

City of Gainesville

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



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 14, 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: Edward Braddy, Craig Lowe and Jack Donovan

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Donovan requested that the Committee discuss postponing Item #051194 regarding GRU Wholesale Sales of Electricity. See item #051194.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

070271. Regional Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes for July 10, 2007 (B)

Commissioner Donovan pointed out that for the minutes of July 10, 2007 under item #070035 the word conscience in the second paragraph needed to be changed to conscious.

RECOMMENDATION *The Regional Utilities Committee approve the minutes for July 10, 2007 as circulated.*

Approved as Amended

RUC Meeting Minutes for July 10 2007.pdf

CURRENT RUC ACTION ITEMS

070255. Home Energy Rating System (HERS) (NB)

The Regional Utilities Committee heard a presentation from staff and received comments from Ken Fonorow, representatives from GW Robinson Builders and other attendees. Mr. Fonorow asked the RUC about providing assistance in educating citizens about the Home Energy Rating System (HERS).

Commissioner Braddy asked how does HERS differ from the energy audits currently offered to citizens and is there an alternative model that we may not be aware of. Commissioner Braddy also asked if this will replace the energy audit or just be another thing added.

Commissioner Lowe reminded the committee of the recommendation from the representative from Austin Energy to rethink how we do the energy audit. Commissioner Lowe mentioned the whole house approach and the positive feedback they received on the visit to other cities.

Commissioner Donovan asked what is the part of the bill that would give the signal to the customer if they are operating at a cost efficient manner or not? Would it help to have the HERS rating printed on the bill. Commissioner Donovan suggested

information could be provided in the bill stuffer and GRU's webpage. Commissioner Donovan suggested summarizing the ideas that the RUC would like GRU staff to come back to a future meeting with some thoughts about implementing the ideas. Those ideas were: 1) look at the energy per square foot type rating; 2) educating customers about HERS; 3) offering rebates to encourage people to get a HERS rating; and 4) HERS ratings in terms of wholehouse or systems analysis of energy use and why that's important.

C/Braddy asked how we might approach rental units. Would it be possible to offer a reduction in the occupational license fee if an energy rating is performed?

Karen Johnson added that the RUC should also discuss the resources it would take to implement these various options and timeframes for implementation.

Commissioner Braddy brought up the point about using GRU to promote a specific individual business or should we have some centralized place where people can see who is providing the services in order to make a selection.

Mark Van Soestbergen pointed out that his home is in GRU's service territory but located in the county.

The RUC directed staff to return to a future meeting with information on the ideas that were mentioned and thoughts about implementing those ideas.

RECOMMENDATION The Regional Utilities Committee hear a presentation from staff on the HERS rating system.

Discussed

051194

GRU Wholesale Sales of Electricity (B)

The Regional Utilities Committee discussed deferring the wholesales sales item to another meeting. Commissioner Donovan advised he had not had time to study the information that had been provided and needed time to review it. Citizens Dian Deevey and Paula Stahlmer were recognized and spoke to the matter.

Commissioner Lowe suggested having a preliminary meeting to decide how best to proceed with the discussion on this referral; and further, he would like to identify where the differences are and then resolve them. He suggested allowing each side 10 to 15 minutes to make a presentation and then the Committee would discuss it.

The RUC agreed to schedule an initial meeting to set up the procedures for the special meeting and then schedule a special meeting to hear presentations regarding the differences in calculating data as it relates to GRU's wholesale sales of electricity.

RECOMMENDATION The Regional Utilities Committee receive a presentation on the performance of our two long term wholesale power contracts and the factors determining whether or not to extend

or renew them.

Deferred

Backup for Item #051194 GRU Wholesale Sales.pdf

061213.

Digital Cities Conference in Washington DC - Commissioner Braddy Referral Item (NB)

The Regional Utilities Committee heard a presentation from staff.

Commissioner Braddy advised that he wanted the committee to discuss the possibility of providing incentives for building fiber ready homes and to also provide incentives to encourage retrofitting existing structures.

Commissioner Lowe asked if there is a way to provide incentives within the CRA for existing neighborhoods that are of sufficient density to make it feasible. Commissioner Lowe also mentioned the possibility of a special TIFF district for this purpose.

Karen Johnson suggested inviting Anthony Lyons from the CRA to attend the next meeting when this item is discussed.

The RUC agreed to continue this item to the October meeting and invite Mr. Lyons or a representative from his staff to attend. In the meantime staff will explore the incentivizing idea and its feasibility.

RECOMMENDATION *The RUC receive an update from staff and continue discussion on digital infrastructure development.*

Discussed

MEMBER COMMENT

CITIZEN COMMENT

DISCUSS OUTSTANDING REFERRALS

The Regional Utilities Committee discussed which outstanding referrals to have on the agenda for the next meeting. It was decided that the following items would be discussed at the next meeting: 1) item #060294 - General Fund Transfer from GRU; 2) item #070035 - GEAC Recommendation for Carbon Footprint Assessment Tool; and 3) item #060775 - Impact of Tiered Rates on People with Low Income Levels.

060294. General Fund Transfer from GRU

060775. Impact of Tiered Rates on People with Low Income Levels (NB) - 060775

RECOMMENDATION *The Regional Utilities Committee (RUC) recommends that the City Commission send a letter to Governor Crist promoting the tiered rate structure as a conservation tool and remove item #060775 from the referral list.*

061214. Photovoltaic Policies- Proposed Energy Neutral Neighborhood- Commissioner Craig Lowe Referral

070035. Carbon Footprint Assessment Tool- Referral Item #070035 (NB)

This item involves a request for \$10,000 from City Commission Contingency to purchase a carbon footprint assessment tool.

RECOMMENDATION *The City Commission: 1) approve and authorize funds in the amount not to exceed \$10,000 to be allocated from City Commission Contingency Funds for the purchase of a carbon footprint assessment tool; and 2) remove this item from the referral list.*

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.

NEW BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.