for GRU Rate Structure Item 070360 Oct 9.pdf

070352. Status Report on Maximum Energy Efficiency

070352_20070827.pdf

NEW BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date for the RUC is October 9, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.